

Pima County Board of Health Minutes  
November 16, 2022  
**Virtual – Teleconference / MS Teams Meeting**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. Rebecca Franz-Osborne  
Mr. Rene Gastelum – Absent  
Mr. Charles Geoffrion, Vice President  
Supervisor Adelita Grijalva  
Dr. Paul Horwitz, President  
Mr. Mike Humphrey  
Dr. Kathryn Kohler  
Mr. Miguel Rojas – Absent  
Dr. Lisa Soltani  
Dr. Gail Smith  
Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge

**A quorum was established (9)**

**Non-Board Members**

Dr. Theresa Cullen, Pima County Health Department Director  
Ms. Kimberly VanPelt, Pima County Health Department Deputy Director  
Mr. Matt Schmidgall, Pima County Health Department Program Manager  
Ms. Jennie Mullins, Pima County Health Department, Senior Advisor

**2. MINUTES ADOPTION**

- Adopt Board of Health October 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes.  
The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Geoffrion/Mr. Humphrey) that the October 26, 2022 Board of Health Meeting Minutes be adopted. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**3. CALL TO AUDIENCE**

- No speakers for Call to Audience.

**4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- Ms. VanPelt provided the Director's Update in Dr. Cullen's absence.
- The honoring of the Tribal Nations was conducted.
- COVID-19 Update
  - Community level is low at 143.6 cases per 100K people.
  - 1,520 cases (data through 11/15/22)
  - CDC testing positivity is at 19.95% (data through 11/14/22)
  - The variant in Pima County as of October 12, 2022, is BA.5
  - COVID-19 vaccines are available at PCHD clinics, at Abrams Public Health Center, and at some mobile clinics.
  - 1,844 total Paxlovid e-prescriptions were given as of November 14, 2022.
  - 78.1% of residents ages 5+ are fully vaccinated.
  - 92.3% of residents ages 5+ have received at least one vaccination.
  - 95% of residents ages 65+ are fully vaccinated.
  - 53.5% of fully vaccinated population with first booster.
  - 75.0% of fully vaccinated people 65+ with first booster.
  - Antigen testing is available at the Abrams Public Health Center on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's.
  - Dr. Soltani stated that as new variants become predominate, some current treatment and prevention methods are felt to become ineffective and no longer recommended.

Will the Health Department be recommending or advising providers of other COVID-19 treatment and prevention methods if this becomes the case? Ms. VanPelt will consult with Dr. Cullen and provide a response.

- Mr. Humphrey stated it is difficult to determine how many people are getting tested for COVID-19 and inquired if a sample of the population could be obtained and use that data to generalize the results for the County? Ms. VanPelt will consult with Dr. Cullen and provide a response.
- Influenza Update
  - The Health Department is seeing an uptick of influenza cases.
  - Encourage the community to get the flu shot, as it is that time of year.
  - Encourage hand washing to prevent spread of germs.
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Update
  - Pediatric hospital beds are filling up from a variety of reasons including RSV.
  - RSV is a non-reportable disease.
  - Parents are encouraged to keep their sick kids at home.
- PCHD Equity-focused response to Monkey pox:
  - Monkey pox response followed an Educate, Prevent, Vaccinate, Test, Treat and Trust protocol.
  - Engagement with community members and partners to inform approach and messaging.
  - Collaborating with Southern Arizona Health Departments.
  - Vaccination provided at PCHD clinics as well as community based events and PODS.
  - Created an online Qualtrics survey for vaccine interest and exposure identification.
  - Conduct testing and specimen coordination.
  - Coordinating TPPOXX treatment for appropriate cases.
  - El Rio also providing Monkey pox vaccine and TPOXX treatment.
  - Monkeypox case update as of November 15, 2022:
    - Arizona has 538 confirmed.
    - Pima County has 60 confirmed cases
    - Mean age 36 years
    - Anyone exposed, regardless of gender, sexual orientation or background is at risk for contracting.
    - There is a higher risk for transmission in men who have sex with men.
    - Monkeypox is rare and the overall risk to public is low.
    - 3,001 first dose vaccinations have been administered.
    - 1,073 complete vaccination series have been administered.
- Title 42 Update:
  - Title 42 is a measure that limits asylum seekers from crossing the border due to health concerns that was in effect during the pandemic.
  - A judge struck down Title 42 on November 15, 2022, however issued a hold on his order for five weeks until December 21, 2022.
  - The number of asylum seekers coming into Pima County will likely increase.
  - The Health Department will continue to work with humanitarian partners and the City of Tucson to support this population.
- Other Updates:
  - The Deputy Director of Operations begins in early December.
  - Dr. Cullen is conducting an interview for the Deputy Director of Public Health Services and Surveillance.

