

Health District
OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
January 24, 2023

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

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Molly Gutilla, MS DrPH, Board President
Julie Kunce Field, JD, Board Vice President
Joseph Prows, MD MPH, Board Treasurer
Celeste Holder Kling, JD, Liaison to UCH-North/PVH (via Zoom)
Ann Yanagi, MD, Board Secretary

Staff Present:

Lee Thielen, Interim Executive Director
Chris Sheafor, Support Services Director
Dana Turner, Dental Services Director
Laura Mai, Finance Director
Lorraine Haywood, Deputy Director
Anita Benavidez, Executive Assistant
Jessica Shannon, Resource Development Coord.
Richard Cox, Communications Director
Pam Klein, Connections Project Specialist
Rosie Duran, Larimer Health Connect Manager

Staff Present:

Alyson Williams, Policy Advisor
Julie Abramoff, Clinical Nurse Manager
Colton Frady, Assistant Finance Director
Andrea Holt, Integrated Care Program Manager
Sam Bruick
Angela Castillo

Public Present:

Lisa Ward, Frontline Public Affairs
Erin Hottenstein
Mike Ruttenberg
June Hyman-Cismoski, LWV

CALL TO ORDER; INTRODUCTIONS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Molly Gutilla called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented

Motion by Julie Kunce Field / Second by Joseph Prows / Carried Unanimously

The Interim Executive Director, Lee Thielen, introduced Dr. Paul Mayer, the Health District's new Medical Director. He has already made his place in the organization. Dr. Mayer commented that he is very excited to be at the Health District, which he has held in high regard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION

Urban Renewal Authority Board, Chris Sheafor

In 2016, the Colorado State Legislature changed the law regarding the Urban Renewal Authority Board, creating spaces for non-city council members, including representatives from the school board, a community representative, and special districts. This is the Board that manages Tax Increment Financing, which has an impact on special districts. Joe Weiss from the Poudre River Public Library District Board has been representing the special district interest for quite some time. He will be leaving the Library Board which leaves a Special Districts vacancy on the Urban Renewal Authority Board. The Chairman of

the Library Board, Fred Colby, has expressed an interest in that role. Mr. Sheafor inquired if anyone on this Board was interested in filling the vacancy. Mr. Weiss was an excellent representative – very balanced, weighing the pros and cons – and there is no reason to believe that Mr. Colby would be any less effective. None of the Health District Board members asked to be considered for the role. If any concerns arise in the future, they would like to hear those concerns.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Youth Assessment Contract Follow-Up, Jessica Shannon

Ms. Shannon, Interim Manager for CIT, Special Projects & Resource Development, noted the memorandum of explanation and the contract that were included in the Board packets. She is seeking a motion of approval to sign the contract. An initial solutions report had been conducted as part of Larimer County’s Behavioral Master Plan in 2018. It provided the foundation upon which the 2018 1A behavioral health ballot measure was passed. Every five years, Larimer County is required to reassess the local behavioral health system’s components to drive further action and improvements with 1A funding. The youth assessment is a chapter of the larger master plan that Larimer County is compiling and will provide a clear set of prioritized recommendations to improve mental and emotional wellbeing for Larimer County youth, ages 0 – 22. The Health District budgeted staffing to support the assessment in 2022. An extension has been granted to mid-June 2023 to complete the youth assessment. The County and the Health District have approved the use of a consultant, selected through a formal RFP process, to complete the assessment by summarizing existing Larimer County assessments and data; conducting an environmental scan; novel and qualitative data collection to fill gaps in existing data; and to produce a final recommendations report and deliverables as outlined in the contract. Funds were budgeted to complete the assessment from 2023 reserves. This assessment will identify the key gaps that need to be filled along the youth behavioral health care continuum, will support strategic planning for both the CAYAC and CIT teams, and is aligned with Board priorities. The CIT is working with all three school districts and community partners to collect existing data. When possible, focus groups will be conducted remotely or within district boundaries. The executive sponsors for the 2023 master plan have offered to support needs related to supporting project needs outside our district boundaries. A board member expressed consideration that we ensure focus groups include those under-represented (i.e., rural youth, black youth, etc.) and the need to bridge access to care for participants as needed. The Aurora Mental Health Research Institute has expertise specifically related to conducting youth behavioral health assessments. Their qualifications, background, and methodology were considered in the RFP selection process. Once the results are complete, the report and deliverables will be shared with community stakeholders. It was noted that there was a correction needed regarding the amount of the contract between “III. Compensation” (\$82K) and the contract total on Exhibit A (\$83K). Ms. Shannon made the correction to \$83K prior to the Board President’s signing.

