



**Board of Directors Meeting  
4.22.26  
MINUTES**

Location: 120 Bristlecone Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80524 or [Zoom](#)

Date: Wednesday April 22, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>Also Present:</b>
Erin Hottenstein, Board President (Virtual)	Elizabeth Lebuhn- Hoffman, Parker, Wilson & Carberry, P.C
Lee Thielen, Board Vice President	Brian Ferrans-Executive Director
Julie Kunce Field, Treasurer	Courtney Green-Interim Executive Director
Sarah Hathcock, Secretary	Jacque Ferrero-Executive Assistant/Board Clerk
John McKay, Liaison to UCHHealth	Dana Turner- VP of Client Experience
	Stacie Johns, M.D.-The Iris Center
	Casey Cash-The Iris Center
	Mike Lynch-Director of Infrastructure Operations
	Meredith Towle-Data and Analytic Manager
	Jessica Holmes-Controller/Finance Officer
	Natalie Wells-Eide Bailly
	Nick H.-Eide Bailly
	Juan Gonzales- ICC
	Michael Oliver-Information Systems Specialist

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Board President Erin Hottenstein, with a quorum present. Guests and attendees were welcomed, and no conflicts of interest were reported.

*The agenda was approved unanimously upon motion by Director Thielen, seconded by Director Hathcock.*

**II. Public Comment**

No public comment was received, either online or in person.

### **III. Presentations**

#### **a. Iris Center Presentation**

Dr. Stacie Johns and Casey Cash presented on their community health clinic operating out of a Health District-leased space at 425 W. Mulberry Street. Their model emphasizes whole-person, relationship-centered care and aligns closely with the Health District’s four strategic focus areas. Visit costs are \$35 for a 30-minute appointment and \$55 for a 60-minute appointment, with a sliding scale available for those who cannot afford it; no insurance is billed for office visits. Since opening in late October, the clinic has seen over 900 new patients and is operating in the black with no business debt. Funding comes primarily from community donations rather than patient fees. The Iris Center is the only in-person gender-affirming care clinic in Colorado and offers multilingual services including Spanish and language line access. Vaccine offerings remain a gap due to cost, though the clinic is actively working to address this. Board members expressed strong appreciation for the partnership and the value-aligned mission.

#### **b. Forensic Audit Presentation by Eide Bailley**

Eide Bailley presented the findings of a forensic audit covering January 2020 through December 2024. The audit found no fraud or misuse of funds but identified multiple internal control weaknesses, largely attributed to significant staff turnover — including three executive directors and six of seven finance staff departing within six months. Among the findings, 83% of P-card transactions sampled lacked documented approvals, meaning they were not necessarily unapproved but simply undocumented. Bank reconciliation practices were untimely and lacked proper review and segregation of duties. The Great Plains audit trail was never enabled, which had not been a result of malicious disabling as previously suspected. Overall fraud risk was rated moderate across control environment, preventative, and detective controls. A total of 53 recommendations were made; 83% are already implemented or in progress, 3 were opted out of, and 6 remain under consideration. The board requested a detailed list with context and timelines for the 9 outstanding items. New ERP and payroll systems implemented in 2025 now address many of the prior control gaps.

### **IV. Consent Agenda**

The Consent agenda was approved unanimously with one correction to the February 18<sup>th</sup> Draft minutes, removing the phrase "at the Capitol" from a reference to town hall meetings held in Fort Collins on page 7.

This also included the approval of Public Policy-2026 Legislative Session and Bill updates.

*The motion was made by Director Thielen and seconded by Director Hathcock and passed unanimously.*

## **V. Action Items**

### **a. Approval of Signatory for Safety Deposit Boxes (Resolution(s) 2026-03-08)**

Resolutions approving Brian Ferrans as signatory for the Health District's six safety deposit boxes were passed unanimously, with the board noting potential for future consolidation.

*The motion to approve Resolution(s) 2026-03-08 was made by Director Thielen, seconded by Director Field, and passed unanimously.*

## **VI. Reports & Discussions**

### **a. Financial Report — Jessica Holmes (Q1 Financials)**

Jessica Holmes presented the Q1 2026 financials. The Health District had a strong first quarter, beating budget by \$947,000 and ending with over 9.5 months of cash on hand. Revenues totaled \$5.87 million, expenditures were \$3.58 million, and the positive change in fund balance was \$2.29 million, bringing the ending balance to \$15.92 million. The program expense ratio stood at 75%, a healthy benchmark. Most variances were timing-related, with the exception of personnel compensation from vacant positions. The board discussed reallocating underspent personnel funds and noted that staff budgeting methodology will be revised for 2027 to better reflect actual hire dates. Board members warmly thanked Jessica for her clear financial communication and welcomed her upcoming move to Loveland.

### **b. HR1 Update- Dana Turner**

A potential federal “Reconciliation 2.0” is being floated that could further impact safety net programs, including consolidating Medicaid and CHIP into fixed block grants and repealing Medicaid expansion matching funds. Medicaid work requirement rulemaking is pending with key exemption definitions still unclear. The Health District is responding proactively by participating in work groups and NHP public improvement advisory committees and collaborating on community messaging to avoid confusion among Health First Colorado members. The District is also piloting the placement of health coverage guides at Crossroads Safe House’s family justice center and submitted a three-year Connect for Health Colorado grant application as an enrollment site. Library-based health insurance literacy classes are scheduled bimonthly in English and Spanish, with NHP potentially co-participating.

### **c. Board Public Policy Committee- Board**

HB26-1300, which would have allowed health service districts to add affordable housing to their service plans without a formal modification process, failed 6-1 in its first Senate hearing and requires no further action. The board then discussed improving its legislative engagement process. The group agreed to explore moving the annual joint meeting with UC Health from March to June, which would free March for a regular board meeting and allow newly elected members to be introduced to UC Health following the election. There was also broad interest in organizing a Capitol visit or inviting legislators to the Health District during the off-session to advocate with a unified voice on issues that intersect with public health. Board members expressed a desire for all five elected board members to engage collectively on broader public health-adjacent legislation, rather than leaving such decisions solely to the committee.

#### **d. Board Member Reports:**

**Director Thielen:** Met with Brian Ferrans and engaged with former Mayor Jenny Arndt regarding HB1300 on behalf of the Public Policy Committee

**Director Field:** Attended the SAVA breakfast, where the keynote — an Epstein survivor — focused on PTSD, trauma recovery, and the importance of mental health support

**Director Hathcock:** Met with Ferrans, Green, and Turner, and emphasized the growing urgency of finding creative solutions to serve uninsured residents in northern Larimer County amid anticipated HR1 impacts

**Director Hottenstein:** Attended the Poudre School District board meeting, where the Health District was formally recognized for providing bridge funding for the behavioral health interns and fellows program

**Director McKay:** Attended the Matthews House annual birthday bash and reminded the group that May is Mental Health Awareness Month

#### **e. Executive Director Report**

Brian Ferrans reported that he is settling in well, having completed 31 staff meet-and-greets and launched quarterly open office hours to remain accessible. Looking ahead, a half-day board retreat is being scheduled via doodle poll for mission, vision, and values review, which will set the stage for strategic planning in 2027. The employee engagement survey closed with an approximately 80% response rate, up from the high 60s in 2025, and results are being compiled. All-staff annual compliance training has been launched through Compliancy Group. An RFP has been issued for a new client management system to replace the legacy database, with a goal of better data integrity and EHR integration. A community needs survey is launching Friday in Red Feather Lakes at the local food pantry.

### **VII. Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Director McKay. and seconded by Director Thielen. Passed Unanimously.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.*

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