



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING  
March 27, 2012**

**Health District Office Building  
120 Bristlecone Drive, Fort Collins**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Celeste Holder Kling, President  
Bernard J. Birnbaum, MD, Vice President  
Timothy S. O'Neill, Secretary  
Steven J. Thorson, MD, Treasurer  
Joe D. Hendrickson, Liaison to PVHS Board

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carol Plock, Executive Director  
Bruce Cooper, M.D., Medical Director  
Richard Cox, Communications Director  
Lorraine Haywood, Finance Director  
Laura Mai, Accountant  
John Newman, Medical Services Director  
Dan Sapienza, Policy Coordinator  
Chris Sheafor, Support Services Director  
Karen Spink, Special Projects Director  
Nancy Stirling, Assistant to Executive Director  
Lin Wilder, Community Impact/Health Promotion Director

**CALL TO ORDER; APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Celeste Kling called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. Mr. Dan Sapienza, the Health District's new Policy Coordinator, was introduced. An Election Update was added to the Updates and Reports section of the meeting agenda.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.**  
*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

**Employee Personnel Handbook - Revisions**

Every other year staff goes through the process of reviewing the Employee Personnel Handbook to ensure it is up to date with current employment laws. Two years ago, a major rewrite of the Handbook was accomplished that included consultations with lawyers and Mountain States Employer Council (MSEC). This year's review only warranted a few changes. Changes resulting from two new pieces of legislation were added: leave for domestic violence and work

accommodation for nursing mothers. Changes were also made to the leave without pay section of the Handbook. Other changes were for clarification purposes.

Ms. Kling commented that there was no definition of “domestic partners” (which is mentioned in both the new domestic violence section and the FMLA) included in the Handbook. Staff will research an appropriate definition to be reviewed and approved by the Board at a later Board meeting.

**MOTION: To approve the Employee Personnel Handbook with the proviso that the Board will review it again when a definition of “domestic partner” is included.**

*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

### **Policy**

Ms. Lin Wilder, Community Impact Director, briefly reviewed the bills which had died and which passed or were signed by the Governor since the last board meeting. (See Legislative Summary document for full details.)

Updates of bills that the Board had already taken positions were reviewed. Bills of note include:

- HB12-1097 – Food Protection Act Civil Penalties: It looks like this bill will pass. However, the Governor plans to set up a workgroup to come up with a better solution for this issue in the interim between this session and the next one.
- SB12-130 – Governance of Child Development Programs: The amended language has emerged and was sent to Mr. Hendrickson and Mr. O’Neill for review. This is a rather complex and overarching bill, and has been difficult to analyze well given the timelines. The key questions from our board about this proposed legislation are how it would impact Part C and Early Intervention, which are now working with a high level of effectiveness, how it would impact those with disabilities, and whether enough consideration of (and protection for) unintended consequences has been given. Mr. Sapienza will research the bill further to learn about the possible impacts (economic or health) this legislation could have.
- HB12-1052 – Health Care Work Force Data Collection: A memo was drafted and given to Miles Consulting who will share it with legislators as appropriate. The bill seems to be moving forward.
- SB12-134 – Hospital Payment Assistance Program: This bill has passed the Senate. The bill had strong support in committee, including support from Senator Kevin Lundberg, who commented on the importance of the transparency requirements in the bill.
- SB12-078 – Protections for At-Risk Adults: This bill initially called for mandatory reporting of mistreatment, self-neglect, and exploitation of at-risk adults. Later, the bill was amended to set up a task force to study the issue and make recommendations. Part of the concerns relate to the cost enforcement. The Board expressed support for a mandatory reporting requirement.

**MOTION: To SUPPORT Senate Bill 12-078 and to advocate for the development of a mandatory reporting requirement.**

*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

- SB12-117 – Concerning penalties for persons who drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs: This is a new bill that is similar to one that did not pass last year, which sets a limit on the level of impairment by THC (the active ingredient in marijuana), and on which the

Board did not take a position last year. While there appears to be more attention being given to the issue, per Dr. Cooper's review, it does not appear that evidence has changed much since last year's review of the issue and the correlation between driving while impaired by THC levels remains much more complicated than the correlation between drinking and driving. Impact appears to vary based on method of ingestion, history of use, and amount used, and defining an exact level at which impairment is clear is still difficult (with different national/international task force reviews coming up with different conclusions and the statement that more study needs to be done). The one thing that appears clear is that use of THC in conjunction with use of alcohol is consistently far more dangerous when driving. The Board decided not to take a position on this issue at this time.

A brief update of the state's budget noted the good news that Colorado's economy is growing faster than earlier predicted and estimates are that there will be about \$144 million more in the general fund than anticipated. Economy watchers believe the economy will continue to grow cautiously at a moderate rate. Legislators are currently in the final stages of preparing the Long Bill, and the deadline to approve it has been extended to April 4. It looks likely that Amendment 35 funds will not be used to balance the budget which may again open opportunities for grants in tobacco interventions, and it looks like there will be no expected cuts to health and mental health related programs.

