

# OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## **Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting Boulder County Public Health Auditorium January 12, 2015**

**BOH Members Present:** President Paula McKey; Vice President Gregg Thomas; and Board Members Sonya Jacquez-Lewis and Don Misch, M.D.

**Staff Members Present:** Public Health Director Jeff Zayach; Director of Administrative Services Stephanie Martz, Director of Health Programs Heath Harmon, Accounting Manager Julia Ozenberger, Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski, Environmental Health Planner Rachel Arndt, and Administrative Division Manager Tammy Golden.

**Special Guests:** Boulder County Lead Policy Analyst Mark Ruzzin; Boulder County Policy Analyst Leslie Irwin; Former Addiction Recovery Centers (ARC) Division Director Ann Noonan; and Auditor Paul Niedermueller

### **Meeting Called to Order.**

President McKey called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and said Item 6E would be the first item of business.

### **ITEM 6E. Announcements.**

**President McKey's Last BOH Meeting:** President McKey announced that this would be her last Board of Health meeting, as she is moving out of state. She said the County Commissioners are currently recruiting for her replacement, and applications are due January 23, 2015.

**Appreciation for Former ARC Division Director Ann Noonan:** President McKey announced that effective January 5, 2015, the Addiction Recovery Centers (ARC) successfully integrated from BCPH to Mental Health Partners (MHP). There is still administrative work that must be finalized to fully complete the integration; however, all substance abuse services are now being provided through MHP. President McKey read a letter of appreciation into the record for ARC Division Manager Ann Noonan, who thanked the board and BCPH for all of their support of her and the ARC throughout the years.

**Appreciation to Environmental Health Planner Rachel Arndt:** Public Health Director Jeff Zayach recognized Rachel Arndt, who is serving in the leadership role for the newly created Built Environment Program, as well as the agency's healthy eating and active living (HEAL) efforts. HEAL was identified as one of the agency's top three priorities, and Ms. Arndt has worked tirelessly over the past six months to establish Double SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; formerly known as Food Stamps Program) and Harvest Bucks. These initiatives increase accessibility to locally grown fruits and vegetables at local farmers' markets for Boulder County households receiving federal food assistance. Results have been outstanding, with SNAP increasing 505% in Longmont and 224% in Boulder. Ms. Arndt is expanding the program and applied for a "Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant" from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that would support the Harvest Bucks Program in 2015-2018. As

part of the grant application, Ms. Arndt raised over \$450,000 in matching funds. The Board congratulated Ms. Arndt, who said she is hoping to expand the programs in Lafayette.

**ITEM 1. Public Comments (on unscheduled agenda items).**

None.

**ITEM 2. Consent Agenda.****A. Approval of December 8, 2014, Board of Health Meeting Minutes.**

***Board Member Misch made a motion, which was seconded by Vice President Thomas, to approve the consent agenda, as presented. With all Board Members voting in favor of the motion, President McKey declared the motion approved.***

**ITEM 3. Presentation of 2013 Audit Report.**

Director of Administrative Services Stephanie Martz introduced Accounting Manager Julia Ozenberger and Paul Niedermueller, the auditor from CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, who conducted the 2013 audit.

Mr. Niedermueller reviewed the auditing procedures his firm used to conduct the audit. He announced that BCPH received a “clean opinion,” the highest possible opinion achievable. Mr. Niedermueller answered questions of the Board regarding unaccrued accounts, as well as new liability reporting requirements associated with PERA (Public Employees Retirement Association). He said PERA is underfunded, which has not been reflected in its member statements; however, new requirements are being included that will require that liability to be reported in PERA members’ year-end reports. Sometime this summer, Boulder County Finance will calculate and let BCPH know what BCPH’s portion of the County’s total liability amount will be. Mr. Niedermueller said this new requirement does not affect BCPH’s budget, and it will provide more transparency.

Ms. Martz reported on expenses associated with the 2013 flood in Boulder County and BCPH’s attempts to recoup reimbursement from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) for flood-related expenses. She said thanks to the generosity of Boulder County, BCPH did not have a lot of out-of-pocket expenses for labor costs and flood-related expenses. She noted that the County and BCPH have experienced many challenges in collecting FEMA reimbursement. BCPH has chosen not to continue seeking FEMA reimbursement in some instances.

