

Health District
OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
December 13, 2021

Health District Office Building
120 Bristlecone Drive, Fort Collins
Remote Meeting

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael D. Liggett, Esq., Board President
Molly Gutilla, MS DrPH, Board Vice President
Celeste Kling, J.D., Liaison to UCH-North/PVH
Joseph Prows, MD MPH, Board Treasurer
Johanna Ulloa Giron, Psy.M., MSW,* Board Secretary
**Joined the meeting just before the COVID update*

Staff Present:
Carol Plock, Executive Director
Chris Sheafor, Support Services Director
James Stewart, Medical Director
Karen Spink, Assistant Director
Lin Wilder, Special Projects Director
Richard Cox, Communications Director

Staff Present:
Lorraine Haywood, Finance Director, retiring
Xochitl Fragoso, Assistant Finance Director
Anita Benavidez, Executive Assistant
Angela Castillo, Eval and Assessment Specialist
Public Present:
Diana Dwyer, League of Women Voters LC

CALL TO ORDER; INTRODUCTIONS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Michael Liggett called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. All members of the board were present except Director Ulloa Giron.

The agenda was amended to remove the November 9 Board meeting minutes from the Consent agenda.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as Amended
Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Budget Approval

Changes since the draft Budget

Ms. Plock noted that she had forwarded to the Board a public comment that was received via email and has been added to the meeting packet. There were very few changes since the Board reviewed the draft budget – a very slight decrease in Property Tax Revenue; employee wages went up a bit while employee benefits and program expenses dropped slightly. Some conferences were moved from operational to reserve dollars to balance the budget.

Approval of Resolutions 2021-17 Adopt Budget; 2021-18 Set Mill Levies; 2021-19 Appropriate Sums of Money; 2021-20 Revenues to Reserve Account; Certification of Tax Levies

MOTION: To approve the 2022 Health District of Northern Larimer County Budget as presented and the following resolutions: 2021-17 Adopt Budget; 2021-18 Set Mill Levies; 2021-19 Appropriate Sums of Money; and 2021-20 Revenues to Reserve Account; as well as the Certification of Tax Levies.

Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

Approval of Executive Director Job Description Revisions

There was a board question about why the Health District uses the term “Executive Director” rather than “Chief Executive Officer,” just out of curiosity rather than a suggestion. Staff were not sure; it may be identified as Executive Director in the state Statutes and is typical of special districts.

MOTION: To approve the job description as revised.

Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

The Board meeting for February 8 will be cancelled. Director Ulloa Giron joined the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Status Update COVID-19 and Vaccinations – Dr. James Stewart

Dr. Stewart updated stats on COVID-19 indicating a drop in three of the four metrics – hospitalizations showed a slight uptick. There was a dip around Christmas last year, and this year seems to be following that pattern. Last year, there were no vaccines yet, and this year there is both the Delta and the Omicron variants, so it is unclear what might happen. The impact of Omicron, isn’t yet understood. Larimer County is a bit higher than the state in reproduction but remains under one. The Mountain West wave has shifted to the Mid-West while we are seeing hot spots globally. Omicron appears to be more contagious but less dangerous - although that could be a result of immunity, either by vaccine or previous illness, or because it is less virulent. If it remains less virulent and outcompetes Delta, it could be very positive for the world.

The Health District has been successful with vaccine clinics, providing 2,838 doses to 1,774 unique individuals thus far. A clinic is currently underway in Red Feather Lakes, expected to deliver about 100 doses, with additional clinics planned at the Murphy Center and Holy Family Church. There have been nearly 600 boosters since August. Outreach has included phone calls, social media, and emails.

COVID-19 and the Health District, Current Status – Carol Plock

Ms. Plock reported an earlier conversation with Kevin Unger of UCHealth, who believes cases are moderating, with swings remaining. The number of cases are going down but there are still a lot of very, very sick people. UCHealth is trying to move elective surgeries back into the schedule.

Vaccination Clinics: Both Larimer County and UCHealth’s vaccinations clinics are full, and they expect to need our help into the next year. Our clinics have been full since three things converged: the approval of vaccination for ages 5-12, the authorization of 3 vaccines for boosters, and Colorado’s recommendation that everyone in proper age groups become eligible for boosters.

