



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING**

February 12, 2015

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

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernard J. Birnbaum, MD, President
Tess Heffernan, M.Ed., Vice President
Michael D. Liggett, Esq., Secretary
Tracy L. Nelson, Ph.D., Treasurer
Steven J. Thorson, MD, Liaison to PVHS Board

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Plock, Executive Director
Bruce Cooper, M.D., Medical Director
Vanessa Fewell, Healthy Mind Matters
Lorraine Haywood, Finance Director
Dan Sapienza, Policy Coordinator
Chris Sheafor, Support Services Director
Karen Spink, Assistant Director
Nancy Stirling, Assistant to Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Bernard Birnbaum called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

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

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Policy: Bills for Discussion/Consideration

At this point of the Legislative Session, 396 bills have been introduced and 60 of those have been postponed indefinitely (PI'd, or killed). The supplemental budget is currently in process with the full Budget process getting underway in March.

- **HB15-1066 – Repeal Health Benefit Exchange.** This bill has been PI'd (killed) in the House Committee on Health, Insurance, & Environment. The Board had previously taken a position to Strongly Oppose.
- **SB15-077 – Parent's Bill of Rights.** This bill has passed out of the Senate on 3rd reading and is on its way to the House. The mental health language has been stricken from the bill, but it still applies parental consent to medical care and education. The Board continued to

indicate concern that if this bill were to become legislation it could directly impact the health of youth. For example, one comment was that studies have noted a link between lack of sex education or teen access to medical care for sexually transmitted diseases with increased cases of STDs and pregnancies. At the January 27, 2015 Board meeting, the Board took a position to Oppose this bill. Due to the various concerns, the Board discussed potentially changing its position to this bill to “strongly oppose.”

MOTION: To STRONGLY OPPOSE SB15-077.
Motion/Seconded/

Board Discussion: The Board was in agreement that this is an important bill, that the potential magnitude of public health impact may be greater with this bill than other bills right now, and that its impact relates directly to the Health District’s mission “to improve the health of the community.” After discussion, and in an effort to balance workload, the motion was amended as follows, and the member who made the original motion accepted the amendment:

MOTION: To STRONGLY OPPOSE SB15-077 on Parental Rights should it come out of the House Committee, to indicate our opposition to the members of the House Committee now, and to direct staff to look for other health organizations with which to connect in opposition to the bill.

Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

- **HB15-1194 – Long-acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Funding Bill.** This bill would provide \$5 million each year from the general fund to continue an existing program that provides no or low-cost LARCs to women with low incomes. Statistics show that over the term of the program, there have been significantly declining fertility rates for women aged 15-19, and for women aged 20-24. The reported abortion rate among women 15-19 also declined by 34%. During that time, there was also a decline in high-risk birth rates and decline in use of the WIC program. The program was previously funded by an anonymous funder via grants. The opposition that exists is largely based on the perception of whether IUDs act to cause an abortion; most physicians and scientists, though not all, believe that they do not. A hearing in the Public Health Care and Human Services Committee is scheduled for February 24.

MOTION: To SUPPORT HB15-1194.
Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

Staff, the Board’s approval, will share the analysis and the Board’s position with the local Larimer County Board of Health.

- **HB15-1029 – Telehealth Bill.** This bill passed the House with strong support and is scheduled to be heard in the Senate HHS Committee on February 19. Of note is an amendment that changed wording from “telemedicine” to “telehealth”. Mr. Sapienza reviewed the difference between the definitions. If it passes and is signed, this bill would take effect January 1, 2017, giving health plans time to adjust to the changes. In answer to a board question about whether a phone call with a patient on a Saturday morning would be considered a billable consult (under this law), the definition of “telehealth” specifically

excludes the delivery of health care services via telephone, fax machine, or electronic mail systems, so this law would not alter a provider's ability to bill for a phone call, fax, or email. The bill is being sponsored by two of our local legislators, Representative Ginal and Senator Kefalas and is moving quickly. There has been no organized opposition to this bill.

MOTION: To SUPPORT HB15-1029.
Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

- **SB15-053 – Emergency Overdose Drugs.** This bill is moving extremely quickly, having already passed out of the Senate on 3rd reading with a unanimous vote in support. Emergency overdose opioid antagonistic drugs vary in cost from around \$40 for a basic syringe kit to over \$500 for auto-injector kits. New York state has begun to equip all police officers with kits, and use of opioid antagonistics has proven to be very effective nationally at decreasing deaths from drug overdose. Board members discussed the Health District's potential role in this issue, should the law pass. Suggestions included helping to be sure that people know about the availability of the products, and seeing if the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Partnership would agree to support and implement an effective program. In Larimer County alone, the number of fatal opiate overdoses increased from 13 in 2004 to 34 in 2013. This can be a critical tool in saving lives.

MOTION: To SUPPORT HB15-1029.
Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

If this bill does pass, the Board would like further discussion to determine the Health District's role on this issue, including how to educate medical providers.

