



Board of Health
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Delta County Board of Health Meeting Minutes
 Sep 21, 2021

Board Members	Staff	Guests/Public
Mike Lane Don Suppes Wendell Koontz (Absent, Excused) Jo Rosenquist Don Chapman	Greg Rajnowski Karen O'Brien Robbie LeValley Leone Anderson Pat Sullivan	None present

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lane at 3:30 PM.

Action of the August Minutes: Suppes moved/Chapman second. Unanimous.

Financial Reporting:

- Leone presented the draft 2022 Health Department budget and highlighted the following: projected fund balance was \$196,000, now projected \$1,070,000 due funds coming in that will cover a 24-36 month period. Several grant programs have ended in 2021 and will not be available in 2022: CDC safe water, Colorado Health Foundation and COVID protect our neighbor.
- EH projected/budget: retirement money was paid out in 2021 (Nordstrom, Lucy) and Hudnall was contracted for a short time. 2022 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grants will pay for some EH time and result in lower EH projected budget. EH fees do not support all staff time devoted to retail food and onsite wastewater systems, but we'll begin drilling down into the budget to illuminate additional ways to support EH services.
- The Health Department will review budget details and will provide feedback to Leone with adjustments before the BoCC review and adoption.
- The Income Statement will be reviewed at the next board meeting.
- Immunization billing will be reflected in the October financials (approx. \$40K).
- Leone presented the payment approval report for August.

Move to approve Financials (Suppes/Rosenquist/Unanimous).

Public Health Director's Report - Karen O'Brien

- Department Update:

- Cases are up, 54 last week, 4 currently hospitalized on 9/20, 3 deaths from 9/1-9/21. 1-week incidence rate is 173 per/100K, orange or high risk according to CDC metrics. 9% positivity, state is 5.9%. Labor Day holiday and school started is presumed to be causing much of the increase. Testing is high (70 last Friday) at the TruVu Drive in and the Health Dept. is testing on Tuesdays and North Fork EMS on Wednesdays. There are many locations for testing. Some Delta Health locations as long as they are symptomatic.
- Vaccination rate is currently 46.7%. FDA approval has helped.
- CDPHE dashboard is showing vaccinated and unvaccinated cases. Breakthrough cases are up~ not everyone can build the immunities.
- Commissioner Suppes said that he has received many phone calls regarding the employer required vaccinations: concern from caregivers, medical professionals. Colorado Counties Incorporated (CCI) dealing with statewide issues.
- General discussion regarding the vaccine mandate and concerns with employee retention, healthcare insurance loss, in the healthcare field to include hospital, care centers. Area agencies on aging are concerned about staff loss. CEOs are concerned about liability of unvaccinated staff.
- CDPHE sent out a medical waiver to hospitals and care centers for use. This waiver will include twice a week testing. Hospitals are collecting and reporting this information twice monthly to CDPHE. This information will be gathered at the state level.
- Seeing staff turnover typical for other agencies statewide. The Health Dept. lost our immunization nurse (left to go to the hospital) but fortunately Kendra came back, hired an EPR coordinator, the health educator left (after 6 months). Currently, recruiting those positions.
- Commissioner Lane asked if autopsies are required on sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID). Karen researched this and found this answer: “The statute names a couple specific instances (car accident, non natural deaths occurring in a facility or during DHS-regulated services), but it also broadly states that autopsies should be performed in accordance with the National Association of Medical Examiners' standards (NAME). NAME's standards specifically state that all unexpected or unexplained infant deaths should receive an autopsy (page 9).” So, yes, all infants who die by SUID should receive an autopsy. Karen also said there is a new investigation form that came out for law enforcement to use during investigating a case. The information when collected will be helpful to better identify causes that could aid in prevention efforts. Karen said she shared this new form with all law enforcement teams.

EH Directors Report - Greg Rajnowski

- **West Nile Virus (WNV)**: 1 death and 10 confirmed, 1 suspect case, and one pending. Don Chapman asked what our numbers were last year and

Karen said we will have a summary at the end of the year like we did last year.

- Dashboard for WNV cases is now live.
- This year we were “allowed” 100 mosquito pools to test. This year the mosquito district had difficulty submitting pools due to staffing, late submissions, and lack of dry ice.
- We will be meeting with county partners this winter to plan for a different plan of attack to address gaps in the Surface Creek area. We are going to approach the state about more targeted testing and funding for mitigation efforts. Meeting with the Cedaredge trustees in February.
- Delta County Mosquito district is switching to CO2 cartridges from dry ice to address some of the issues. They’ve purchased 5 regulators for use next year.
- A few years ago there was a WNV survivors group that formed and there was a question if they were still meeting. Greg will find out.
- Calls about warning prior to mitigation efforts point to a need for more county wide communication regarding WNV efforts. We’ll work on better education in the coming year to prevent those hospitalizations and deaths. Zika provided some funding for dunks. DCMCD has been impacting numbers in areas with high Culex tarsalis.
- **Fee Schedule**- We are adding a new mechanism for invoicing for services that are currently on our approved fee schedule. Commissioner Suppes proposed that we review the policy regarding approval of fees. Recommendations were made that we do this annually. Time/cost study and costs associated to service remote areas may require additional discussions.
- **Questions?**
 - **Graff Rd**: Septic system IS functioning.

With no other items, Commissioner Lane adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 4:35 pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Greg Rajnowski and Karen O’Brien.