

**Health District**  
OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**February 14, 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  
Ann Yanagi, MD, Board Secretary

**Staff Present:**

Lee Thielen, Interim Executive Director  
Dana Turner, Dental Services Director  
Laura Mai, Finance Director  
Lorraine Haywood, Deputy Director  
Anita Benavidez, Executive Assistant  
Richard Cox, Communications Director  
Rosie Duran, Larimer Health Connect Manager  
Alyson Williams, Policy Advisor

**Staff Present:**

Angela Castillo, Evaluator/Data Analyst  
Andrea Holt, Integrated Care Program Manager

**Public Present:**

Lisa Ward, Frontline Public Affairs  
Anna Makovec-Fuller  
Suzanne Kinney  
Joyce DeVaney  
Daniel Cummings, EFL

**CALL TO ORDER; INTRODUCTIONS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Molly Gutilla called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented**  
***Motion by Julie Kunce Field / Second by Celeste Holder Kling /***  
***Carried Unanimously***

**DISCUSSION & ACTIONS**

***Legislative Policy, Lisa Ward and Alyson Williams***

Lisa Ward, Frontline Public Affairs, reviewed the levels of support for Legislative Bills. Our contract allows ten bills support, opposition, or amending the bill. There are three in total for lobbying.

**HB1003:** This bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to administer a mental health screening program available to public schools serving grades 6 – 12 and is tied to the IMatter Program. The bill passed House with amendments. It has a huge fiscal note for 2023/24 - \$475K; 2024/25 - \$16M. Position: Actively Monitor

**HB1009:** This bill creates the Secondary School Student Substance Use Committee to determine practices to identify substance abuse in secondary schools and to connect students with resources. It passed House Education, with an amendment striking “school counselors” and substituting “state licensed or state-certified mental health professionals that provide mental health counseling.” There is some Republican opposition. Position: Support.

**HB1023:** This bill increases the threshold for public notice requirement for special district construction contracts from \$60K to \$120K with an inflation adjustment every five years. It passed House on the 13<sup>th</sup> with no amendments. Position: Support.

**HB1070:** The bill reduces the practical experience requirements for a marriage or family therapist license. Whether a Masters Degree, or Doctorate, the required supervised clinical practice would be one year. There is a lot of opposition to the bill and an effort to kill it in first committee. Position: Actively Monitor

**HB1071:** The bill allows licensed psychologists to obtain certification to prescribe psychotropic medications. One of the amendments states that the prescribing psychologist must disclose, to each patient, that they are not a physician licensed to practice medicine. It passed House with amendments and is now in Senate. Position: Actively Monitor

Ms. Ward noted that she had answered questions the Board had at the last meeting. They are included in the handout.

**HB1130:** This bill would prohibit step therapy for “serious mental illness”. It would prohibit the protocols from requiring a person to try more than one prescription drug prior to receiving coverage for the drug recommended by the person’s health care provider. Ms. Ward reviewed the definition of Serious Mental Illnesses. It has been introduced in House and assigned to Health and Insurance. A Board member asked if there has been any discussion of the cost of drugs and whether there are limits on what insurers are required to pay. That will be addressed as a different part of the bill. Position: Monitor

**SB002:** The bill requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to seek federal approval for Medicaid to pay for services provided by community health workers and to implement new coverage once federal approval is granted. There are currently 161 registered community health navigators. The fiscal note is built around an increase of up to 3,000 community health workers (based on what other states have seen). It stalled in committee due to the HCPF fiscal note, increasing to \$94M in 2026/27. The bill would have a federal draw-down upon federal approval, and includes Health Department workers. The Fiscal Note is only looking at direct costs not potential savings from early intervention. Position: Support

**SB004:** This bill allows school districts to employ licensed mental health professionals who are not licensed by the Department of Education. An amendment was made to clarify language. This would allow Health District staff to assist at public schools.

**MOTION:** **To actively support SB004: Employment of School Mental Health Professionals**  
*Motion by Celeste Holder Kling / Second by Julie Kunce Field /*  
*Carried Unanimously*

**HB1115:** Repeal of Statutory Provisions prohibiting local governments from enacting rent control on private residential property or a private residential housing unit.

**Overdose Prevention Centers:** This bill has not yet been introduced. The intent is to leave it up to municipalities/local control to open and/or operate an overdose prevention center. If it passes at the State level, the city and county of Denver will have a center.

**SB23-091:** The bill requires therapy, prevention and education services, case management, and evaluation and treatment planning services to be covered by Medicaid members under 21 who do not have an official diagnosis. The intent is to ensure kids are accessing care as early as possible but it isn’t really changing the status quo. It has no fiscal note. There may be more impactful ways to change

policies to increase access to these services. It was noted that we do not currently bill Medicaid for our mental health services. Psychological testing is not covered by Medicaid. The Board feels this is a critical bill and has asked that it be actively monitored.

To stay at HD contract of ten bills, the Board determined to take HB1023 off the list for now. It can be added back later, if needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erin Hottenstein thanked the Board and Health District for providing the hybrid option for Board meetings. Her topic is Health District elections: She believes that voters are burdened with barriers to voting. Upon reviewing the website page for this year’s election, she was excited to see a fillable form, but she would like to see some additional features, like signing by typing your name. Ms. Hottenstein felt there were difficulties in the last election. She recommends an online form to register to vote, or another simpler option such as a phone call.

A Board member noted that the check box on the website clarifies the intent of the check box, and a phone number is provided to reach Kerri Fagan. Chris Sheafor will look into some of the options, noting that the budget is a barrier to implementing some. It was agreed that an online form would be nice.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

February 28, Regular Board Meeting

March 14, Special Board Meeting

March 28, Regular Board Meeting

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***MOTION: To enter into Executive Session for the purposes of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e), regarding an executive search firm.***

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

**ADJOURN**

**The Meeting was adjourned from Executive Session at 6:00 pm**

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