A couple of the board members expressed interest in learning more about the possible effects of "fracking" (hydraulic fracturing), particularly health implications. Staff will look into the issue.

Concerning HB12-1239, a board member questioned the possibility of the Health District ever considering expanding its boundaries. Ms. Plock noted that special district law does not allow a health district to expand into an area where there is already a health district; there cannot be two health districts covering the same area, so any expansion in that case would have to be with that community's permission and the merger of those districts. In our case, both Loveland and Estes Park already have health districts, and they both have different missions than our health district. Loveland's health district runs their ambulance service, and Estes Park's health district supports its local hospital. The Health District does provide some services to individuals outside of the District's current boundaries, but only by partnering with other agencies who cover expenses for those services/individuals.

## **UPDATES & REPORTS**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011 Program Summaries Report**

Board members expressed appreciation for the report and information on the various programs as well as highlights of client stories. Dr. Birnbaum also commented on the new psychiatrist, Dr. Zeljko Ivanovic, noting his enthusiasm and that FMC's residents really appreciate him. The same was heard from CDDT staff members.

### **Annual Investment Report**

Ms. Lorraine Haywood, Finance Director, briefly reviewed the 2011 Annual Investment Report with the Board. (See report for full details.) From the funds invested in either a professionally managed, local government investment pool or Certificates of Deposits, the Health District gained \$22,173 in investment earnings. Very low interest rates and restrictive investment rules still remain a challenge when trying to invest Health District funds, and rates have plateaued

since August 2011. COLOTRUST is still working to try to recover some of the funds lost when Lehman Brothers collapsed.

### **Various Project Updates**

Medicaid Accountable Care Collaboration (North Larimer County) – Ms. Karen Spink, Special Projects Director, gave an overview of the local Medicaid Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC), which (in part) focuses on providing targeted care coordination for adult Medicaid clients that are high utilizers. Potential clients must be part of the state's ACO and a patient at one of our three participating agencies, which include Associates in Family Medicine, Family Medicine Center, and Salud Family Health Centers in Fort Collins. The program started seeing its first clients in December, 2011, and there are currently 46 active, open clients on the rolls of the community care coordination team. Data from Rocky Mountain Health Plans is used by the Medicaid ACC team to identify patients where the chance of intervention might lead to both better health and lower costs, and the team then makes contact with and engages eligible participants. The state is looking at reducing the per member per month payments to practices in the second year, so staff is looking at whether there will be enough funds/budget to support the program with the expected reduced revenue. The number of attributed clients for our service area will likely stabilize at about 4,600 through November in order to allow the programs to evaluate and show movement towards budget neutrality or cost savings.

Dr. Birnbaum commented that he has heard from a few of his clients who are participating in the program that they like the program and that it seems to be working for them.

Dental Connections – Ms. Wilder announced that the Dental Connections program is operational and continues to steadily increase the number of services being provided and clients being seen. In recruiting dental providers for the program, staff met with 24 providers and 17 of these agreed to participate. Currently there are 12 providers actively engaged. Staff is following up with the others to obtain necessary paperwork and provide trainings. Another recruitment effort will soon be underway to get more providers signed up. Thus far the program received approximately 200 calls between January and March 22; of those, 28 were referred to a Dental Connections provider. The kinds of services being provided include: basic care (cleanings, exams, fillings, crowns; 81% of clients), acute care (14%), and life and health impact (5%). One thing staff has learned thus far is that there is a much greater need for life and health impact services than initially anticipated, which we hope to be able to increase provider capacity for. The program will be publicly announced in April in the press and through the Compass newsletter. A lottery system, much like what is already used for the Family Dental Clinic, will be used to handle the expected high demand for services. Staff are highly committed to the program and continue to work well together and do great work.

General Anesthesia Program - The GAP program saw 15 patients in 2011. Services provided to these clients included: comprehensive exams, xrays and cleanings (some with significant cleaning), teeth restorations, etc. It was noted that while the program serves a small number, it is a significant benefit for these individuals who previously had to either travel great distances or wait long periods of time to get care. Next steps for the program will be to look at how it might be expanded a bit and the possibility of including other services (i.e., vision care) while patients are sedated.

Early Identification & Early Intervention Task Force – Recently, the Health District applied for and received a Systems of Care Communities of Excellence grant which will support efforts of the EIEI Task Force. Grant funds will be used to contract with TriWest, a group that has completed two major statewide studies of the status of mental health issues in Colorado and who are experts in the field. They will assist in determining how many kids are affected, what the level of recommended treatment availability would be, what services exist, and potential gaps. Representatives of the grant recently conducted a site visit, including attending a task force meeting where members were working on refining vision statements. Next steps are to take the vision statements and develop specific options and priorities. The goal is to present recommendations to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Partnership Steering Committee meeting by the end of the year. It was noted that this community is one of the few in the country trying to tackle this issue in this comprehensive manner.

