

Pima County Board of Health Minutes
July 24, 2019
Abrams Building, Room 1108
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

Attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Mr. Bin An – Absent

Mr. Richard Elías – Absent

Mr. Rene Gastelum

Mr. Charles Geoffrion, Vice President

Ms. Mary Lou Gonzales

Dr. Paul Horwitz, President

Mr. Mike Humphrey

Mr. Miguel Rojas

Dr. Gail Smith – Absent

Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge – Absent

A quorum was established (6)

Non-Board Members:

Dr. Francisco García, Pima County, Assistant County Administrator

Dr. Robert England, Pima County Health Department, Interim Director

Ms. Paula Mandel, Pima County Health Department, Deputy Director

Presenters:

Rebecca O'Brien, Pima County Health Department, Program Manager

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Mr. Geoffrion led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopted Board of Health May 22, 2019.

The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Horwitz / Mr. Humphrey) that the May 22, 2019, minutes be adopted with revision. Motion carried 6-0.

4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Dr. England was introduced by Dr. García and provided reasons why Dr. England was appointed interim Director of the Health Department. Dr. England comes into this position with many years of Public Health experience that will serve the Pima County Health Department well. One of the current missions Dr. England will guide is the

reaccreditation process. There are many programs in full swing that Dr. England's experience and knowledge will prove invaluable.

- Dr. England shared with the Board that he is serving as interim director with Public Health experience including 12 years of as the Director of Maricopa County and focuses on outcomes, evidenced bases programs, policies, and community partnerships.
- Dr. England updated the Board that the recruitment for the Director's position is expected to be advertised soon. The Board will be updated as additional information becomes available.
- Dr. England shared with the Board that he will be working to establish more opportunities to partner with community health centers and the University of Arizona's Academic Health Department to combine space, libraries, staff, and other resources beneficial to both partners. A main benefit for the Health Department will be that the University of Arizona grant access into their resources and expertise resulting in increased visibility of our programs into the community.
- Dr. England introduced Ms. Mandel who updated the Board on the Hepatitis A outbreak. To date there have been 226 confirmed cases in Pima County. The Health Department's efforts continue with our community partners. The Street Outreach has decreased because of the summer heat. Outreach has increased at the community cooling sites. The City Parks and Recreation Department will be posting Hepatitis A information at park restrooms about our services and vaccine sites. City staff are increasing the amount of times the park restrooms/hand cleaning sites are cleaned. Several of Health Department nurses are entering the jail to share information, assist with health assessments, and vaccinating high risk populations. The Crises Response Center (CRC) are vaccinating at their facilities and the Health Department is providing education to the CRC and other crises centers as well.

The homeless who are using illicit drugs is a high risk population. Some of these individuals decline vaccination during outreach events because of their fear of government entities among other reasons. The Health Department continues to identify ways that may appeal to these individuals.

5. **TOBACCO 21 / VAPING ORDINANCE:**

- Dr. England introduced Ms. O'Brien who updated the Board on the proposed amendment to the smoking ordinance that will be on the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 6, 2019. This proposal also adds chapter 8.52 – Tobacco Retail Establishments. Currently staff are gathering talking points and answers to frequent questions in preparation for this Board of Supervisor meeting. If approved, the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products will change from age 18 to 21 years old and the establishment of a permit system for tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery device retailers in unincorporated Pima County. Community education will begin immediately after Board approval with a series of press releases, social media announcements, educational material, and community outreach events. Two program specialists will be coming onboard to assist with the community education. Enforcement will begin on January 1,

2020. The document that will delegate enforcement is a separate document that will be voted on by the Board of Supervisors before January 2020. A subsequent action by the Board of Supervisors will be to amend the Health Fee code. Dr. García encourages the Board members to contact the Board of Supervisors and to be present at these meetings.

- Mr. Humphrey shared that he has been invited to co-present a topic on Tobacco 21 at the National association of Local Board Health annual conference. Mr. Humphrey has been asked to share the ongoing efforts as a local board of health member with this initiative in Pima County. Mr. Humphrey said that he will not be speaking on behalf of the Board of Health. President Horwitz requested that Board members speaking at conferences as a Board of Health member inform the members of the Board.

6. **MIGRANT HOUSING UPDATE:**

- Dr. England shared with the Board that with the closing of the Monastery the Juvenile Detention Center will be used to house migrants. This center has the capacity to house 200-250 individuals. This facility has been remodeled to make it as inviting and hospitable as possible. NGO volunteers will continue to staff and complete the work necessary for the migrants to move to their final destination. Dr. García shared that this institutional building has all the requirements necessary including classroom space, restrooms/showers, laundry services, common space, and most importantly security for the staff and migrants. The County, through an operating agreement is responsible for utilities. The County has made appeals to FEMA, CBP, and other government agencies for reimbursement of costs expended. A tour of this facility will be organized for the Board in the near future. Dr. England stated that the release of migrants by ICE/Border Patrol has decreased dramatically since July 1, 2019. At this time there is not a known reason for this reduction.

7. **CALL TO AUDIENCE:**

- There were no speakers from the audience.

8. **SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Dr. Horwitz reminded the Board to respond to the BOH coordinator for attendance to ensure a quorum and to email him in a timely manner with items for the agenda.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:41P.M.