

Teleconference / MS Teams Meeting / In-person

Administration East Building

130 W. Congress Street, 1st Floor, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

Tucson, Arizona 85701

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Horwitz called meeting to order at 3:08 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Bin An - Absent

Dr. Matt Heinz

Mr. Rene Gastelum - Absent

Mr. Charles Geoffrion, Vice President

Ms. Mary Lou Gonzales - Absent

Dr. Paul Horwitz, President

Mr. Mike Humphrey

Dr. Kathryn Kohler

Mr. Miguel Rojas - Absent

Dr. Gail Smith

Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge

A quorum was established (7)

Non-Board Members

Dr. Theresa Cullen, Pima County Health, Director

Ms. Paula Mandel, Pima County Health, Deputy Director

Presenters

Mr. Brian Eller, Pima County Health, Program Manager

Ms. Jennie Mullins, Pima County Health, Administrative Support Services Manager

Ms. Amanda Monroy, Pima County Health, Special Staff Assistant

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Geoffrion led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopted Board of Health Minutes for May 26, 2021.

The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Geoffrion/Ms. Trowbridge) that the May 26, 2021, Board of Health (BOH) Minutes be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. CALL TO AUDIENCE

- Dr. Horwitz reiterated that the Call to Audience is important to allow public participation, and advised that he will limit the Call to Audience to 20 minutes per meeting. There were no participants at this meeting.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Dr. Cullen provided a COVID-19 update:
 - The Pima County vaccination rate for 18 years old and over is at 55.2%, which is approximately 11% above Maricopa County overall, and is pretty significant. The vaccination rate for ages 65 and older is at 79.6%.
 - Pima County has over 400 mobile clinics operating right now, and has been able to cost-shift the vast majority of those clinics to the State as the County's primary

- vendor, PMG (Premiere Medical Group), is an awardee of a mobile clinic contract from the State.
- On Saturday a large initiative is being done with other community-based partners, such as Community Workforce Development and Partners in Health, at Gallego School. There are discussions to do a cross-border vaccine site with Amado in Santa Cruz County the following Saturday. These sites were chosen based on census tracts that indicated these areas have some of the lowest vaccination rates.
 - Seeing an increase in the variants in the community:
 - The UK variant is now at 68% in the State; it was 62% in April.
 - The Delta variant became a variant of concern in the last 48 hours per CDC guidance, based on transmissibility and morbidity rates associate with it. The Delta variant rate, on average, is 5-10% of positives. Arizona was at 2% of the samples sequenced for May, or 48 identified. Pima County has had one test that has been sequenced to the Delta Variant
 - Incentives are still being used to get people to get vaccinated. The Arizona Lottery continues to donate lottery tickets, and there are other initiatives such as admission to the Reid Park Zoo, and Pima Air and Space Museum when the FEMA POD was there, and the Casino del Sol provided a \$15 food incentive.
 - Pima County continues to do COVID testing, with positivity around 1-2% and transmissibility rated between low to moderate depending on the day. People are still in the hospital at lower rates than before.
 - FEMA is still staffing PODs, although they are moving inside, into schools which are still being identified.
 - Dr. Horwitz inquired if there has been any information on lowering the vaccine eligibility age to allow vaccinations for children under 12 years old. Dr. Cullen advised that the studies are ongoing with some indication that this may happen in September, but no one has yet gone to the FDA with enough data to get approval.
 - Mr. Humphrey asked Dr. Cullen to characterize who (what demographic) has not yet received vaccines in Pima County. Dr. Cullen advised that lower immunization rates tend to be with younger people, tend to be male, and tend to be communities of color.
 - Dr. Horwitz followed up by asking if there is tracking being done that indicates if there is a significant portion of the population in Pima County that is getting a first dose but not returning for a second dose. Dr. Cullen advised it is not a significant number.
 - Dr. Kohler asked how vaccinations are going with the Tribal Nations. Dr. Cullen noted that the Tohono O'odham Tribe has done exemplary, and send vaccination status reports at least 5 days a week. The Pascua Yaqui has had most of their vaccinations done through El Rio, and PCHD has done pop-up clinics on their facilities as well. PCHD continues to work closely with the Tucson Indian Center and has done 3 or 4 mobile clinics with them. Dr. Kohler asked what percentage have been vaccinated; Dr. Cullen advised she will get back to the BOH with that number.
 - Dr. Cullen provided an update on the grants situation:
 - A vaccine equity testing grant will go before the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the 22nd to get approval to accept that 2-year grant funding.
 - Waiting for the notice of award from the State for a 3-year vaccine equity grant. This grant will be used to stand up 5 district groups of 5 individuals – two community health workers, a health navigator, a health coach and a public health nurse – to work directly from a clinical perspective with the high-risk people in each district.
 - The third grant is a school-based grant coming through the State that starts in August for a 10-month period. The grant constraints are specifically to ensure that COVID wraparound services are available for children K-12 and/or family members.
 - Three additional grants worth \$20 million have been applied for:

- A health literacy through the Office of Minority Health and we are waiting for information on that.
- Two community health worker grants have just been submitted; there is a 4-6 week wait for information on those.

