



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
April 10, 2009**

**Health District Building
Conference Room**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe D. Hendrickson, President
Celeste Holder Kling, Vice President
Bernard J. Birnbaum, Secretary
Steven J. Thorson, Treasurer
Lee Thielen, PVHS Board Liaison (via phone)

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Plock, Executive Director
Bruce Cooper, M.D., Medical Director
Carrie Cortiglio, Policy Analyst
Richard Cox, Communication Director
Deborah French, Development Coordinator
Nancy Stirling, Assistant to Executive Director
Lin Wilder, CI & HP Director
Lorraine Haywood, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER; INTRODUCTIONS; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Joe Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. A policy item regarding the use of Amendment 35 tobacco money was added to the agenda.

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

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

Policy / Legislation

HB 1273 Colorado Guaranteed Health Care Act sponsored by Rep. Kefalas

The Board reviewed a draft analysis of HB 1273. HB 1273 creates a Health Care Authority to develop a health care system that would be the administrator and payer for health care services in Colorado. Staff prepared the analysis in a short period of time as the bill moved quickly out of the House Appropriations Committee. It was heard in Appropriations last Friday and it was expected that it would go to the full House floor shortly thereafter. It did, and at this time, the bill passed in the House on 2nd reading and is awaiting 3rd reading. Rep. Kefalas is still working to secure the votes needed for 3rd reading passage. The Governor was opposed to the bill when it had a hearing in the Business Affairs and Labor Committee. It is unclear at this time what might happen to the bill if it should go to the Senate.

Comments by the board indicated that at least some members are strong proponents of the single payer approach as a way to control finances while expanding health coverage to all. The Board acknowledged that while there is a slim chance that the bill will pass, supporting it would both support our local legislator's sponsorship (Rep. Kefalas and Sen. Bacon are sponsors), and send a message of support for a changed system.

MOTION: To STRONGLY SUPPORT House Bill 2009-1273.
Motion/

Discussion: It was noted that hospitals, including the Poudre Valley Health System, are opposing this legislation. One of the major concerns about the bill is how the Health Care Authority Board would be structured and what exactly their responsibilities would be. One board member noted that there is no representation of public health among the Authority Board members. The further concern is that the Board would be composed of 24 members from specific interest groups. The size itself makes effective decision making very difficult, but more importantly, the placement of special interest groups on the board rather than more neutral parties creates a difficult situation. The structure creates an environment in which members are likely to protect the interests of their member organizations rather than comprehensive change that might better serve the good of Colorado as a whole.

MOTION AMENDED: To STONGLY SUPPORT House Bill 2009-1273, but reservations as to the structure, size and composition of the Board.
Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

State Tobacco Funds

The Legislature is dealing with a \$700 million shortfall in the 2009-2010 budget and is considering a \$300 million cut to higher education among other cuts. The Joint Budget Committee is looking at the possibility of cutting up to \$20 million to two public health problems funded by Amendment 35 revenue, including \$10 million in the tobacco prevention and education program. Amendment 35 can only be used for other purposes if the Legislature by a two-thirds vote declares a fiscal emergency. An alternative proposal to the tobacco program cut is to raise additional revenue by eliminating the sales tax exemption for cigarettes. Eliminating the tax exemption could raise as much as \$30 million dollars to offset the proposed use of Amendment 35 revenue.

Although we only have a little information on the issue at this time, staff wanted to inform the Board and learn what their initial reaction is to this. The Board was in agreement that they would prefer that the State look for alternative funds and not take dollars from tobacco programs if at all possible. Ms. Thielen commented that there is a strong coalition to save Amendment 35 dollars and that the Health District might want to consider signing on with them.

MOTION: to support the package of removing exemption of sales tax on tobacco, and to oppose a declaration of emergency that would result in reduction of the tobacco prevention and cessation funds.
Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

Arvesbourg-Bird Repeal

Ms. Cortiglio has been attending coalition meetings to try to develop some sort of resolution to get the bill passed. Carol Hedges from the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute has been negotiating with the business community and transportation advocates to arrive at a compromise that would provide funding for transportation, perhaps with some sort of temporary revenue guarantee, while eliminating the Arveschoug-Bird statute. Ms. Hedges and other members of the coalition are optimistic that they will be able to arrive at a compromise. Staff have already submitted a “SoapBox” editorial on the A-B repeal.

Hope Fund Proposal

The Health District was recently asked if they would be willing to become the custodian of funds that have been set aside for the purpose of developing a local detoxification center. The funds, now around \$225,000, were set aside by the Hope Center Board of Directors at the time the Hope Center merged with Island Grove. They currently reside at the local Community Foundation. These funds are specifically designated to go towards the development of a local detoxification center in Larimer County and have been held by the Community Foundation, in a donor-advised fund advised by the Hope Fund Advisory Committee, until such a time when a center would be planned. Due to the current economy, which makes it hard to grow invested funds, and the fact that the Community Foundation charges administration fees which is now causing the funds to lose principal, the Hope Fund Advisory Committee is looking for another place to hold the funds. They asked the Health District if we would be willing to accept the funds; we were chosen because of our ability to hold them without charging fees, because of our long-term involvement in the issue, and because of their trust in us to use the funds at the right time for their intended purpose. They would like to process the transaction as a grant from the Hope Fund at the Community Foundation to the Health District. They are aware that transferring the funding would mean that the determination of exactly how the funds are spent would transfer from their committee to the Health District. However, since this is a grant, the Health District would be obligated to spend it in the intended manner.

It was noted that the funds and their intended purpose fit in with the priorities of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Partnership and, because it’s local money, may help with obtaining grants because it is matching funding.

To facilitate the transfer, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Health District and the Hope Fund Advisory Committee/Community Foundation would be drawn up. The Memorandum will clearly outline the intentions of both parties as well as what is to happen with the funds if a detoxification center is not developed in a certain amount of time.

MOTION: To direct staff to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hope Fund Committee to accept funds.
Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

Second Try at Setting Board Mini-Retreat

The Board and staff reviewed their calendars to try to come up with a date for a Board Mini-Retreat this summer. Board members were asked to tentatively block August 6 and 7 until a final date could be confirmed.

ADJOURN

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy L. Stirling, Assistant Secretary

Joe D. Hendrickson, President

Celeste Holder Kling, Vice President

Bernard J. Birnbaum, Secretary

Steven J. Thorson, Treasurer

Lee Thielen, PVHS Board Liaison