

**Health District**  
OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 28, 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  
Lorraine Haywood, Deputy Director  
Chris Sheafor, Support Services Director  
Dana Turner, Health Services Director  
Laura Mai, Finance Director  
Richard Cox, Communications Director  
Rosie Duran, Health Care Access Manager  
Julie Abramoff, Clinical Nurse Manager  
Jessica Shannon, Res. Dev/Spcl Proj's Manager  
Paul Mayer, Medical Director  
Chris Roth, IT/Network Manager  
Angela Castillo, Evaluator & Data Analyst

**Staff Present:**

Julie Estlick, Communications Specialist  
Sue Hewitt, Evaluation Coordinator  
Andrea Holt, IC Program Manager  
Maggie Mueller, Community Health Nurse  
Alyson Williams, PPRE Director  
Anita Benavidez, Executive Assistant

**Public Present:**

Erin Hottenstein  
June Hyman-Cismoski  
Michele Christensen  
Lisa Ward, Frontline Public Affairs  
MJ Jorgensen

**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 Celeste Holder Kling / Second by Ann Yanagi / Carried Unanimously*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

**Legislative Policy – Long Bill**

**Medicaid Adult Dental Cap** Increase of \$4.6M funds, including \$1.2M cash funds from unclaimed property trust fund, transferred to the adult dental fund, to eliminate the annual \$1,500 cap on the adult dental benefit.

**Primary Care Grants** An increase of \$14M total funds, including \$7M general fund, for primary care grant program that provides money to Federally Qualified Health Centers and other primary care providers where at least 50% of patients served are uninsured or medically indigent.

**HB23-1003: School Mental Health Assessment (Actively Monitor)** The bill has undergone changes to reduce the Fiscal Note. There is a government budget item to continue the IMatter program with General Fund dollars (currently funded with ARPA funds). The \$16,965,736 GF would be used to support an expansion to IMatter based on an estimate of increased caseload.

**HB23-1209: Analyze Statewide Publicly Financed Health Care (No position)** Several amendments are coming including HIV/STI prevention and treatment at the request of the LGBTQ+ community; additional Task Force members such as RN's, mental health professionals, rural stakeholders, and labor representatives. The bill moved from CDPHE to HCPF oversight. It passed first House Committee and is going to Appropriations. Fiscal Note: \$317,768 for FY 2023-2024 to multiple state agencies.

**HB23-1215: Limits on Hospital Facility Fees (No position)** Amendments include the requirement to produce an independent, third-party report to better understand facility fees, their impact on consumers, and the mechanisms through which hospitals cover their core costs. Exemptions to this bill include "critical access" and "sole community" hospitals. There is a limit for charging patients facility fees on telehealth services, preventative services and primary care. It provides Coloradans recourse when they are charged an improper facility fee by making it a deceptive trade practice. The bill passed first House Committee. Fiscal Note: \$532,800 to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

**HB23-1243: Hospital Community Benefit (No position)** The bill requires HCPF to establish a minimum annual community investment threshold for hospitals, restricts out-of-state spending for hospitals, and adds reporting and stakeholder engagement requirements to the Hospital Community Benefit Program. Education and training of staff are not included in the Community Health Benefit. The Health District is primarily interested in the bill because of the community health survey and reducing community assessment redundancy, as well as better alignment of community data collection.

As part of the hospitals community health needs assessments, the bill requires HCPF to conduct stakeholder engagement with local public health agencies, consumer advocates, community organizations, and hospital representatives to identify and develop, at a minimum, best practices for hospitals to collaborate with local public health agencies and community organizations to reduce redundant community needs assessments, and that the state board shall promulgate rules to implement the best practices identified and developed. Hearing on March 29 at 1:30 pm.

There was discussion that the HD has been working toward collaboration with community partners and welcomes the opportunity to make that happen. A Board member noted the challenge in collaboration with the hospital's 5-year mandate for surveys vs. the HD's 3-year.

**HB23-1259: Open Meetings Law Executive Session Violations** The bill creates a right for a local public body to cure a violation of the open meetings law with respect to an executive session if the local public body takes the corrective action at its next meeting after the meeting at which the violation occurred or at the local public body's next meeting that is held at least 14 days after receiving notice by a person who intends to challenge the violation. It helps local governments remedy violations of open meetings law as related to the executive session. Introduced into the House on March 26, 2023 and has been assigned to State, Civic, Military & Veteran Affairs.

**SB23-170: Extreme Risk Protection Order Petitions (Red Flag Law)** The bill has one vote left to pass before it goes to the Governor.

All firearm bills are going through except the ban on assault weapons, which has not had a hearing at this time.

**SB23-179: Dental Plans Medical Loss Ratio (No position)** The bill is in its first hearing with a lot of talk about community benefit. The Delta Dental contributions to the Health District have been in the range of \$26K - \$28K per year. There are still some amendments being made to the bill.

**Property Taxes** The Bell Policy Center, in partnership with the Colorado Education Association, filed eight proposed 2023 ballot measures with the Title Board that would reduce or cap property tax increases and/or use Taxpayer's Bill of Rights surplus to backfill school, fire districts, and local water project budgets. The intent is to drive direct TABOR surplus (>\$2.5B in current fiscal year) to these three entities. Additionally, there would be a cap for commercial and residential property tax increases at 3% annually, unless a property is valued at more than \$2M or \$3M, depending on the version of the ballot measure.

**Change to Employee Handbook regarding health insurance, Lorraine Haywood** Approval of a change in the Employee Handbook is being sought to align the Health District's Health Insurance mandates with the revised CEBT (provider) requirements. Initially the requirement was that all employees at 30+ hours were required to take the HD health insurance. CEBT has changed that requirement to 60% of those employees who can prove insurance coverage from another source. Right now, there is about 40% of the HD staff that could decline coverage with only 2% currently declining. If the Health District exceeded that 40%, anyone over that percentage could not decline coverage. Coverage can be declined at hiring or during the open enrollment period.

