

Pima County Board of Health Minutes
October 23, 2019
Abrams Building, Room 3108
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 – Absent

Dr. Kathryn Kohler

Mr. Miguel Rojas

Dr. Gail Smith

Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge – Absent

A quorum was established (7)

Non-Board Members:

Dr. Francisco García, Deputy County Administrator, Pima County – Absent

Dr. Bob England, Pima County Health Department Interim Director

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Smith led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopted Board of Health September 25, 2019.

The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Geoffrion / Mr. Gastelum) that the September 25, 2019, minutes be adopted with Dr. Garcia's revisions. Motion carried 7-0.

4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Dr. England updated the Board on the status of hiring the new director of the Health Department. There are three finalists that will be interviewed in person during the next phase. The interview dates have not been confirmed yet.

- Dr. England shared that the Health Department is moving forward with the creation of epidemiology and data entry positions. There are current epidemiology positions working with communicable diseases, behavioral and substance abuse related diseases,

and respiratory diseases. There is a need for epidemiologists in the non-infectious side of the Health Department.

- Ms. Mandel updated the Board on the Hepatitis A outbreak. There are 246 confirmed cases. Health Department staff has administered over 3,900 vaccinations. Outreach efforts continue within the community with over 300 partners. Staff continues to identify new partners to assist with vaccinations.
- Dr. England shared with the Board a presentation on ‘The Real Future: Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Work’ which discussed the lessons we have learned in the 20th century progress against infectious disease and have applied them to our current challenges.

Increased obesity has been occurring in the United States over a long period of time and is a current public health challenge. Social and environmental changes such as increased food portion size, unhealthy food options are more prevalent as well as the lack of exercise (schools have eliminated recess and school playgrounds are no longer available for children to play after school ends). When public health is not involved or when policy changes are made; there can be negative consequences which can impact health.

The community building environment is another means to increase health within a community. Building a community where a person can walk or ride a bike to work, stores, doctor office, etc. has a positive impact on its community’s health.

Changes in school policies is also an aspect where public health should be involved. Policy makers need to be aware of the benefits of recess and physical education has to the youth in a community prior to these programs being defunded or discontinued.

Public Health policy strategy provides a return on investment analysis using data, and requires partnering and communication.

The presentation will be provided to the Board members.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED BOH MEMBER: KATHRYN KOHLER, MD:

- Dr. Horwitz introduced Dr. Kathryn Kohler as a new member of the Board of Health who represents Board of Supervisor Steve Christy’s district (4). Dr. Kohler is a retired obstetrics and gynecology physician from Laramie, Wyoming. In 2006, Dr. Kohler and her husband relocated to Green Valley, Arizona.

6. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

- Dr. Horwitz updated with the Board that due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays fall close to, or on the 4th Wednesday of the month, that a different date be identified. A motion was made and seconded (Dr. Horwitz / Mr. Gastelum) that the next Board meeting be on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Motion carried 7-0.

7. **FORMATION OF BOH BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE:**

- Dr. Horwitz updated the Board that per Arizona Revised Statute, the Board of Health reviews and recommends the Health Department's annual budget to the Board of Supervisors. The President appointed a Budget Subcommittee. The subcommittee will consist of Mr. Geoffrion, Ms. Gonzales, and Ms. Trowbridge. All have agreed to serve in this capacity. Mr. Geoffrion has volunteered to be the Chairperson. This subcommittee is subject to open meeting laws. The fiscal year is from July 1 – June 30. The budget development for fiscal year 2020 begins next month. Dr. Don Gates will be the contact for any budget subcommittee questions.

8. **VAPING UPDATE:**

- Mr. Geoffrion shared with the Board that due to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) failing to pass the Tobacco 21 initiative it was recommended that the Board remain well informed of this public health concern and use this information to reach out to any group or members of the public that might be interested. Mr. Geoffrion recently went online and found 55 vaping shops within the greater Tucson area. Mr. Geoffrion will provide a map of these vaping shops to the Board that will show where a majority of them are clustered within Tucson.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) now refers to vaping-related illness as EVALI which is an e-cigarette and vaping product use associated lung injury. As of October 15, 2019, there are 1,479 lung injury cases associated with the use of e-cigarettes or vaping products within 49 states. 38% of these cases are 21 years old or younger. 33 deaths have been confirmed in 24 states. Manufacturers are not required to report what is in their products. In 2011, less than 2% of U.S. high school students reported having used e-cigarettes but in 2015, the percentage had jumped to 16%. The following year, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a report concluding that e-cigarette use among young people was a public health concern.