- **HB15-1087 – Medical Detox Centers Pilot.** This bill has two new sponsors from the Senate, including a member of the Joint Budget Committee. The bill would fund the creation of two "medically monitored inpatient detoxification" (medical detox) facilities in Colorado and the fiscal note indicates that it would cost over \$5 million in FY 2016-2017, and over \$4 million in 2017-2018. There is not an estimate (that we are aware of) of how much the net cost might be (i.e., how much more or less would be spent than what is currently being spent). The purpose of these facilities would be to pilot the concept of filling the gap (limited medical detox) between social detox and medically managed intensive inpatient detox, which is an important missing step in detox care in our state. More information and further analysis on the potential cost and cost/benefit of the bill would be useful in understanding this bill; the board asked staff to watch the bill and to bring back more information. One part of the analysis would be what hospitals spend on detox services, and how much could be saved with this approach.
- **HB15-1032 – Minors' Access to Mental Health Treatment.** This bill has passed 3rd reading in the House. It would allow approximately 20,000 additional mental health professionals to treat minors, and has support from many organizations.

MOTION: To SUPPORT HB15-1032.
Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

- **HB15-1075 – Naturopathic Pediatrics.** This bill would allow naturopathic doctors to treat children under 2 years of age. At a previous meeting, there was a question about what the

general stance is of naturopathic doctors concerning vaccines for children. There does not appear to be an official current statement on behalf of naturopathic doctors concerning childhood vaccinations, however language can be found on at least one web site of a trade organization that appears to be anti-vaccine. Locally, naturopathic doctors don't appear to put their stances on their websites, but we have an example of a letter from one local naturopathic doctor that is given to patients which attaches the CDC schedule for vaccinations, but includes the statement "however, I and many others do not suggest vaccines be given to children." Naturopathic doctors are expected to provide a copy of the most recent immunizations schedule, but are not required to support that schedule, nor to give vaccines. Staff will continue to monitor this bill and keep the Board informed.

- **HB15-1214 – Abuse Deterrent Opiates (Tamper Resistant Opiates).** This is a brand new bill, which states that if a physician prescribes a tamper resistant opiate, the pharmacy can't substitute for a non-tamper-resistant opiate, and that insurance companies must cover the drug at the same cost-sharing for the patient as the regular opiate. It also states that the insurer cannot require treatment failure before covering a tamper resistant opiate. The apparent goal of this is that if physicians determine a patient might have a problem with opiate drugs, they can prescribe tamper resistant opiates, making abuse very difficult.
- **HB15-1031 – Powdered Alcohol.** There have been concerns expressed about the use of powdered alcohol: that it might be used to spike drinks, that it would be easy for youth to smuggle into parties, that people might try to snort it, etc. In researching the issue, staff found descriptions that say that it takes a significant amount of powder to create the alcohol. The powdered alcohol is anticipated to come in packets of 100 ml, which would be added to 150 ml of water. The result is about 10 ml of alcohol, which is about half the amount of alcohol in one shot.
- **HB15-1135 – Death with Dignity.** This bill was presented by Representative Ginal but has been PI'd (killed) in Committee.

Local Issue: Smoking Ordinance - At the last City Council meeting there was significant support for the changes in the ordinance, with only two people who spoke in opposition. City Council passed the ordinance expansions.

Local Issue: Marijuana - The City is considering prohibiting marijuana extractions in the city other than in licensed retail or medical MIPs, regulating unlicensed commercial grows, and considering options for potentially allowing the wholesaling of marijuana.

Local Issue: West Nile Virus – The Larimer County Board of Health will be meeting on March 19 and will be considering how to work together on this issue with the City. Ms. Heffernan commented that the Health Department had sent letters to HOAs regarding West Nile Virus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Executive Director Announcements/Updates –
 - There are only 3 days left of open enrollment.
 - Most of the dental clinic construction has been completed with just a few small details left.
 - Staff are in the process of picking an architect for the new 2001 Shields Street building.

- Staff are working on submitting an RFP for Senior Dental services similar to OAP. Since Sunrise Clinic in Loveland is not planning to apply, discussions include figuring out how to provide care to those who live in the southern part of the County.
- February 24, 5:30 pm – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- March 12, 5:30 pm (Thursday) – Board of Directors Special Meeting
- April 1, 11:30 to 1:00 pm – Employee Appreciation Luncheon – Invitations Coming!

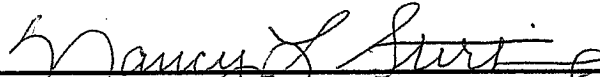
Mr. Thorson stated that he will be absent for the February 24 board meeting. Mr. Liggett will also miss that meeting. That meeting may be cancelled if there is not enough business to require a meeting. Ms. Heffernan noted that she will need to leave March 12 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURN


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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Respectfully submitted:



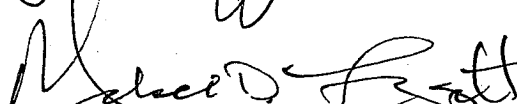
 Nancy L. Stirling, Assistant Secretary




 Bernard J. Birnbaum, M.D., President



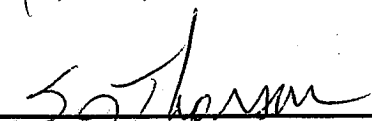
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 Steven J. Thorson, M.D., UCHHealth-North (PVHS) Board Liaison