**MOTION: To approve the change to health insurance requirements in the Employee Handbook**  
*Motion by Celeste Holder Kling / Second by Julie Kunce Field / Carried Unanimously*

**Health District Board Liaison to PVHS, Bylaws, Lorraine Haywood/Celeste Holder Kling** A change to the Board Liaison Job Description is suggested to clarify the requirement for Liaison participation in all HD Board meetings. There was general discussion about the history of the participation requirement and the requirement that the Liaison be a HD Board member for two years. The obligation is for the Liaison to attend the PVHS Board meetings to represent the Health District. Reporting back from those meetings could be provided in a myriad of ways that wouldn't require 100% attendance at HD Board meetings. This Liaison would still vote on behalf of the Health District at PVHS Board meetings. The changes submitted previously were format only changes for ADA compliance. The suggested language would read:

If a prior Board member accepts such an appointment, their acceptance signifies their commitment to attending both Health District and PVHS Board meetings on a regular basis and appropriately conveying information between the two boards. ***The required frequency of attending Health District board meetings and the methods of reporting and conveying information between the boards shall be agreed between the Board and the acting Liaison at the time the appointment is made and accepted. The frequency may be modified by mutual agreement as the needs change.***

**MOTION: To approve a change in the language, as noted above, of the Board Liaison Job Description**  
*Motion by Celeste Holder Kling / Second by Julie Kunce Field / Carried Unanimously*

A Board member commented that, given the busy pace of Board life these days, it is good that the Board is taking the time to review Board policies.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**2023 Board of Directors Election Update, Chris Sheafor** The election is well underway with mailing to approximately 2,700 permanent mail-in requests and an additional 100 requests. The League of Women

Voters will host a Health District candidate forum on April 6, 7:00 pm, at the Fort Collins City Council Chambers. It will be both recorded and televised. There will also be links to the recording on websites for both the League of Women Voters and the Health District. The *Compass* edition highlighting the candidates will go out on April 11 so staff is anticipating a spike in requests. Absentee ballots can be requested until April 25. Election day is May 2 and the election judges have been recruited. Staff hopes to have the results that night. It was mentioned by a Board member that it is discouraging that the participation in the Special District voting is so low compared to the 175K potential voters.

***Update on Health Promotions Evolution Planning, Paul Mayer/Lee Thielen*** This presentation is a preview with full details coming in the April Board meeting. Staff reviewed the accomplishments of this vibrant program over the years and shared client comments. The transition plan for Cholesterol Clinics includes letters to past clients, information in *Compass*, and offering phone consultations with nurses. Going forward the focus for the Health Promotions team is on Health Equity: Improving Healthcare Access for Underserved Members of our Community. There is additional focus on in-house referrals. Much is being done to lay the groundwork. The nurses will continue to provide flu clinics in underserved communities and for staff; emergency response partnership with community agencies, CDDT with SummitStone and infection control for staff. A recent client survey was shared, expressing their positive views of the staff and the programs, saying that the HD role was pivotal in making wise and healthy choices. A Board member expressed concern about adequate access to services for our community, as we shift programs away from the HD.

## **UPDATES & REPORTS**

***Liaison to PVHS/UCHealth North Report – Celeste Holder Kling***  
Nothing to report at this time.

***Executive Director Updates – Lee Thielen*** Ms. Thielen reminded the Board that the new Remote Work Policy takes full effect on April 1, with a maximum of 40% remote work, if the HD would benefit from the arrangement. The March 23 All-Staff Meeting was a great success. Kudos to Kerri Fagan, who did the baking and prepping. The camaraderie among staff was uplifting. Misty Manchester, the HD HR Manager, starts this week and Alyson Williams is pulling together her program. The HD has been approached by Red Feather Lakes to conduct another Community Health Survey for their locale. Dr. Mayer is investigating the feasibility. Some of the staff visited the Family Medicine Center with Andrea Holt presenting. An interesting fact: Residents coming out of FMC score higher on Mental Health than the national stats. Staff will arrange an FMC presentation in the April or May Board meeting. The ED search is moving along with seven first-round interviews on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Space on calendars has been reserved for final interviews on April 13 and 14. The full Board is involved, as well as Michael Allen, (SummitStone) and George Hayes (PVHS). Final candidates will be announced publicly. By law, no offer can be presented until 14 days after the announcement.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity)**

Erin Hottenstein spoke, encouraging the Board to add executive coaching to the incentive package for the new Executive Director. In her work, she has seen this coaching make a significant difference to success. The Board responded that executive coaching is included.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of February 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and March 14 and March 22, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- ~~Board Policy 99-4: Job Description Health District/PVHS Board Liaison~~
- January 2023 Financials

**MOTION: To approve the consent agenda with Policy 99-4 removed for additional revisions.**

*Motion by Celeste Holder Kling / Second by Ann Yanagi / Carried Unanimously*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- March 29, 8:00 am – Board of Directors Special Meeting
- March 31, 8:00 am - Board of Directors Special Meeting
- April 11, 5:00 pm - Board of Directors Special Meeting
- April 13, 8:00 am – Board of Directors Special Meeting
- April 14, 8:00 am – Board of Directors Special Meeting

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION: To enter Executive Session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, develop a strategy for negotiations, and/or instruct negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e), regarding the appointment of a new Executive Director.**

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

Executive Session convened at 6:26 pm.

**ADJOURN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND THE REGULAR MEETING**

**MOTION: To adjourn the Executive Session and Special Meeting**

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

The Executive Session and Special Board Meeting were adjourned at 7:27 pm.