

Silver Thread Public Health District Board of Health Meeting Notes  
Thursday, July 30, 2020

**Attendees:**

Lyn Lampert  
Scott Lamb  
Susan Thompson  
Jerry Gray  
Jody Stroh  
Jim Loud  
Tara Hardy  
Community Members and some Public Health Staff

Meeting called to order at 10:08am by Lyn Lampert

Community Communications – none

**COVID Update**

- Tara gave situational updates for counties; Alamosa; Gunnison
- State Government has stated that response is to be owned/directed by local government. PH Directors around the state have concerns with this due to the testing procedures. This will be discussed with Jill Ryan, CDPHE Director next week.

**COVID Messaging**

- Jim and Jody economic statement complete. Request that Joni verify latest numbers. No changes from the Board. Kristen will send to papers for publication.
- Regular ads in both papers and social media. Messages taken from Jim and Jody's message.
- Tara, Board, and PH Attorneys are reviewing the video messages put out by Mesa County relating to economics and COVID. In question if we would like to pursue something similar for Silver Thread. Need to look at topics and partner with Chambers to help get businesses involved. Suggestion to use locals to host or introduce. Board will watch and report back.
- Jodi Adelman has been putting local businesses in touch with HealthLinks to assist with legal aspects of COVID/employees and ways to keep employees healthy.
- Isaac will readdress outside seating in Creede and get back to the Board.

**PH Infrastructure**

- Soft release of Deputy Director position
- Rewrote job description for Assistant in Mineral - temporary, PT position to give relief to staff; PRN for nursing duties; and, contact tracing.

**Coronameter update**

- Board reviewed Tara's hand-out
- Local indicators are based on local capacity of cases
- West Central – all counties on their own when applying for Protect Your Neighbor, but have regional support; each county has their own indicators. Trying to parallel Hinsdale with Gunnison indicators and colors. Currently Gunnison has standing PH Orders that communicate and educate what color is being observed. Hinsdale will probably do something similar.

- SLV – Entire region will apply for Protect Your Neighbor. It hasn't been decided if the entire region will use the same color system and indicators.
- Areas of focus with Protect Your Neighbor
  - Transmission: Tara, Shawna, Joni determining local indicators
  - Test and Trace: Will be based on testing capacity and surge capacity
- Hinsdale unable to apply for Protect Your Neighbor at this time because Hinsdale does not meet metrics or have the infrastructure to support it.

#### Why Pronouns Matter Discussion

Lyn listed guidelines/goals for discussion

- Board has responsibility to listen to all sides, discuss, and find solution
- Concise decision, a solution that is acceptable to all parties
- Civility

Looking/considering multiple issues

- Meaning of Health Equity and differing world views
- Process of how staff and Board decisions interrelate
- How does PH District reflect values of diverse community and be a force of healing?

Discussion: Should tag lines on STPHD correspondence reflect the District as a whole or can that be left up to individual discretion?

- What are day-to-day operation decisions vs. Board decisions?
- Staff/agency to develop policy and present to Board for approval
- Does Board have the authority to determine what staff can and cannot include in their email tag-line?
- Board could make recommendation, no authority beyond recommendation as the Board.
- If intent of the tag-line is to achieve inclusiveness, it has become counterproductive because it has caused so much animosity in people who were ambivalent before.
- Everyone should be a team and working together
- Staff decision? Board decision?
- Board is not an oversight committee of day-to-day and that is what this is.
- Suggestion of VARCHI (Veto Accountable Responsible Consulted and Informed). Training that addresses on Boards and who is responsible for what.
- The intention of the tag-line is to invite understanding to something that is often confusing.
- CRT had similar issues and feels that it is important to educate. District should make decisions based on health and this is a health issue as it also addresses mental health, suicide, etc.
- If we take action that divides a community we take away from the health of the community.
- There are different Board governance models. What is this one?
- Since BOH is brand new there hasn't been the chance to have a discussion on Board Governance.
- Is tag-line policy of staff or Board?
- If tag-line is in alignment with Mission Statement it should be ok, if there are questions, it should be brought to the Board to advise.
- Is BOH in alignment with Mission Statement?
- If PH strategies continue to be politicized, instead of naming them as they are – health need in our community – they wouldn't do anything in our community because all services can be seen as controversial.
- Whatever Board does will offend someone, but don't want to intentionally divide. Would like to see staff and Board talk together to come up with a solution.
- PH staff works their best to not be harsh, but work to respectfully advocate.

- Is there a way to get the same message across through a different vehicle?
- What specifically is political about the tag-line? If there was more specificity, it would be easier to address.
- If staff develops a policy, it could add to an already heavier than usual work load.

#### Staff Statements

- Janet: Donations can be made to any entity of PH, donor can choose. PH does not choose who to serve, everyone is served.
- Jodi: How would you feel if you were called by the incorrect pronouns? Pronouns may seem like a small thing, but recognizing them and respecting them prevents mental illness, suicide, substance abuse. PH tackles many issues – some are important to one person and some are important to many, but it doesn't matter as long as it is being addressed. Public Health means community, so discrimination needs to be addressed no matter who our how many it affects.
- Joni: Looking at diversity and knowing that we all have different opinions and allowing that to bring us together is community.
- Tara read statement from Janet: It is necessary for it to be known that PH is open to all. If we remain neutral, we cannot achieve that as our visibility of openness is not known. Visibility counts.
- Isaac: There is so much importance of prevention in PH work and keeping people safe. Data shows that referring to someone by their preferred pronouns has dropped the rate of mental illness, substance use and abuse, and suicide significantly. Isaac presented data statistics to the Board.

Tara will send all written statements from staff to Board.

Susan will send out documents for Board Governance

Isaac will send information for VARCI

Comments open up to the community

Bill Philburn expressed that all he wants is neutrality and that there are no tags to specific websites in email signatures.

Next meeting will be Workshop to focus on Board governance and how to make policy decisions.

Next Meeting (Workshop): Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Meeting adjourned 12:11pm