1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Dr. Horwitz called meeting to order at 3:03 P.M.

   **ATTENDANCE:**
   Mr. Bin An - Absent
   Supervisor Matt Heinz – Arrived after Roll Call
   Mr. Rene Gastelum - Absent
   Mr. Charles Geoffrion, Vice President
   Ms. Mary Lou Gonzales
   Dr. Paul Horwitz, President
   Mr. Mike Humphrey
   Dr. Kathryn Kohler
   Mr. Miguel Rojas
   Dr. Gail Smith
   Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge

   A quorum was established (8)

   **Non-Board Members**
   Ms. Paula Mandel, Pima County Health, Deputy Director

   **Presenters**
   Ms. Amanda Monroy, Pima County Health, Health Policy Manager

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
   Due to Teleconference Meeting the Pledge of Allegiance was not conducted.

3. **MINUTES ADOPTION**
   - Adopted Board of Health February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes.
   - The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Rojas/Dr. Kohler) that the February 16, 2022, Board of Health Meeting Minutes be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **CALL TO AUDIENCE**
   - Ms. Ann Rose Dechov asked the Board of Health (BOH) asked to review the censored COVID-19 medical data from the past two years, and to discuss and vote on whether the BOH should continue to follow fear-based public health directives from corrupt federal agencies when developing future Pima County policies.

5. **DIRECTOR’S UPDATE**
   - Dr. Horwitz advised that the COVID-19 Update has been rolled into the Director’s update.
   - Ms. Paula Mandel delivered the Director’s update.
   - Pima County COVID-19 as of 04/17/2022:
     - Pima County is in low transmission with a case rate of 71/100K.
       - Test positivity has dropped to 4.8%.
       - Omicron Ba.1 is the most prevalent variant, and the Ba.2 variant is increasing.
     - Vaccination rates as of 04/17/2022:
       - 72.9% of the population aged 5+ are fully vaccinated.
Pima County continues to encourage vaccinations and boosters.
- The CDC currently recommends second boosters for individuals 50+ and older.
  - Vaccine plans for 6-month to 5-year old are being finalized and will be ready to start when approved by the FDA and ACIP.
  - COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits are available to the community at Pima County Libraries and at outreach events.
- Pima County schools report:
  - 20,737 total positive cases reported - 85% students and 15% staff.
  - School cases have continued to drop over the last 2 weeks.

Health Equity:
- Staff presented educational information on colorectal health at the Colon Cancer Awareness Walk March 19-20, 2022.
- Celebrated National Public Health Week April 4-10, 2022 with daily activities and self-care events for staff.

PCHD Key Initiatives:
- PrEP services started on January 1, 2022, and Same-day PrEP prescription and starter packs are being offered at Pima County Health Department (PCHD) clinics.
- Have seen an increase in congenital syphilis cases in the community in women who may not receive prenatal care and are not being seen until the time of delivery.
- PCHD is very concerned about the upward trend in suicides and will be making gun locks available at our clinics soon with special messaging around suicide prevention.
  - Intentional poisonings, as well as increased suicides in the 65+ age group, are trending up.
  - Narcan training in schools picking up and community-wide Narcan distribution continues to accelerate.
  - Mark Person is able to provide data on overdose and suicide rates from the Mortality Review Board, including gender and age categorization.
- PCHD plans to expand the Epi Intelligence Unit with investigators and data analysts.
- The Vaccine Access and Training project will hire 8+ CHW’s and a regional coordinator to continue vaccination outreach efforts and provide health education and linkage to support services and care.

Ms. Mandel spoke about the loss of PCHD staff over the past 2 years due to the COVID pandemic, and the impact the pandemic has had on the Health Department in general.

Victor Pereira, PCHD Deputy Director of Operations, will be assuming a new position as Pima County Director of the Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department on April 25, 2022.

Kim VanPelt joins PCHD as the Deputy Directory for Programming and Development beginning April 25, 2022.

6. ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS
- Ms. Amanda Monroy presented an overview of menstrual hygiene as a public health and human rights issue, and the social and economic impact to 50% of the population.
- Significant social and economic difficulties and barriers for menstruating individuals in managing their menstrual cycle include:
  - Menstrual products are not considered a medical necessity, and are taxed in Arizona;
  - An inability to buy hygiene products in bulk, or to use SNAP to purchase them;
  - Use of unsanitary absorbent materials;
  - Often having to choose between food or menstrual products.
- Menstruation is often not discussed or normalized, and is often one piece of reproductive health that public health does not address.
- PCHD clinics have disposable products to provide to menstruators at each of the clinics
• PCHD hopes to continue serving the community by increasing education around menstruation, continuing to distribute products to those in need.
• The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Rojas/Dr. Smith) that the BOH to continue to support the activity that PCHD is doing with menstrual products and try to find funding for additional products. The motion carried unanimously.

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
• Dr. Horwitz requested that a BOH Budget Subcommittee sit to review the FY 2022-2023 budget that has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors.
• Dr. Don Gates asked that this Budget Subcommittee remain in place for the onset of the FY 2023-2024 budget review process in 4-5 months.
• Mr. Charles Geoffrion was appointed as chair of the BOH Budget Subcommittee, with Mike Humphrey and Carolyn Trowbridge volunteering as members; Supervisor Matt Heinz was appointed to serve as an ex officio member as well.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE TO EVALUATE THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN AND RETAIN HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES
• Dr. Horwitz will form and chair a BOH Employee Subcommittee, with Dr. Gail Smith and Dr. Kay Kohler volunteering to serve as members.

9. DISCUSS RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
• Dr. Horwitz requested resuming BOH meetings in-person beginning in May 2022, utilizing the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room in the County Administration building. The motion was made and seconded (Ms. Trowbridge/Dr. Kohler) to resume hybrid (in-person/videoconference/telephone) BOH meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the County Administration building on May 18, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

10. ETHICS COMMITTEE UPDATE – STANDING ITEM
• No report.

11. DECLARING RACIAL & ETHNIC INEQUITIES & INCOME INEQUALITY IN PIMA COUNTY TO BE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS – STANDING ITEM
• No report.

12. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS & PROPOSAL OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
• Dr. Gregory Hess, Pima County Chief Medical Examiner, will speak at the next BOH on what criteria is used to determine whether a death is COVID related
• A request was made for Mark Person to deliver an overdose and suicide rates report at the next BOH meeting.
• A request was made to ask Dr. Charles Gerber to deliver a presentation on wastewater sampling and the presence of COVID in the surge stream.
• Dr. Horwitz reminded board members to confirm meeting attendance promptly to avoid a possible cancellation due to having no quorum established in the necessary timeframe.

13. ADJOURNMENT
The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Geoffrion/Dr. Kohler) that the April 20, 2022 meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.