



**JOINT MEETING OF THE  
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
HEALTH DISTRICT AND UCHEALTH-PVHC**

**November 16, 2022**

**Building C  
2315 E. Harmony Road, Suite 200  
David Wood Board Room**

**MINUTES**

**HEALTH DISTRICT**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Molly Gutilla, President  
Julie Kunce Field, Vice President  
Joseph Prows, Treasurer  
Ann Yanagi, Secretary  
Celeste Holder Kling, Liaison to UCHealth-North/PVHC Board

**HEALTH DISTRICT STAFF:** Lee Thielen, Interim Executive Director  
Karen Spink, Outgoing Acting Executive Director  
Anita Benavidez, Assistant to ED and Board

**UCHEALTH-PVHC BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF PRESENT:**

Christine Chin, Lisa Clay (Board Chair); Mike Dellenbach, Doug Erion, Dennis Houska (Past Chair); Dr. Brad Oldemeyer; Chris Osborn; Jim Parke (Vice Chair); Dr. Mike Randle; Dan Stroh; David Thompson (CFO, UCHealth North); Amy Kolczak (Sr. Associate General Counsel); and Kevin Unger (President/CEO, PVH and MCR); Dr. Todd Whitsitt.

**CALL TO ORDER; APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Board Chair, Lisa Clay called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

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

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

PVHC Board Chair Lisa Clay welcomed all and invited everyone to introduce themselves. On behalf of the Health District Board members, Board President Molly Gutilla expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have this joint meeting.

**PRESENTATION**

***Overview of UCHealth – Kevin Unger***

Kevin Unger provided an overview of UCHealth, noting the partnership between them and Poudre Valley Hospital for the past ten years. Poudre Valley Hospital will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. There is hope to be finished with the current master plan by then, despite construction delays. The project cost is at \$100M, with some clinical services being relocated due to water in the basement. Staff will occupy Phase 1 of the project by February 13,

2023. The intent is to make the facility look as good as the care given inside, providing consistency and unity within the structure. UCH health hospitals make up four of the top five Colorado hospitals according to US World News & Report. There are currently twelve hospitals with a thirteenth soon to join – Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo. They receive about 974 new patients every day within the UCH system. Daily costs to run the organization sit at \$18M with 2.7M patients served per year. Mr. Unger explained that \$1.1B is spent in employee benefits. UCH is the largest provider of Medicaid services in Colorado.

***Overview of Health District of Northern Larimer County – Karen Spink, Outgoing Acting Executive Director***

Formed in 1960 as the Poudre Valley Hospital District resulting from voter support for a system to serve the unmet health needs of the community. In 1994 it became a separate entity and the name was changed to Poudre Health Services District. This organization provides a wide variety of services, such as dental and mental health care, as well as partnering with community organizations to address systemic issues. The intent is to reduce duplicative services and provide care that cannot be accessed in any other way. The Health District is the only Medicaid provider using a sliding fee scale and serves around 13,000 unduplicated patients per year. While operations are conducted from seven facilities (including Salud and SummitStone), the HD owns four. The southern boundary sits at Trilby Road with a wiggly boundary including Red Feather, up to the Wyoming border, and to the Jackson County border. The district’s mill levy sits at 2.167 mills. There are some joint programs in Loveland funded by grant money.

***Highlights on collaborative initiatives of the Health District and UCH health***

**COVID-19 Vaccine:** There was a bit of a strategic advantage to put out invitations for the vaccine – PVH was the first to receive vaccine in the State of Colorado. Just under 920K vaccines were delivered through the UCH system in the state of Colorado. They anticipate that vaccines will be pushed back to primary care next year, when individual doses are available. There were mass vaccination clinics at Coors Field as well as others. The Health District was able to fill the gap in providing vaccines to marginalized populations (BIPOC, rural, etc.) and they hosted a vaccination event at the local drive-in. Routine vaccination clinics were held at the 120 building, delivering nearly 3.5K shots.

**Integrated Care at FMC:** Started in 2005, the original goal was to fill behavioral health gaps, working in partnership with primary care physicians. With behavioral health providers within those facilities, the patient can be walked to the BHP office to get things started. The Health District provides behavioral health providers and a psychiatrist at FMC. Going forward UCH will reimburse some of the staffing costs. Similar programs have been adopted in Denver and Colorado Springs as this becomes a best practice. An additional behavioral health provider and psychiatrist is provided to Salud. Over the history of the program there have been specialty clinics (MAT and Pain), and staff has been training resident physicians regarding behavioral health.