Evolution in technology and marketing of new products specifically Pod Mods which are small, rechargeable devices that aerosolize liquid solutions containing nicotine, flavoring, and other contents encapsulated in cartridges began to gain traction. According to advertisements, nicotine salt solutions contain nicotine concentrations 2 to 10 times those found in most free-base-nicotine e-cigarette products. Juul's website indicates that there is 0.7ml of nicotine per pod equivalent to approximately 20 combustible cigarettes.

Some schools have banned Pod Mods because they are almost indistinguishable from USB drives and have launched parent-teacher education programs for clear identification. The aerosol from these devices contain metals, volatile organic compounds and flavoring additives, which may be harmful when inhaled, particularly to adolescent users. Nicotine adversely affects the developing brain and causes addiction with an increased risk of mood and attention problems.

In April 2018, six public health organizations urged the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to stop sales of new, Juul-like E-Cigarettes illegally introduced without Agency review. Stronger regulations should be implemented to prevent illegal online purchases and to increase enforcement of restrictions against e-cigarettes sales to minors in brick-and-mortar stores. These organizations encouraged the FDA to advance the deadline (currently set for 2022) for determination of whether existing e-cigarette products should

remain on the market. The FDA is performing undercover operations to identify and intervene with retailers that sell e-cigarettes to minors, restrictions against third-party resale of Juuls on eBay, and detailed requests for information from the manufacturer of Juul to aid FDA efforts.

Dr. England shared that there are vaping illness investigations on going. When these investigations are complete the outcomes will be complex and thus difficult to interpret. Dr. England's concern is what the nation's public health will be in 30 years in regard to use of these products.

9. **PROPOSAL OF DR. ENGLAND TO PRODUCE AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE:**

- Dr. Horwitz shared with the Board that he requested that Dr. England produce an executive summary that will provide the status of the Health Department prior to his departure. A motion was made and seconded (Dr. Smith / Mr. Geoffrion) that Dr. England produce an executive summary prior to Dr. England's departure. Motion carried 7-0.

10. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE RESULTS FOR BOH OFFICERS:**

- Dr. Horwitz shared with the Board that he appointed Mr. Geoffrion as the Chair of the Nominating Committee for BOH Officers that will serve until June 30, 2020.

Mr. Geoffrion updated the Board that the nominating committee included Dr. Smith and Mr. Gastelum. This committee met on October 23, 2019, at 2:30 P.M. nominated Dr. Horwitz as President and Mr. Geoffrion as Vice President. Mr. Geoffrion requested that the ballots be given to the Board members and advised that any member may deviate from these nominations and write-in their nomination on the ballot.

11. **ELECTION OF BOH OFFICERS:**

- The results of the Board of Health Officers vote is:
President – Dr. Paul Horwitz
Vice President – Mr. Charles Geoffrion

These officers will serve until June 30, 2020.

12. **SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSAL OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Dr. Horwitz reminded the Board to email him early with items to be considered for the agenda.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 3 P.M.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 P.M.

Pima County Board of Health Nominating Committee Minutes
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1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR BOH OFFICERS

Mr. Geoffrion called the meeting to order on October 23, 2019 at 2:30 P.M.

For the record it was stated that the nominating committee chairperson, Mr. Geoffrion, was appointed by Board of Health (BOH) President, Dr. Horwitz in compliance with BOH By-Laws (Article V.6). Mr. Geoffrion, then selected Dr. Gail Smith, and Mr. Rene Gastelum to the Nominating Committee. Mr. Geoffrion shared with the committee that it is their responsibility to provide a recommended slate of candidates for nomination for the BOH President and Vice-President to serve until June 30, 2020.

In addition, Mr. Mike Humphrey submitted an absentee ballot on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, nominating himself as President and Mr. Geoffrion as Vice-President.

Mr. Geoffrion created a ballot listing each office with adjacent blank lines providing the opportunity for BOH members to write-in a nominated candidate's name or any candidate of their choosing. This ballot will be given to each Board member at the next BOH meeting for a vote.

A motion was made (Mr. Gastelum / Dr. Smith) that the slate of candidates be Dr. Paul Horwitz as President and Mr. Charles Geoffrion as Vice-President. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM