



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Health, Gilpin County, Colorado, from Thursday, March 7, 2024

A regular meeting was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the Gilpin County Historic Courthouse and online via Zoom. Chair Berumen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. In attendance were Susan Berumen, Chair, Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth, Commissioner Marie A. Mornis, County Manager Ray Rears, Public Health Director Alisa Witt, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Lyndsey Denton.

Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to, “Approve the consent agenda, which includes the Board of Health meeting minutes from October 12, 2023.” Commissioner Mornis seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Public or Press Comment. Chair Berumen opened the meeting to public comment. Comments included:

- Danette Riehle, 523 Morning Star Circle, expressed concern about a neighbor’s septic system and its possible contamination of her well.
- Matt Louy, 523 Morning Star Circle, expressed concern about his neighbor’s possible failing septic system.
- Claudia Schaffler, 582 Morning Star Circle, expressed concern about a neighboring septic system’s possible failure.

Introduction to Medical Director. Alisa Witt, Public Health Director, introduced Dr. Mark Johnson as the new Medical Director for Gilpin County Public Health, as of January 1, 2024. He was the Executive Director and Medical Director for Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) for 32 years. He gave a brief overview of his time with JCPH and its support of Gilpin County Public Health over the years. It was clarified that he will temporarily serve in this role until a permanent Medical Director can be established. The Board of Health welcomed him and thanked him for his support.

Resolution BOH 24-01, Approving changes to the Public Health Advisory Board. Director Witt gave an update about the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB). She overviewed the prior function of the PHAB, and its current capacity. She requested to have the PHAB be more of an advisory committee to help set and meet goals set by the Public Health Department, rather than being a formal, sanctioned board. To Director Witt’s knowledge, there is not a requirement to have an Advisory Board. There was discussion around the function and structure of the PHAB, as well as calling it a committee versus a board. Chair Berumen asked for a motion. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to adopt Resolution BOH 24-01, “Approving changes to the Public Health Advisory Board, and with the amendment of changing board to committee as discussed, and changing board to committee throughout”. Commissioner Mornis seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Public Health Outreach to the Community. Director Witt and Marie Larson, Community Health Specialist, reported on various community outreach projects. The first outreach project is prescribed burns; their health effects and burn schedule information. She mentioned her meeting with a Prevention Specialist from the United States Forest Service (USFS), to better inform the public of prescribed burns. She noted more engagement via social media and the Gilpin County website through the Public Health Department page, as well as possibly having future community classes and events.

Ms. Larson also shared the community outreach for radon safety, and noted the positive feedback from residents. The grant-funded program allows for two (2) free radon test kits per household. Gilpin County Public Health gets results for those above the recommended radon limit, and reaches out to residents



with resources for mitigation; including grants available through the state for radon mitigation work. It was also recommended to test annually for radon.

Director Witt additionally shared on the outreach with childhood blood lead testing, as Gilpin County is designated as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Site from mining impacts. The EPA has lowered the levels for childhood blood lead testing, and have recommended to move forward with education and testing. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has offered funding for staff time and testing, but it is unclear what funding is available for remediation if test results are high. There was further discussion requesting an update from the EPA, to follow up from their 2022 program, Operable Unit (OU) 5 for the Central City/Clear Creek Superfund Site, as well as other community outreach and updates. There was also discussion to pair an educational and testing event for the community, or partner with the school districts for testing.

Narcan and Fentanyl Test Strips. Director Witt shared about information about the distribution and training of the Narcan devices and Fentanyl test strips that will be available in County buildings, as well as other entities throughout the county. She overviewed the Good Samaritan Law – no one can be prosecuted for attempting to use Narcan to try to save a person. There were recommendations made for other locations that may be interested in receiving Narcan devices and test strips.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS). Director Witt shared an update of the OWTS program. She noted the state requirement for tracking and monitoring higher-level treatment OWTS through maintenance contracts. Gilpin County compliance has been lacking in recent years, and she is working with the Community Development Department, who is helping notify and enforce the requirement for the maintenance contracts. The notification process for residents without maintenance contracts will begin in the spring of 2024. There was discussion around what a higher-level treatment system is and the reason for the monitoring. Director Witt was asked to elaborate on the issues brought up during public comment. She overviewed the Septic Use Permit program, which requires a septic inspection upon sale of any home, and mentioned that vacant properties are hard to determine failure until it is used again. For this particular instance, the resident is working with the county to remedy the situation. She noted that some residents may be able to receive low interest loans or grants to help pay for remediation with septic failures. There are also many variables that go into determining if and which septic system is failing.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP). Director Witt shared some upcoming events involving emergency preparedness: Disaster Recovery Training- March 20-21 with Gilpin County's new Emergency Manager, Melissa Lewis; and the Distribution Plan Table-top Exercise (TTX) April 22 – Clear Creek, Jeffco and Broomfield counties and CDPHE about bio-terrorism event.

Board of Health Training for 2024. Director Witt notified the Board of the required annual trainings and shared her suggestions with which two training topics to complete; the Marshall Fire case study and public health policy development. There was discussion around the reasons for the recommendations, and concluded that scheduling of the training would occur soon.

Resolution BOH-24-02, Approving The 2024-2028 Gilpin County Community Health Improvement Plan. Director Witt reviewed the additions to the previously adopted CHIP. The need for the revision was to elaborate further on objectives and strategies and partners for each of the Priorities. There was also an addition of two Appendices added due to an oversight of two state requirements. The CHIP will be available to the public. Chair Berumen asked for a motion. Commissioner Mornis moved to adopt Resolution BOH 24-02, "Approving the 2024-2028 Gilpin County Community Health Improvement Plan,



Revision March 2024". Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. Director Witt and Ms. Larson reviewed the results from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey that was completed in January 2024, for 7th through 12th graders at the Gilpin County School through a parent opt-in process. It was noted that thirty-five (35) students took the survey. There was discussion around the sample size, and suggested to include both school districts in the county. It was clarified by Director Witt that individualized data is not available, rather it is aggregated by region, which includes Park, Teller, Gilpin, Clear Creek Counties as the region. She will work directly with the school district to see if they will release the school's information, and possibly look into Boulder Valley School District's data as well. There was some discussion around an upcoming community event and resources available through TRIAD Bright Futures.

Adjourn. There being no further public business to come before the Board, Chair Berumen adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Approved this 6th day of June, 2024.

A signed and recorded copy of these minutes are available through the Clerk & Recorder's Office via Reception Number 176588.