**Medicaid Accountable Care Collaborative (MACC)** started in 2011. Ms. Spink was part of the founding group, hiring staff that is now housed in UCH health. The organization formed different regions and we were put into a region that included the Western Slope. MACC is now a model used within the state of Colorado. Salud, FMC, and UCH health houses the team, providing access to EPIC. This has improved the speed with which an individual can be seen at SummitStone. The Health District helped to launch this effort and continues to facilitate the team, with 11 – 12 staff working within the program. It is designed to serve individuals with complex mental health and other health care needs. Staff carry a low case load due to the intensity of the need. The program has been effective in avoiding 535 ER visits with significant cost savings (\$2.8M in ER visits and \$6.6M in hospitalizations). Total budget for the program is

about \$1M provided through the state and Rocky Mountain Health Plans.

**Care Coordination:** The UCHealth Care Coordination Team connect with the Health District every day providing a wide variety of services including mental health, prescription assistance, family dental services and more. It is a very successful collaboration connecting patients with community resources.

**Senior Services (UCH Aspen Club):** These services include advance care planning and Medicare counseling. Recently, UCHealth and the Health District partnered to host a week-long informational booth at the Family Medicine Center. The Aspen Club is a good conduit for these services and the Health District is a terrific partner.

**Dental Services for Special Populations:** The general anesthesia program, in partnership with the Harmony Surgery Center, Northern Colorado Anesthesia Professionals, UCHealth and community dentists provides critical care for those with developmental disabilities while under general anesthesia. This team arranges the visits and two community dental offices do the surgery. Thirty-three individuals have been served within a year.

**Bedside Tobacco Cessation:** The Health District provides staff within the walls of the hospital. This provides staff access to EPIC and treatment continuation after released from the hospital. This is a pilot project that started just prior to the pandemic, which was put on hold, and started running again in January. UCHealth provide the nicotine replacement therapy for patients.

#### ***UCHealth Community Benefit Update***

Community Health Needs Assessments and implementation strategies were developed and approved by the PVH and MCR Boards in 2022. The Health District and UCHealth will work to coordinate data collection in order to eliminate over-surveying. Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder programs will be a major focus with strategies developed around that, access to care, and chronic conditions. Behavioral Health staffing is not covered by reimbursement so UCHealth set aside \$125M, incrementally, to meet this need. Virtual care will be provided as backup support to eastern community hospitals and in-patient care will increase approximately 40%. The approved strategies will be continued/implemented in 2023 – 2025 with flexibility to adapt to the changing needs of the communities served. The community, as a whole, is seriously underfunded in this arena and are behind on meeting the needs.

#### ***Changes at the Health District:***

There have been a lot of transitions at the Health District. The Board and staff are happy to have Lee Thielen on board as the Interim Executive Director. The Board has been tremendous in supporting staff and bringing back some stability to the organization. Staff is working with community partners to reconvene Board set priorities for 2023. Behavioral health by providing direct services in partnership with UCHealth, Salud, and SummitStone. Work continues on the systems level, as well. Mental Health Substance Use Alliance (MHSUA) brings together more than forty organizations to fill the gap. The Health District continues to focus on access to care and coverage, connecting community members with health insurance coverage and prescription assistance, as well as dental/oral health care. The Health District staff is interested in collaborating on the Community Health Survey process to reduce cost and eliminate duplicative efforts. There is focused effort on filling key positions within the organization. It was noted that a culture/climate survey of staff has been completed. A few highlights of the results are that people believe in their mission, trust one another, and are committed to meeting the needs of the community. The Board is grateful to have Ms. Thielen at the helm.

The Health District owns four facilities: two on Bristlecone Drive (120 – administration and 202 – Dental Clinic), one at 425 W. Mulberry and the Spring Creek Medical Facility. The latter is now fully leased to SummitStone. Other service locations include Larimer Health Connect on Mason, and staff at Salud and FMC.

A question was raised as to whether the Health District has any plans to change the voting format. To some extent, the voting process is bound by special district laws. Mail ballots through the County would cost about \$80K, a significant increase over current costs. The designated official is looking into additional drop-off locations. The dental clinic now has a wheelchair accessible chair – the only one in Larimer County.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

In the interest of time, general discussion was tabled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Anita K. Benavidez*

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Anita Benavidez, Assistant to the Board of Directors

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Molly Gutilla, MS, DrPH, Board President

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Julie Kunce Field, JD, Board Vice President

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Celeste Holder Kling, JD, Liaison to UCH-North and PVHC Board

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Joseph Prows, MD MPH, Board Treasurer

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Ann Yanagi, MD, Board Secretary