From an auditor’s perspective, Mr. Niedermueller said he did not have much news to report on BCPH’s audit. He said it was a very good audit, and BCPH staff was very cooperative in providing necessary information, as requested.

The Board thanked Mr. Niedermueller for his presentation of the 2013 Audit Report.

**ITEM 4. Legislative Update and Approval of BCPH 2015 Legislative Priorities.**

Public Health Director Zayach and Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski introduced Boulder County Lead Policy Analyst Mark Ruzzin and Boulder County Policy Analyst Leslie Irwin.

Mr. Malinowski said he serves as a member of the County’s Policy Team, which meets monthly throughout the year and works with Mr. Ruzzin and Ms. Irwin to develop priorities for Boulder County’s annual legislative agenda, which is subsequently approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The legislative agenda is a very effective tool because it establishes the priorities and positions that the County will advocate for or oppose during the upcoming legislative session. The legislative

agenda provides a blueprint for advocacy and lobbying and eliminates the need to obtain BOCC approval on each issue individually, which is not always possible due to time constraints.

Staff sought Board of Health approval for the Community Health and Environmental Health sections of the Boulder County 2015 legislative agenda. Additionally, Mr. Malinowski asked the Board to authorize staff to oppose any legislation that promotes the retail sale of unpasteurized milk and raw milk products, with the exception of aged raw milk cheese produced by licensed/registered manufacturers or retailers. He explained the practice of people collectively purchasing a portion of a cow so they can receive unpasteurized milk that the cow produces. He said foodborne illness outbreaks have been associated with unpasteurized milk, but he believed there was an effort taking place that would expand unpasteurized milk products to include cheese and other items.

Board of Health approval of the legislative agenda would allow staff to endorse/oppose legislation on included issues and to add support from the Board of Health, as necessary. He said there wasn't always time to secure Board approval on policy and legislative issues, so this blanket approval enables staff to take timely positions on behalf of Boulder County Public Health and the Board of Health. Mr. Ruzzin and Ms. Irwin shepherd public health issues through the legislative process, tracking General Assembly and Congressional activity. They also collaborate with other county departments and community partners to identify countywide priorities and guide advocacy and lobbying on state and federal legislation.

Some of the issues included in the Community Health and Environmental Health sections of the legislative agenda include oil and gas (including fracking); substance abuse prevention, reduction, and treatment (including marijuana education, treatment, and youth prevention), health insurance (including Colorado's Health Insurance Exchange), retail food establishment fees, tobacco (including e-cigarettes), vaccinations, energy efficiency, and health disparities.

In addition to the efforts of Boulder County's Policy Team, Mr. Zayach said the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) has a lobbyist who monitors, responds to, and informs local public health departments on all public health-related issues in the legislature. The lobbyist works closely with CALPHO's Legislative Committee, which is chaired by Mr. Malinowski. The Board asked if there were any CALPHO issues not included on Boulder County's legislative agenda. Mr. Malinowski said there were not any, and that there is a great deal of overlap between CALPHO's and Boulder County's legislative priorities. Mr. Zayach said Boulder County Public Health was one of three public health agencies that actively participated in the legislative process; many counties do not have the resources to do so.

The Board discussed having the annual legislative update earlier in the legislative process in order to determine if there were any priorities the Board would like included in the County's legislative agenda. It was then decided that the next legislative update would be scheduled for late summer or early fall.

If an issue surfaces that isn't included in the legislative agenda, staff will consult with and receive approval from the Board of Health President. That position would then be presented to the Board of Health at its next meeting for formal adoption. If the Board opposes the position, staff would submit a formal retraction of the earlier position. This, however, has not been necessary to date.

President McKey asked how the Board would be kept apprised of current legislative positions, and Mr. Malinowski said he would send an email link to the Board that includes the current list of priorities and bills being followed.

When asked if the County tracked legislation pertaining to PERA (Public Employees Retirement Association), Mr. Ruzzin said they did and that they followed PERA closely since Boulder County was one of the largest entities in PERA's Local Government Division.

Staff noted that Boulder County Finance supported the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements, and that there was no additional risk associated with the increased reporting requirements.