Dr. Cullen advised that Pima County Health Department (PCHD) has been in discussion with County Administration to confirm that they are okay with the approach being taken on how to leverage these grants and build infrastructure working with community-based organizations to enable us to improve our efficiency, effectiveness, and the health of the community.

- Expect to partner with Partners in Health with some of the grants, as well as help guide them for the role of the large HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) grant that they have just been awarded, which is designed for communication and outreach with community health workers.
- Dr. Cullen made the Board aware that PCHD has a very active community advisory group that is working to envision what a life post-COVID looks like. The hope is that the advisory group will become a community-based group within the next year or two that will transition from COVID to the other, larger issues that are confronting the Health Department. Dr. Cullen expects that PCHD will provide administrative support for the group.
- Dr. Cullen followed-up on the fentanyl substance abuse situation:
 - PCHD has been working internally to come up with some strategies and has had multiple discussion with County Administration about the response.
 - Governor Ducey has made a decision about fentanyl testing and has enabled funding for that, but that funding will be awhile off. PCHD is trying to figure out how to get fentanyl test strips out to the community, as well as increase the distribution of Narcan.
 - Supervisor Heinz asked for clarification on the fentanyl testing initiative, and what is the expected capacity for that initiative. Dr. Cullen replied that PCHD is planning to distribute test strips through established distribution patterns to people that are buying and using substances that may, or may not, be at risk for fentanyl. This will allow the substance to be tested prior to use, and assist the individual(s) in determining whether or not to ingest the substance.
 - Dr. Horwitz inquired if this initiative would work, and Dr. Cullen advised that she did not know, but that data suggests that with proper education and access, people do elect to test what they're going to ingest before they ingest it. She advised that a standard operating procedure has not yet been established, but once that is done she will bring that to the BOH.
 - Dr. Smith asked why the public is not being educated more about other drugs, if the education for fentanyl has worked so well that people are not choosing to buy it, or are electively testing for it. Dr. Cullen responded that our education is geared toward trying to decrease the use of addictive substances overall, but the issue becomes how effective is the education if an individual believes that the risk of dying from the drug is lower. The focus is on fentanyl right now because of the high risk of overdose and death.
- Dr. Horwitz mentioned the recent decision by State-based universities that students do not have to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to attend school, and asked Dr. Cullen if she knew if they acted independently of Governor Ducey's recent executive order. Dr. Cullen responded that Governor Ducey's order was very clear in that it applies to State-based Universities who are receiving funding from the State Legislature, and that she understands that the decision was the Governor's call, not the universities. Ms. Trowbridge noted that the Board of Regents has some sort of control over what happens at the universities, so would it be possible to investigate applying public pressure to them over this matter? Dr. Cullen agreed that that pathway could be investigated.

6. SCHOOL HEALTH UPDATE RELATED TO CHILDHOOD WELLNESS IN PIMA COUNTY

- Mr. Brian Eller, who is the program manager for the Youth, Health and Safety Program for the Health Department, as well as the COVID schools liaison for K-12, provided historical context behind the Whole School-Whole Community-Whole Child program that the Health Department has been engaging with for about 10 years. In the past 3 years the focus has been on assisting teachers with looking at policy recommendations, and allowing those teachers to take that information back to their regular schools, their sites and their districts to make policy recommendations. This presentation is to provide the BOH with an information precedent on the program objectives to set the stage for some of these teachers to come to a future BOH meeting to talk about how the BOH can support them in certain action items that they will be moving forward with in the next year.
- Mr. Eller provided a slide presentation on the Whole School-Whole Community-Whole Child model, which is founded by the Centers for Disease Control, and includes health education; physical education & physical activity; nutrition environment & services; health services; counseling, psychological & social services; social & emotional climate; physical environment; employee wellness; family engagement; and community involvement – all around a center picture of a child who is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. The PowerPoint presentation will be provided to the BOH members at the conclusion of the presentation.
- Mr. Eller noted that this model looks at how does the community support these objectives in bringing a holistic, coordinating policy, process and practice to improve learning and health for the child; and looks at schools being the primary mechanism for how this model can be implemented based on public health practices.
- In the past year, PCHD was fortunate to have had two subcontractors working full time with the 54 schools participating in the program to achieve the program goals. The main projects that the schools selected to work on were anti-bullying and cyberbullying, anti-tobacco and vaping, teen driver safety, and nutrition/education wellness. One example that Mr. Eller provided was the survey work that some school teachers and student groups collaborated on to make the case for tobacco policy and smoke-free parks.
- Mr. Eller reiterated that what the Whole School-Whole Community-Whole Child program does overall is look at what are the policies, the systems, and the environments that we can help implement to support schools, to assist with making that extra step towards getting a healthier environment for our students and our staff.
- Dr. Kohler inquired as to what a smarter lunch room is. Mr. Eller replied that it deals with how nutritional items are selected within the lunch room, and is a way to alter the built environment to display the merchandise to make the food look attractive, and to make it more likely that an individual will pick a healthier nutritional item over a less nutritious choice.
- Dr. Smith asked for clarification on the school gardens, and inquired if the students are encouraged to work in them. Mr. Eller noted that there are certain sites across Pima County that have school gardens, such as Manzo Elementary, Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), San Miguel and Sunnyside, and that some of the sites work with the University of Arizona Department of Agriculture, as well as the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension offices.
- Mr. Geoffrion asked if there is any effort being made to educate students in all schools as to solar energy and technologies that will benefit the future. Mr. Eller noted that he had the opportunity to visit a school site in TUSD that had solar arrays with a school garden under those arrays. Mr. Eller also stated that part of the S.T.E.A.M. learning objectives of that school site was to include solar arrays, the benefits of solar power, and how that ties in new environmental objectives and environmental accommodations needed for specific types of food.