MOTION: To approve the contract as amended

Motion by Joseph Prows / Second by Julie Kunce Field / Carried Unanimously

Building Cleaning Services Agreement, Chris Sheafor

Mr. Sheafor is seeking General Approval from the Board for Building Cleaning Services. Services are combined for the Mason Street building and the Bristlecone site. Some changes have been made including eliminating the mid-day touchpoint cleaning and cleaning of the plexiglass screens.

MOTION: To approve the cleaning contract with Total Facility Care, LLC

Motion by Joseph Prows / Second by Celeste Holder Kling / Carried Unanimously

Cultural Assessment Report, Sue Hewitt

Ms. Hewitt reminded the Board that staff focus groups were conducted in December as part of the cultural climate survey. There were seven employee groups; one virtually, with about 68% of the staff participating. The focus groups were varied in programs and levels of employees. There were five key themes: Accountability, Relationships, Communication and Engagement, Professional Development, and

Change Management. The full report, when received, will be shared with staff and be posted on the Board Portal. The Board noted that this is particularly useful information for staff and the Executive Director, and that this assessment should be done more regularly.

PRESENTATIONS

Policy – Lisa Ward

Ms. Ward commented that this year’s Legislative Session is in full swing with hundreds of bills already introduced. She submitted a letter, approved by the Board, to the Joint Budget Committee supplemental budget request for the Health Care Policy and Financing. The funding will allow counties to redetermine Medicaid enrollment once the PHE ends. The initial bill included a 20% match requirement for counties, creating a burden for counties as budgets have already been set. It was approved yesterday, funded in full without any local match requirements.

Priority bills:

HB23-1003: School Mental Health Assessment – CDPHE will award grants to qualified contract providers for “mental health screening” for Grades 6 – 12. It allows schools to participate and notify parents if they want to opt their children out. However, if a student is 12 years or older, they can opt themselves back in and choose not to notify parents of the screening results. Students that need additional services will be referred to the IMatter Program with six free mental health sessions via telehealth. There is no fiscal note yet for this Bill, but it will likely be very large. The Board raised questions about the definition of a “qualified provider” and “screening”; and whether there are other resources in the community. Ms. Ward will get back to the Board on who is sponsoring the Bill. The current process utilizes mental health professionals residing in the school. It was noted that suicide is the second leading cause of death between the ages of 10 and 34. Massachusetts has a very robust program starting in first grade.

HB23-1009 Secondary School Student Substance Use – This bill was sponsored by the Colorado Youth Advisory Interim Committee in the department of education to develop a practice for SBIRT-like practices in schools to identify students needing substance use treatment. The Committee consists of students, teachers, and “school mental health professionals” with expertise in adolescent SUD. It must include members from rural areas and reflect racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the state.

MOTION: To support HB23-1009: Secondary School Student Substance Use
Motion by Joseph Prows / Second by Julie Kunce Field / Carried Unanimously

HB23-1023: Special District Construction Contract – This is a bi-partisan bill. It increases the threshold for public notice for special district construction contracts to \$120K or more (currently \$60K). It requires that the amount be adjusted every five years for inflation. Mr. Sheafor, Support Services Director, indicated that this would be a huge aid in getting work done in a timely manner. This Bill is subject to petition and can be made a ballot initiative.

MOTION: To support HB23-1023: Special District Construction Contract
Motion by Celeste Holder Kling / Second by Joseph Prows / Carried Unanimously

HB23-1070: Mental Health Professionals Practice Requirements – This Bill reduces the individual and marriage and family therapy practice requirement for licensure from at least two years of post-Masters or one year post-Doctoral to at least one year for both. It reduces the post-degree clinical supervised practice period for an applicant to gain licensure as a licensed professional council from two years post-Masters and one year post-Doctoral supervised clinical practice to one year for both. There is concern around this bill, and professional associations believe it is not time to reduce requirements. The Board agreed to monitor the Bill.

HB23-1071: Licensed Psychologist Prescriptive Authority – The bill requires a two-year master’s degree in clinical psychopharmacology from an APA designated program. They would be required to

pass the national exam and complete a preceptorship of 480 hours of more; hold a conditional Rx license for two years; pass an independent peer review and complete the independent Rx license application. The National Association of Social Workers support the Bill as it provides access that is currently lacking. Some providers have concerns about “scope creep” beyond mental health-related Rx. Currently, psychologists coordinate with primary care providers. Concerns were raised that there is overlap between physical and mental health medications, and some may have side effects the psychologist may not be aware of. Benzo withdrawal is horrendous. Benzos are included but not opioids. The HD psychiatrists strongly oppose the Bill. The US military and five states are already practicing this, within appropriate scope. The Board would like to continue to monitor the Bill without expending resources to do deeper research. The drugs that can be prescribed need to be defined. Ms. Ward will send a bit more information on drug specification.

