

Health District
OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
October 29, 2020

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

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael D. Liggett, Esq., Board President
Joseph Prows, MD MPH, Board Treasurer
Celeste Kling, J.D., Board Secretary
Molly Gutilla, MS DrPH, Board Vice President
Faraz Naqvi, MD, Liaison to UCH-North/PVHS Board

Staff Present:

Carol Plock, Executive Director
Karen Spink, Assistant Director
James Stewart, Medical Director
Lorraine Haywood, Finance Director
Laura Mai, Asst. Finance Director
Chris Sheafor, Support Services Director
Richard Cox, Communications Director
Brian Ferrans, CIT Director

Staff Present:

Sue Hewitt, Evaluation Coordinator
Suman Mathur, Evaluator & Data Analyst
Cheri Nichols, Clinical Nurse Manager
Shaeyla Davis, Public Health Associate
Anita Benavidez, Executive Assistant

Public Present:

Erin Hottenstein
June Hyman

CALL TO ORDER; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Michael Liggett called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. The May 26 and September 22 Board Meeting Minutes were removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erin Hottenstein voiced curiosity about the process used for sharing information from the triennial health assessment, and setting priorities and budget in support of those priorities. Ms. Plock noted that staff is starting to put results online, including topical summaries. The next issue of *Compass* should have highlights. It is the Health District's intent to share key points with public audiences if COVID allows. There was a shortened, follow-up survey to consider the impact of COVID; staff is in the process of summarizing that data. The public Budget Hearing is scheduled for November 10 and comments can be made at that time. June Hyman-Cismoski introduced herself as an observer from the League of Women Voters. Staff introduced a new CDC Public Health Associate, Shaeyla Davis.

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

2021 Draft Budget: Key Factors

Ms. Plock reviewed the History of Health District property tax revenues. In this time of COVID, preliminary reports indicate just a .29% (\$25K) net increase in estimated tax revenues for 2021. The next step in estimating the amount of funds available to allocate was to estimate overall revenues in a

year that is likely to include COVID. Based on the impact of last years' experience with COVID, a decrease in overall revenues of about \$110K is anticipated, along with an increase in fixed costs of about \$113K, resulting in about \$223k less in funding available to allocate than in 2020. The estimated income does not account for a major shutdown. Future challenges include the continuing uncertainty in health, mental health, and the economy due to COVID. Revenues and expenses are less certain than ever, and could change at any time. Should property valuations go down, property tax revenues could impact the future for the next few years. Another potential budget challenge is the Gallagher Amendment. If the repeal of Gallagher does not pass, there would be a significant reduction in revenues in 2022.

The top focus with the remaining funds for the coming year includes maintaining key health services, including limited expansion in areas deemed critical for community health; assuring limited funding from reserves for time-limited work to impact health during COVID-19, focusing on mental health and services for those experiencing homelessness; maintaining enough in reserves to weather an economic downturn if necessary; and determining an alternative to the formerly planned expansion of owned space.

In 2021, key programmatic changes included in the budget: Connections/CAYAC – fully fund a 1 FTE psychiatrist and add a .5 FTE marketing specialist; from reserves, have two additional time-limited FTEs to maintain the extended COVID Mental Health response, and add time-limited psychologist time. The changes secure psychiatric care and psychological testing in CAYAC. Larimer Health Connect – increased budget for outreach and the anticipated cliff-effect when people lose Medicaid as the emergency ends. Dental – add .5 FTE hygienist to address re bottleneck in services; reduce supplies, labs, imaging budget by 30% due to reduced capacity from COVID adjustments. Advance Care Planning – reduce operations budget by \$24K. Assessment – funding included for a repeat Community Health Assessment in 2021 to capture COVID-19 impact. Due to projections, the draft budget includes an across the board 2020 pay increase at 1.5% beginning in December with no pay-for-performance in 2021. In reserves, there is funding for a Health Equity Coordinator, and \$300K is set aside for any unforeseen community health needs. Space will be a challenge; the original plan was to use reserves to purchase a building in 2023, but that may not be possible. Final decision on the budget will be at the December 11 Board meeting.

COVID-19:

Current Status of COVID-19

Dr. Stewart updated the Board noting over 9M confirmed cases in the US; we are now in a third peak in the number of cases - the worst week for case count since COVID began. Death rates are once again on the rise. There is uncontrolled spread in the majority of states including Colorado. Our 14-day trend nearly doubled, making contact tracing difficult. We are on track to exceed spring hospitalizations with a peak in November, and with the upcoming holidays we could see significant reduction in transmission control. ICU capacity could be reached by late December. Larimer County positivity rates have been climbing, hitting 15% on Oct. 26. Testing turnaround time is at three days or longer. Larimer County Health Department issued a new Emergency Public Health Order limiting all gatherings to no more than ten people or two households and encouraging work at home. A Board member wondered how the picture would differ if it could be viewed through a health equity lens.

BRIEF UPDATES & REPORTS

Executive Director Updates

Ms. Plock announced that the HD Connections and CAYAC teams have, as part of the Mental Health Care Team, been call-out for response to the fire disaster. Teams are going out to Red Cross evacuation sites (4 hotels). Staff attempted to respond to a request for help with fire fighters around

COVID prevention and isolation needs, however, because the Health District is not on the national system, they couldn't call us out. Staff will investigate the process to get registered on the national system.

The Clearview Behavioral Health Facility has closed; it is a significant loss to the community in mental health beds. Thus far, over 100 people experiencing homelessness have received flu shots; staff have been working in partnership with the Larimer County Health Department, Homeward Alliance, and the Rescue Mission. Going into colder weather, there will be a day shelter at one of the churches. Health District staff will likely assist with protocols at the shelters. The Myrtle House COVID isolation/recovery and quarantine facility for people experiencing homelessness has had continuous demand. Interest in Advance Care Planning is increasing due to COVID, and they are preparing an email campaign, as well as a significant employee campaign with Poudre School District.

Liaison to PVHS/UCHealth North Report

Hospital admissions are about 10% lower, with outpatient services about the same as last year. Financial margins are higher than the modified budget. The Denver UCH inpatient facility is full, with a positivity rate of 9%. UCHealth is currently reviewing test kit supplies to ensure adequate availability. Since the beginning of COVID reporting, UCH (systemwide) has had over 500 employees test positive. Fire fighters are also seeing a high infection rate. It looks like the Pfizer vaccine will be approved by the end of the year, with health care workers set to be the first immunized. UCH will be consolidating test sites to one location at The Ranch. They continue to see a significant increase in violent patients across the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2nd opportunity)

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of the March 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the August 2020 Financials

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- November 10, 4:00 pm, Budget Hearing and Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- December 11, 4:00 pm, Board of Directors Regular Meeting (and possible work session?)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to go into Executive Session.

MOTION: For the purpose of discussion of Contract Negotiation positions, strategy, and instructions, under § 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S.; and pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(a), C.R.S., concerning the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest; and for the purpose of Personnel Matters, for review of the Executive Director, under § 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S..

Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

The Board retired to Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:20 pm. No decisions were made.

ADJOURN

MOTION: To Adjourn the Meeting

Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.