7. GUN VIOLENCE

- Mr. Mike Humphrey was contacted by community members to ask if the BOH could revisit the issue of gun violence in Pima County, specifically the issue that the Pima County Gun Show is not requiring background checks for private purchase sales. Mr. Humphrey provided a snapshot of current statistics for Pima County:
 - As of last Friday, 98 people were killed by guns in Pima County, but it may be over 100 people at this reporting. This is a 14% increase over this time last year, and it looks as if the yearly total may very well exceed the 2020 total of 123 people killed.
 - From an economic standpoint, gun violence in Pima County in 2019 (latest numbers found from ADHS) attributed to 119 people being wounded by firearms, resulting in over \$60 million spent treating gun wounds. This cost does not include lost wages, lost productivity, law enforcement or legal costs.
 - Gun violence in Pima County disproportionately impacts people of color: Blacks 90/100K and Native American 59/100K, whereas Whites are at 50/100K.
 - In Pima County, over 20% of the violent gun crimes are committed by prohibitive possessors, who are folks that are legally prevented from owning a firearm. Of the 958 people who were charged with gun-related crimes, 21% were prohibited possessors. And the research shows that the guns used were not directly purchased through stores, but were most likely stolen, purchased by a friend in an illegal act called a straw purchase, or procured at gun shows where they don't regulate background checks.
- Mr. Humphrey suggested that gun violence is a public health crisis and public safety crisis in Pima County, and proposed a resolution that the Pima County BOS recognize gun violence is a public health issue in an emergency, and take steps to require that any vendor at the Pima County Gun Show, which is on Pima County property, do a background check before they sell a gun to somebody.
- Dr. Horwitz inquired if there was direct evidence that could be provided to the BOS that guns sold at the Pima County Fairgrounds are part of this problem, as any one of the Supervisors is likely to ask for solid data to support this. He also wondered if there would be any legal issues involving the existing contracts for these shows.
- Dr. Kohler agreed that gun violence is a serious issue and noted that a resolution needs to absolutely do something, but does not see any evidence with the information provided that prohibited possessors are actually receiving guns purchased at the gun show.
- Dr. Smith agrees that this is a health problem, and noted that any gun that is kept off the street is a plus. She also pointed out that anything that can be done to keep a gun out of the hands of anybody who's trying to buy a gun at a gun show will help, and having to do a background check may prevent somebody from wanting to go to the bother of filling out those forms.
- Supervisor Heinz thinks this is a sensible policy to present to the BOS. He recommended running the gun show contract question by the County Attorney's office for clarification of any contractual issues, as well as discerning what kind of legal foundation Pima County has to enforce or defend this type of resolution in court.
- Dr. Horwitz asked Supervisor Heinz if he felt the BOS would prefer to enact this County-wide at any venue, rather than solely on County property? Supervisor Heinz would like to see this enacted County-wide but feels there may be a clearer and legally supportable authority to limit this request to County property first, then go broader later.
- Mr. Geoffrion requested more data and statistics that demonstrate in more depth that the gun shows are the source of gun violence, as this additional information would help in getting the resolution passed. Mr. Geoffrion also recommended tabling this resolution until more data is available, and there is a better sense of whether anything done at the County level would supersede, or be squelched by, something at the State level.