SB23-002: Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Services – The Bill allows the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to seek federal authorization from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services to provide Medicaid reimbursement for community health worker services. The Bill directs HCPF to designate one or more new provider types that will facilitate community health worker services outside of the traditional health care setting and shall consider the inclusion of a community-based organization provider type. HCPF Amendment strikes the language related to peer support professionals and violence prevention professionals being able to bill for CHW services. HCPF further stated that it is very difficult to create new provider types. These services are out there and are not being reimbursed.

MOTION: To support SB23-002: Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Services

Motion by Ann Yanagi / Second by Joseph Prows / Carried Unanimously

SB23-004: Employment of School Mental Health Professionals – The bill allows schools to hire Mental Health Professionals that hold a state license, without requiring a Department of Education license to work in a school. Schools could employ certain MHP who are not licensed by the department but hold a Colorado license for their profession. Eligible school MHP includes psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselor, and addiction counselors. The intent is to augment school social workers. It is estimated that the additional Department of Education licensing would add approximately two years due to a requirement for clinical rotations. The response from the Social Worker community is mixed – rural schools support the bill vs. the state standard. The Youth Mental Health State of Emergency is a factor. The Board would like to monitor the Bill while obtaining additional information.

The Board discussed the process that gets bills put on a priority list. What type of bills make the list? Housing and social determinants of health are important, though the current focus is on direct service lines. They noted that staff recommendations are sometimes useful. The links to the bill lists will be posted on the Board portal.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2nd opportunity)

Mike Ruttenberg encouraged the Board to stay open to HB23-1071 which provides much wider prescription authority. He noted that on SB23-004, the Department of Education credentialing is technically a teaching license.

2023 Board of Directors Election Timeline and Overview – Chris Sheafor

Mr. Sheafor reviewed the key dates for the 2023 election (the schedule was included in the Board packet). The Call for Nominations will be distributed by legal notice, our website, and other social media. At the request of the Board, he investigated the possibility of dropping off ballots after hours. To meet requirements for a Ballot Box freestanding from the building runs at a cost of \$15K per box. When conversing with the Larimer County election office, they expressed concern that people would get

confused if we used the regular county ballot boxes. It would require new locks designated for the HD and a change in the graphics. A request can be submitted but is likely to be denied. The Board agreed to hold for this year.

UPDATES & REPORTS

Liaison to PVHS/UCHealth North Report – Celeste Holder Kling

The Board met just last week including discussions around training on credentialing and other topics. There was nothing that affects the relationship with the Health District.

Executive Director Updates – Lee Thielen

Ms. Thielen expressed her appreciation for the quick turn-around on the letter of support for funding of eligibility redetermination. Another letter of support was written for the MIH state grant for the North Colorado Health Alliance and the Larimer County Longview campus. She announced some upcoming visits: Senator Marchman on February 3 at 1:30 pm, Mayor Arndt on February 8 at 11:00 am, and a future (after Session) visit from Representative Boesenecker. In the meanwhile, Rep. Boesenecker will meet with staff via Zoom on February 10. The Board members were invited to participate. Three will join the meeting with Mayor Arndt, and a Special Meeting Notice will be generated. The HD will be having all-staff meetings every quarter and United Way will present at the meeting planned for January 26. Due to the number of new managers, a “Management Academy” is being instituted with training every two weeks highlighting one topic, as well as one on “How to be a Leader”. Work plans have been mandated, as well as program plans, and plans for professional development. The climate is stabilizing. There is a meeting tomorrow morning with EFL.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of the December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes and January 18, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

- Resolution 2023-01: Establish a Designated Public Place for Posting of Meeting Notices

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as presented

Motion by Julie Kunce Field / Second by Celeste Holder Kling / Carried

Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 14, 5:00 pm – Board of Directors Special Meeting
- February 28, 5:00 pm – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- March 14, 5:00 pm - Board of Directors Special Meeting

ADJOURN

MOTION: To adjourn the Regular Meeting

Motion by Ann Yanagi / Second by Julie Kunce Field / Carried Unanimously

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.