**5. BOARD OF HEALTH SUBSTANCE MISUSE ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

- Dr. Horwitz noted that the Board that the Substance Misuse Advisory Subcommittee members unanimously voted to invite advisors from the community to present proposals.
- The next Substance Misuse Advisory Subcommittee meeting will be on January 25, 2023.
- Ms. VanPelt introduced Mr. Schmidgall to provide an overview presentation provided to the Substance Misuse Advisory Subcommittee members on November 9, 2022.
- Mr. Schmidgall shared with the Board that the Health Department identified priorities:
  - Respond to the community's growing demand for behavioral and mental health support for youth in schools.
    - The goal is to advance youth mental health initiatives by boosting support for the Pima Behavioral Health Coalition, expand training and education among youth-serving individuals.
  - Strengthen the response to the opioid crisis and prevent violence and injury in our youth.
    - The goal is to develop resources for injury and violence prevention by expanding education and awareness to youth and youth-serving agencies, increase distribution of naloxone and prevention resources within youth settings and continue gunlock program as a resource to prevent firearm injury.
  - Equip schools to save lives through early intervention during medical emergencies.
    - The goal is to prepare schools for managing life-threatening emergencies by providing schools with training and resources to medical emergencies and implement a response ready program.
- Mr. Humphrey reminded the Board of his desire that the 207 funding address firearm safety training.
- The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Humphrey / Dr. Smith) that the Board of Health will accept the recommendation of the Substance Misuse Advisory Subcommittee and forward to the Board of Supervisors the \$620,000 spending plan for Proposition 207. **The motion passed 8-1.**

**6. BOARD OF HEALTH BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION:**

- The subcommittee did not meet. No Report.

**7. DETERMINING NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING**

- The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Geoffrion / Dr. Kohler) that the 2023 regular Board of Health meetings will be scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- The next regular Board of Health Meeting will be on January 25, 2023.

**8. ETHICS COMMITTEE UPDATE – STANDING ITEM**

- Ms. Mullins shared with the Board that the Health Department presented on the Ethics Committee work at the American Public Health Association Conference and was part of a panel discussion. Ms. Mullins and Dr. Cullen's received favorable responses and interest in sharing the work of the Ethics Committee.
- Ms. Mullins shared that the Committee reviewed policies and procedures and discussed the membership ensuring diverse perspectives are represented, the appointment of a chair and/or a co-chair, the effective functionality of the Committee, and agreed to review additional case scenarios.
- The Public Health Code of Ethics guides the Ethics Committee. Its goal is to provide advice to the Health Department Director on key public health issues.
- Mr. Humphrey inquired if the Ethics Committee is aware of issues the Pima Animal Care Center has of potentially having to begin euthanizing animals. Ms. Mullins will advise Dr.

Cullen and recommends the Board of Health representatives that serve on the Ethics Committee bring this issue up.

- Dr. Smith shared that the Pima Animal Care Center is overcrowded; additional space is needed; there is not enough staff or volunteers available to exercise the animals daily; food is expensive; there are not enough adoptions or fosters volunteering.
- Dr. Smith will request if the Director of Pima Animal Care will give a presentation to the Board of Health Members at the January 25, 2023, meeting.

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

- No report.

**10. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSAL OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Supervisor Grijalva proposed scheduling a future study session or retreat to revisit the Board's mission, vision and focus.
- The Board requested a presentation on the Health Department's response to the overturn of Row vs Wade.
- The Director of Pima Animal Care Center will be invited to a future Board of Health Meeting.
- Mr. Geoffrion requested information on what diseases are reportable to the Health Department.
- The Board requested the definition of fully vaccinated.
- Dr. Soltani stated that as new variants become predominate current treatment and prevention methods may become ineffective and no longer recommended. Will the PCHD recommend or advise providers of other COVID-19 treatment and prevention methods if this becomes the case?
- Mike Humphrey stated it is difficult to determine how many people are getting tested for COVID-19 and inquired if a sample (survey) of the population could be obtained and use that data to generalize the results for the County. Ms. VanPelt will consult Dr. Cullen and provide a response.
- During the Substance Misuse Advisory Subcommittee update, discussion and approved motion, Board members requested an overview to include the list of advisors that the subcommittee approved. Supervisor Grijalva noted this item may be placed on a future Board of Supervisors meeting agenda to discuss.
- Dr. Horwitz reminded Board members to email him with any proposed future agenda items.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made and seconded (Ms. Trowbridge / Dr. Smith) that the November 16, 2022, meeting adjourn. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.