



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 9, 2014**

**Health District Office Building  
120 Bristlecone Drive, Fort Collins**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bernard J. Birnbaum, MD, Vice President  
Timothy S. O'Neill, Secretary  
Steven J. Thorson, MD, Treasurer  
Joe D. Hendrickson, Liaison to PVHS Board

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Celeste Holder Kling, President

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carol Plock, Executive Director  
Bruce Cooper, M.D., Medical Director  
Dan Sapienza, Policy Coordinator  
Chris Sheafor, Support Services Director  
Kathryn Southard, Policy Intern  
Karen Spink, Assistant Director  
Nancy Stirling, Assistant to Executive Director

**CALL TO ORDER; APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice President Bernard Birnbaum called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

**MOTION:** To approve the agenda as presented.  
*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

**DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

**Policy**

Dan Sapienza, Policy Coordinator, provide an update on several bills as well as some new legislation. To this date, 585 bills have been introduced with 113 of them signed, 2 vetoed, and 126 postponed indefinitely. Many changes have happened just within the last few days.

**New Legislation:**

- *SB14-180: Transfer (OAP) Senior Dental Program to HCPF* – This bill would move the Senior Dental Program from CDPHE to HCPF, and provides grant funding that would go to local area agencies on aging to secure dental care for low-income seniors. Several amendments are anticipated; the bill is still under heavy discussion around issues such as whether other entities should be allowed to directly apply for the grant money (for example, FQHCs would like to be allowed to apply directly), allowance for administrative costs, eligibility determination, and assuring a smooth transition between the current program to the

new one. Since the detail of the bill is not finalized, the Board's guidance was that Mr. Sapienza could communicate with appropriate people the following concepts:

**MOTION: The Health District supports the continued utilization of these funds for seniors with low incomes who have dental needs that can not be covered by the new Medicaid benefit, and supports the concept of keeping this funding separate from Medicaid.**

*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

Further detail on a Health District stance will depend on the language of the bill after amendments; staff may need to consult with the board chairperson if necessary in the interim between meetings.

- *HB14-1207: Household Medication Take Back* – This bill codifies a program in CDPHE that provides collection and disposal of unused medications in order to both ensure proper disposal, and help to curb prescription drug abuse in Colorado. Collection sites would be provided and medications directed to disposal locations. Liability is removed from the collection sites, carriers, and disposal locations. This bill would establish a structure to support proposed DEA rules regarding controlled substance collection. Once the infrastructure is in place and the DEA rules change, the state would hopefully be able to expand their collection program to include the collection of narcotics, which is currently only allowed by law enforcement agencies.

**MOTION: To SUPPORT HB14-1207.**

*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

- *HB14-1288: Student Immunizations Prior to School Attendance* – This bill requires that before a student starts school, if a parent wants to exempt their child from getting required immunizations, they can do so per religious reasons or a “personally held belief,” but if they claim an exemption for a “personally held belief,” the parent would either have to get a statement from their physician, or complete an online education module . Currently, a parent can exempt their child by simply signing a document. The bill would also publish the immunization rates of each school. In discussion about the bill, board members indicated their strong support for vaccinations, supported by the preponderance of the evidence, and the critical importance of vaccinating our children for the health of other children and the whole community. They noted that they did not know whether this policy would work in increasing immunizations for children, since recent information shows that some parents are not likely to change their minds even when provided scientific evidence, unless an epidemic or personal experience with the illness impacts them directly.

**MOTION: To SUPPORT HB14-1288.**

*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

Ms. Plock noted that Dr. Cooper is well qualified to work with Mr. Sapienza in creating a written overview of the importance of immunizations to be shared with legislators.

### Bills Previously Discussed:

- *SB14-016: Regulation of Stand-alone Emergency Departments* – The board had questions about this bill the last time they met; it has since been killed.
- *HB14-1253: Civil Commitments* – After extensive work by the advisory group, this complex bill was developed and bill passed out of House HIE Committee on Feb 25; but has been laid over consistently; it is now scheduled for April 15, but looks unlikely to pass. It had early support from providers and sheriff's associations, but opposition (which included recall threats) came from gun advocates. Parts of the bill may resurface.
- *HB14-1281: "Right to Try" – Non-study access to investigational drugs* – This bill passed the House on 3rd Reading on April 1 but has not yet been introduced to the Senate. The board packet included an overview of the bill, along with a list of questions for legislators to ponder (see Bill Summary document for details). The Board complemented the policy team for their thoroughness when developing the list of questions and supported having staff forward the document to the bill sponsors and our local legislators with the message that the board has not taken a position on the bill, but is sending it so that decision makers are aware of some of the questions.
- *HB14-1297: Health Assessment of Oil and Gas Operations Along the Front Range* – Sponsored by Rep. Ginal, this bill passed the House HIE Committee April 1. Staff have been working on understanding all of the amendments, but have not had time to develop a comprehensive analysis. A few of the changes to the bill include: the number of advisory committee members is changed from 13 to 15 members with all of them having voting rights (before, only 9 members were voting members); the two added positions were for citizens who reside in affected counties (but don't necessarily have any professional scientific background). There are strong concerns about the composition of the advisory committee, which is comprised of political appointees, and could seriously impact the scientific validity of the study. The actual study design has not yet been discussed. The bill appears unlikely to pass this year.