Public Health Director Zayach said that although e (electronic)-cigarettes were not included in the definition of "tobacco," they are being included in tobacco discussions. Director of Health Programs Heath Harmon said e-cigarettes were being tackled more at the local (municipal) level than at the legislative level, reminiscent of local air quality. E-cigarettes have been included in the City of Louisville's smoke-free ordinance, and the Cities of Boulder and Lafayette were also addressing them in their local ordinances. Staff continues to work closely with and provide information to city councils in Boulder County.

***Board Member Jaquez-Lewis made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Misch, to approve the 2015 Boulder County Legislative Agenda Community Health and Environmental Health sections and oppose the sale of unpasteurized milk products. With all Board Members present voting in favor of the motion, President McKey declared the motion carried. Absent: Board Member DeSantiago.***

(Board Member Jaquez-Lewis left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.)

**ITEM 5. Director's Report.**

**Laboratory Closure:** Vice President Thomas asked if the Environmental Health Division had received any feedback from the public regarding the closure of BCPH's water testing laboratory (which closed at the end of 2014). Environmental Health Division Manager Malinowski said he was not aware of any. He also noted that the list of alternative water testing sites listed on the agency's website was revised to make it easier to decipher the alternative testing sites.

**Vector Control:** Vice President Thomas asked about mosquito control and was told staff was working with NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) to conduct a survey on best practices for vector control programs.

**ITEM 6. Old and New Business/Announcements.**

**A. Discussion on Tabled Consent Agenda Items (if any).**

None.

**B. Update on Integration of the Addiction Recovery Centers (ARC) to Mental Health Partners (MHP).**

Public Health Director Zayach said BCPH stopped providing substance abuse services on January 4, 2015, and Mental Health Partners began providing those services on January 5. Although BCPH is no longer providing substance abuse services, its staff continues to work on finalizing administrative work (e.g. contracts, equipment inventory, Medicaid billing, records management, etc.). It was also noted that only one former ARC staff member who said he would move to MHP did not do so; all other former ARC staff members have moved to MHP. Mr. Zayach recognized Director of Administrative Services Stephanie Martz and BCPH's administrative staff for the enormous amount of work they have done and continue to do to complete the ARC integration process.

The Board decided that staff no longer needed to provide verbal updates monthly and that ARC integration updates could be added to the monthly director's report, as necessary.

**C. Update on Implementation of BCPH Strategic Plan.**

Director of Health Programs Heath Harmon said Management Team continues working on the agency's priorities and objectives. There is currently a lot of focus on infrastructure, including recruitment of key positions, identifying long-term funding sources, and establishing relationships with community organizations. BCPH has been very successful in securing funding from the State of Colorado because BCPH is recognized as a credible public health organization.

Mr. Harmon gave a facilities update and said the St. Vrain (Longmont) Site remodel is on track for completion this summer. He said eventually that focus will hopefully be on remodeling/expanding the Administration Site, as Administration, Strategic Initiatives, and Environmental Health all need additional space.

Mr. Harmon reported that as part of the agency's "Culture & Change" effort, the first "Bold Step" presentation has been scheduled. Bold Steps presentations will be held once a month and will involve one BCPH division that will present a "work wall" to present to the rest of BCPH staff. These work walls will highlight the division's current work and projects and provide an opportunity to introduce its staff to the rest of the agency in an effort to build stronger relationships throughout the agency.

The Board indicated that staff could begin providing quarterly strategic plan updates rather than monthly.

**D. Old and New Business.**

None.

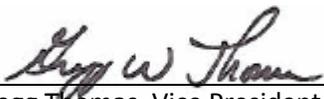
**E. Announcements.**

**President McKey's Last Meeting:** Public Health Director Zayach said this was President McKey's last Board of Health meeting because she was moving out of state. He said President McKey has been an outstanding member of the Board of Health. He said her dedication to public health has definitely had an impact on BCPH and its staff. Prior to joining the Board, President McKey was a great community partner who was very committed to public service and was a great advocate for public health. He then read a letter of appreciation into the record and presented President McKey with a gift of appreciation.

President McKey said her service on the Board of Health was her passion, and she would definitely miss it. She acknowledged the great work of BCPH before "passing the gavel" to Vice President Thomas.

**ITEM 7. Adjournment.**

***There being nothing further to discuss, Vice President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.***

  
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Gregg Thomas, Vice President

  
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Jeffrey J. Zayach, Public Health Director