

Silver Thread Public Health District Board of Health Meeting Notes
Thursday, October 22, 2020

Attendees:

Lyn Lampert
Susan Thompson – joined at 10:25
Jody Stroh
Scott Lamb
Jerry Gray
Tara Hardy

Meeting called to order at 10:05am by Lyn Lampert

Discussion/Comments on July 23rd and July 30th meeting minutes

- Scott made motion to approve minutes
- Jerry 2nd the motion
- No further discussion
- All approved – motion carried

Community Communications/Comments - None

COVID Update

- Tara gave situational updates for counties; Alamosa; Gunnison
- Cases numbers all over Colorado are rising; hospitalization rates increasing; projections are alarming
- Most exposure is from family gatherings, funerals, people traveling while sick
- Huge concerns entering the holiday season. Messaging focusing on distancing as much as possible; stay with members of household
- Press release going out this week to remind everyone to distance, stay safe, stay home if sick
- Really want to keep schools open – concerns with people traveling at Thanksgiving
- Creede school is experiencing a lot of flu-like illnesses. Tara is keeping in close contact with Kate.
- Testing update:
 - Turn-around with the state is still very slow, but state is saying they are ok with turn-around time
 - Curative Testing – for rural communities; self-administered; witnessed by healthcare provider; will received 75 to split between counties; will be used in conjunction with rapid testing; will help in keeping school and ski area open; only for symptomatic people
 - Have ordered more rapid tests using ELC funds
 - Lake City Medical Center has rapid tests for pre-ops and travel
 - Rapid testing now has higher efficiency rate than before
- Dr Justina – new app for contact tracing. Some staff and volunteers in community are training
- Protect Our Neighbor
 - Since case numbers are up in SLV, they do not qualify for PON and application has been put on hold. Their plan is written and support letters received.

- Hinsdale has submitted application to the state
- PON does not mean no masks, large gatherings and it doesn't mean everything will open. Opening will be gradual
- Issues at the state
 - Delay in state seeing data from counties
 - Testing
 - Dial alignment
- How many counties currently in PON? Tara will give that update in her report
- Concerns about the lack of mask example/enforcement by law enforcement

Inner Governmental Agreement Review Update and Discussion

County Commissioners of both counties met regarding greater accountability of BOH/Inner Governmental Agreement review

County Commissioners plan to propose an Amendment to the Agreement

Background/Explanation of proposed Amendment:

- How much does the BOH represent the will of the community? vs. How much does BOH represent Public Health only?
- Currently BOH has 5-7 members – 1 County Commissioner from each county, other members are community members at large
- Commissioners to propose that Board be made up of 2 County Commissioners from each county and up to 3 community members at large. The purpose is to have more elected representation on the Board.
- In the Intent of the original Agreement, Sec 5 talks about the BOH being autonomous and not under the direction of either county. This change would mean that the BOH is no longer autonomous. This fact will require further discussion if the Amendment is approved.
- Process: County Commissioners will present proposal to the BOH > BOH will make their decision on proposal and send it back to Commissioners > Commissioners will vote on change
- Other changes proposed in amendment:
 - Review of IGA every 2 years
 - STPHD staff is staff under district, not a fiscal agency in county

Further Discussion

- Scott provided some intentions. Complaints from Creede community expressed to Mineral County Commissioners and they are unable to act – hence this proposal.
- BOH should have certain expertise and if this proposal is accepted that expertise would not exist as the Commissioners do not bring a Public Health or Healthcare background to the table.
- Commissioners have pulse on the community that BOH members at large do not, and if Commissioners have ultimate responsibility to community it would help for them to have more say.
- There is no record of complaints – BOH asking for specific complaints
 - Jesse Albright explained that the main complaint is an employee issue and business owner feeling “targeted” by Public Health
 - Need to establish rules of governance
 - The BOH is a policy advocacy board as opposed to a governance board.

- What difference would it make if more commissioners were on the BOH when the BOH is policy advocacy board and not governance board? How would that affect an employee issue when they wouldn't have that authority anyway?
- Will Tara and staff feel micromanaged under the proposed amendment? BOH should not be involved in day-to-day operations of Public Health
- The proposal comes across as a vote of no confidence in what the BOH is currently doing.
- Janelle preparing the Commissioners' proposal > She will send to Commissioners for a final review > Proposal will be sent to BOH for their review.
- Goal to put amendment in place before end of year.

Director Report

- Deputy Director Position – there were 7 applicants; currently 1 candidate; completing some background checks on the candidate as Tara is still thinking about offering the position to the candidate.
- Ski area update – Tara working with the state via the Ski Industry Work Committee to develop ski area protocols. Tara working with Wolf Creek on plans and has endorsed their plan to submit to the state. Tara feels confident with the Wolf Creek plan. Some concerns with portions being worked on with Archuleta County, but working through it. Tara shared plan highlights to BOH.
- Website – Developing page for Board – will be all Board related communications; COVID update page
- Tara gave Flu vaccination and case counts for counties
- Tara gave funding update

Board Reports - none

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19th, 10am, if Special Session not called before then.

Meeting adjourned 11:29am