- Dr. Cullen advised that the librarian working with the Health Department would be able to research data on this subject, and advised Mr. Humphrey to provide specific questions or specific data he would like to have researched.
- Dr. Horwitz asked Mr. Humphrey to decide which direction this discussion should go in: to move this resolution forward at this time, or to table the discussion until more information is available.
- Mr. Geoffrion moved to table this issue until there is further data to support the issue and to have a better understanding as to the legal aspects, whether the BOS can support this in the face of State regulations. Dr. Horwitz seconded the motion, and requested the vote by roll call.
- Suzanne called the roll:
 - Mr. Gastelum -absent-
 - Mr. Geoffrion yes
 - Ms. Gonzales -absent-
 - Supervisor Heinz no
 - Dr. Horwitz yes
 - Mr. Humphrey yes
 - Dr. Kohler yes
 - Mr. Rojas -absent-
 - Dr. Smith no
 - Ms. Trowbridge no

The vote is: 4 votes to table the motion until further information is provided, and 3 votes to move forward with the proposed resolution as is.

8. RESPONSE FOR EXTREME HEAT

- Dr. Cullen provided an update on PCHD role in addressing the extreme heat issue in Pima County. She noted that Mr. Geoffrion has brought up the matter fairly consistently over the last few months, and PCHD discovered this issue is the opportunity to utilize the BRACE grant awarded from the CDC specifically for climate impact. PCHD has submitted to the CDC to get approximately \$40,000 a year for 5 years to look at heat and heat mitigation.
- Dr. Cullen advised that PCHD has put together a small team of volunteers from the Health Department and other County departments who are working on some plans, such as the heat mitigation plan that is currently active within the Health Department. PCHD only recently started working on heat and heat mitigation issues within the last 6 weeks. The initial work was related to researching such issues as what heat and heat mitigation means, what is a cooling station, and what is needed to insure that people are protected?
- Dr. Cullen also advised that the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness has pushed out cooling stations, and the City of Tucson is supporting their efforts through Friday, and then if and when temperatures go above 110 degrees.
- Dr. Cullen invited Mr. Geoffrion to share more on the issue.
- Mr. Geoffrion noted that there are a substantial number of people in every community that are impacted by heat and heat mitigation issues: the homeless; athletes training outdoors; people who work outdoors such as agricultural workers; people with mobility constraints; infants, young children and pregnant women; people over 65 years old; people with health conditions, and those who take certain medications; people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol; people who have no access to air conditioning; people who live alone; and people who live in housing without air conditioning, or in cities where there can be an urban heat island.
- Mr. Geoffrion discussed how when temperatures exceed 110, 114, 117 degrees and even higher, core body temperatures rise. And often at night there is some relief from that extreme heat, but if the temperature only drops down to 88, or 85 degrees, and an individual

is exposed to those temperatures for a sustained period, core body temperature creeps up and the individual can be subjected to heat stroke as well. This is happening in Arizona and Pima County. One of the lag effects is that 5 or 6 days after a heat wave, emergency department visits go up considerably.

- Mr. Geoffrion suggested that the BOH consider recommending that Pima County hospitals collect data on heat exposure, as well as the data on demographics in terms of age, homelessness and so forth, and report that information to the PCHD in order to better understand what heat does.
- Mr. Geoffrion asked Dr. Cullen if Pima County data could be provided to the ADHS to report on the Climate Ready City and State Initiative, which is funded by a grant from the CDC in Maricopa County. The report includes data from Maricopa County, Pinal County and Yuma County, but does not have information for Pima County. He is requesting this because the reports shows where there are cooling centers.
- Mr. Geoffrion also requested if there is a reliable list of cooling centers in Pima County that can be provided to people who can benefit from them.
- Ms. Trowbridge asked if there are County ordinances that address outdoor workers being allowed to not have to return to work outside if the temperature reaches a certain range. Mr. Geoffrion advised that there is a policy that contractors are required to provide chilled water at the work site. Dr. Horwitz asked Dr. Cullen if this is something that can be looked into, and Dr. Cullen agreed that it could be reviewed.
- Mr. Geoffrion requested that Response for Extreme Heat be included on the agenda on a quarterly basis moving forward, perhaps on the August or September agenda, to review what happened the past summer.

9. ETHICS COMMITTEE UPDATE – STANDING ITEM

- No update

10. DECLARING RACIAL & ETHNIC INEQUITIES & INCOME INEQUALITY IN PIMA COUNTY TO BE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS – STANDING ITEM

- No update

11. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS & PROPOSAL OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Dr. Horwitz reminded the Board members that there is no meeting in July, and that they will next meet in the Board of Supervisor's Hearing Room, or by remote, on August 18. He also advised that Suzanne could validate parking for those attending today in the Board of Supervisor's Hearing Room.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made and seconded (Dr. Horwitz/Dr. Kohler) that the June 16, 2021 meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021, at 3:00 P.M., downtown at the Board of Supervisor's Hearing Room, 130 W. Congress Street, 1st Floor.