IRQ: Larimer County is guaranteeing funding for the IRQ, so the Myrtle Houses are being brought back up to usability, and are almost there. An IRQ Site Coordinator has been hired and began today – Ashley Kreis, and we are posting for two additional staff, with interviews scheduled this week. We are close to

an agreement with community corrections. The agreements have been written so that if there are no COVID positives, the site could be used as a temporary non congregate location for people experiencing homelessness who are at high risk if they get COVID, although the hope is that a grant being proposed by the county and Homeward Alliance will make hotel rooms available for that purpose. Hospitals and shelters continue to tell us that is very important to open the IRQ.

Health care providers are reminding everyone that COVID is still very much in our community.

Impact on Staff and Staffing: There is continuing impact on our own staff, including staff who have come down with COVID, family members getting, some very serious cases, and quarantines of staff and family members – having a direct impact on both that staff person and their family, and those who must fill in, creating a constant rotation of staff.

COVID's impact on staffing is extreme in our community. In a recent meeting with primary care, long term care, and the hospital, they noted that nurses at all levels are extremely difficult to find and are requiring re-structuring plans. Staffing issues are anticipated to impact the Health District in the area of a nurse care manager position for the IRQ, a regular Health District nurse, behavioral health professionals, and dental staff. Community health centers in Colorado have over 1,000 jobs vacant. COVID has turned a staffing problem into a staffing crisis for health care.

OTHER UPDATES & REPORTS

Executive Director Updates – Carol Plock

Ms. Plock reported that our HR department is very busy with openings including an accountant, policy coordinator, two IRQ staff members, and more. Larimer Health Connect staff are incredibly busy due to open enrollment being in full swing, and sudden challenges with staffing levels. In 2022, we are working on bringing back some normalcy, with quarterly reports returning, and supervisors working on annual plans and projections, including working with staff to define goals/objectives so that hopefully pay for performance can return in 2023.

As the Community Impact Team works with the MHSU Alliance, attention is turning to the potential for one time, big difference ARPA funding; our community will have about \$89M to spend. Both the City and the County have Mental Health as priorities, and the Alliance is looking at time-limited projects with critical local needs. Some possibilities include recovery housing; workforce development pipeline; a pediatric mental health/substance use center. Other possibilities include a community information exchange platform that will allow the different systems to communicate, and respite care for teens and adults.

425 W. Mulberry- Renovations planning has begun, working with architects to make the building ADA compliant, add door security, and make the changes needed to move Larimer Health Connect there in the future.

Liaison to PVHS/UCHealth North Report

Board member Celeste Kling reported that MCR is buying a couple of medical buildings on their campus. Construction at PVH continues, as they transition the old ER to surgical facilities. UCHealth financials remain strong overall. FEMA is providing an advanced medical team in December to help handle the COVID staffing demands. MCR has set up a monoclonal antibody clinic to administer the limited COVID treatments that are allocated locally. Dr. Bill Neff is retiring as medical director, with Dr. Diana Breyer named as his replacement.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2nd opportunity)

None

CONSENT AGENDA

The November 9 minutes were removed from the consent agenda.

- Approval of Minutes for the October 28, 2021 Board Meeting
- September 2021 Financials

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda
Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- January 25, 2022, 4:00 pm – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- February 7, 2022 8:00 am – Board of Directors Special Meeting
- February 21, 2022, 8:00 am – Board of Directors Special Meeting
- February 22, 2022, 4:00 pm – Board of Directors Regular Meeting

The Board requested bi-weekly updates on the Executive Director search.

ADJOURN

MOTION: To Adjourn the Meeting
Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Anita Benavidez, Assistant to the Board of Directors

Michael D. Liggett, Esq., Board President

Molly Gutilla, MS DrPH, Board Vice President

Celeste Kling, J.D., Liaison to UCH-North and PVHS Board

Joseph Prows, MD MPH, Board Treasurer

Johanna Ulloa Giron, Psy.M., MSW, Board Secretary