Health Care Matters – While it has taken longer than expected to get this program to the point of conducting actual sessions, staff have now piloted the presentations with two outside groups, with more pilots scheduled soon. The process of content development has been very complex as staff have worked to develop a neutral process for the conversation about health care access -- one which does not take sides and keeps politics out of it, but still helps people think deeply about health care, will ultimately gather good useful information that will be used to inform policy makers – and that can be presented to various target audiences in no more than 90 minutes! Staff anticipate the first actual conversation to be held in April, which times well with the recent launching of “Project Health Colorado” that provides a web site for people to get more information and give opinions concerning health care. Ms. Chelsea Williams, one of the Health District’s CDC Public Health Associates, is the primary presenter of the sessions.

Foundation on Aging for Larimer County – Ms. Plock recently received an invitation to attend a meeting sponsored by the local Foundation on Aging to look at services for isolated seniors in need – seniors who do not have family or friends to help them get what they need and to assist them to get connected to services. Ms. Spink, Special Projects Director, will be beginning to research the areas the Board expressed interest in, namely care coordination and aging, and this looks like an opportunity to work with people who know the issue and possibly work together to better understand what services exist, what are needed, etc.

### **Executive Director Review**

Since it would be most appropriate for the current Board to conduct the annual Executive Director Review, the evaluation forms will be distributed to Board members and Management staff around April 9 or 10 with a deadline to return completed forms to Dr. Birnbaum by April 18. Dr. Birnbaum has volunteered to be responsible for compiling the results and presenting them during an Executive Session at the April 24 Board meeting for the Board’s consideration.

### **PVHS Liaison Update**

Mr. Hendrickson reported that the PVHS Board just received the results of the 5 year study conducted by a national consultant of the first 5 years of Medical Center of the Rockies (MCR). Fiscally, the hospital is in the top 3% of new hospitals in the country. Employee and client satisfaction levels were in the top 5%. The results of the report far exceeded expectations. Mr. Hendrickson also announced that the new helicopter was launched at MCR yesterday morning.

In other news, community support and donations from local donors increased substantially since the decision was made to remodel Harmony Campus for the Cancer Center.

A Board retreat is scheduled for April 12 through April 16 in Austin, Texas. Focus at the retreat will be on identifying questions concerning the future role for the PVHS Board in light of the affiliation with University of Colorado Hospital, as well as discussion around the relationship between UC Health and PVHS Boards.

### **Election Update**

Five candidates have been fully certified and will be on the ballot for this year's Health District Board election. Candidates are: Ms. Debbie Healy, Mr. Matt Fries, Mr. Jack Irving, and incumbents Dr. Steve Thorson and Dr. Bernard Birnbaum. A Candidate Orientation for the 3 new candidates was conducted on March 20 and a Candidate Forum, hosted by the League of Women Voters, is scheduled for April 12. Eligible voters will have the opportunity to vote either by mail-in ballot or at one of two voting sites (to be located at the Health District and at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church) on May 8. Those who wish to vote by mail-in ballot must request a mail-in ballot by May 1, or can pick up a ballot in person by May 4. Candidate profiles are available on the Health District web site and will also be included in the April Compass newsletter.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of January and February 2012 Financial Statements
- Approval of the October 25, 2011; and January 30, ~~February 10, and February 16, 2012~~ Board Meeting Minutes

The February 10 and February 16 board meeting minutes were removed from the Consent agenda so that amendments could be made.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.**  
*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

February 10 Minutes – Additional language was requested to clarify the purpose of Dr. Thorson's and Dr. Birnbaum's early leave from the meeting.

**MOTION: To approve the February 10, 2012 meeting minutes as amended.**  
*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

February 16 Minutes – A paragraph was added concerning Ms. Plock's presentation at the hearing.

**MOTION: To approve the February 16, 2012 meeting minutes as amended.**  
*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- April 4, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Health District Employee Appreciation Luncheon at the Northside Aztlan Community Center
- April 11, 7:00 am (Wednesday) – Board of Directors Special Meeting
- April 12, 7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors Candidate Forum, FC City Council Chambers
- April 24, 5:30 pm Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Mr. Hendrickson and Mr. O'Neill confirmed that they plan to attend the Employee Appreciation Luncheon. If any other board members intend to attend, they are to notify Ms. Stirling so that she can post the appropriate notice.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.**  
*Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Nancy L. Stirling, Assistant Secretary

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Celeste Holder Kling, President

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Bernard J. Birnbaum, MD, Vice President

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Timothy S. O'Neill, Secretary

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Steven J. Thorson, MD, Treasurer

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Joe D. Hendrickson, PVHS Board Liaison