### Local Policy Issues

It was announced that the first recreational marijuana shop opened in Fort Collins today.

Mr. Sapienza attended the City Council's work session last night where the Council discussed the possibility of pursuing various proposals to expand the City's smoking ordinance, such as: 1) electronic smoking devices (treat them like cigarettes); 2) making hotel/motel rooms 100% smoke-free; 3) prohibiting smoking in natural areas, parks, and trails (golf courses excepted); 4) consider smoking bans for public events and festivals (possibly allowing smoking areas); and 5) prohibiting smoking in the Old Town/Downtown areas (area to be defined). Since this was just a work session, no decisions were made, but the City Council members generally appeared to be in favor of most of the concepts, discussing park rangers and enforcement, and how to identify a specific perimeter/geographic area for downtown. City staff will return to City Council with specific proposals for their consideration.

## **UPDATES & REPORTS**

### **Executive Director/LHC Updates**

Through March 31, Larimer Health Connect has had 3,922 intensive in-person or phone contacts with people. The program started tracking real-time enrollment in December, and knows that at

least the following enrollments have occurred for people with whom our guides were working (this is nowhere near the actual totals; just the numbers that we currently have): 380 individuals have signed up for Medicaid, 200+ for CHP+, and 300+ for health insurance through the exchange. There are now 9,400+ people signed up for Medicaid in our County; marketplace numbers won't be known until next week. Our visits just in March were over 1,000. Staff has about 100 people they are still working with who have obtained a deadline extension (due to pending application or couldn't get in as of March 31). Staff received over 6,000 incoming calls, an average of 50 calls a day, from people asking questions.

With open enrollment over, staff will be working during the summer to determine what can we do to: keep people insured, help people re-enroll for insurance, make sure people are making their premium payments, help people utilize the coverage they have, etc. Also, staff will be working on changing our messaging, figuring out more specific numbers (people served, how many now insured, etc.). The next stage will be informing our prescription assistance clients that they will not be able to continue to use our program if they are eligible for Medicaid

In other Health District news,

- March is the month when every member of staff has a performance review done in preparation for pay-for-performance decisions.
- Staff have been deeply involved in figuring out what the future might be for PA, Dental/Dental Connections and mental health in light of health care reforms.
- Ms. Plock and Ms. Wilder were invited to meet with a representative of Strategic Behavioral Health, the for-profit inpatient mental health facility being built in Johnstown. It is SBH's intention to meet with people and learn about the community. In answer to our question, they do accept Medicaid, however, the BHO needs to approve inpatient stays for Medicaid clients.
- The Health District will be hosting a site visit for a group of people coming from St. Joseph, Missouri who are interested in learning more about our MHSA Partnership program. Ms. Plock had presented to them several months ago and they are interested in seeing our program in person.
- On Monday, staff will be mailing out 1,200 ballots to individuals who have requested being on the permanent mail-in ballot list. New requests for mail-in ballots were mailed yesterday with more to go out tomorrow. Staff and board members were encouraged to let people know there is an election!

### **PVHS Board Liaison Report**

Mr. Hendrickson commented that it was interesting to hear Ms. Plock's conversation with SBH. PVH has had conversations with them as well where they wanted PVH to pay for clients they refer to SBH. PVH has been working on considering its own mental health system strategy in view of the changes.

In regard to credentialing physicians, the rest of the UC Health system is now interested in adopting the system already being used in Fort Collins. It is encouraging as a community member to have physicians go through a rigorous process to be credentialed.

On May 22, there will be a joint board meeting between the PVHS and UCH boards that will focus on strategic planning, as well as a presentation from Kaiser.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- April 15, 11:30 am –Employee Appreciation Luncheon at Northside Aztlan Community Center
- April 22, 5:30 pm – Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Also announced is the League of Women Voters' Health District Board Candidate Forum to be held on Monday, April 21 at the City Council chambers.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.**  
*Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*


The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

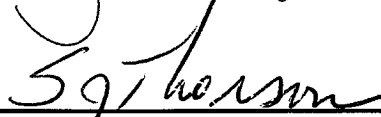
  
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Nancy L. Stirling, Assistant Secretary

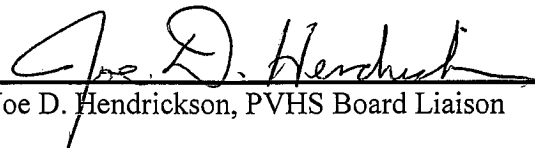
[ABSENT FROM 4/9/15 MEETING]

Celeste Holder Kling, President

  
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Bernard J. Birnbaum, MD, Vice President

  
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Timothy S. O'Neill, Secretary

  
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Steven J. Thorson, MD, Treasurer

  
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Joe D. Hendrickson, PVHS Board Liaison