

**Teleconference / MS Teams Meeting**

Abrams Building, Room 2359

3950 S. Country Club Road

Tucson, Arizona 85714

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Dr. Paul Horwitz, President

Mr. Mike Humphrey

Dr. Kathryn Kohler

Mr. Miguel Rojas

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

Mr. Vic Pereira, Pima County Health, Deputy Director

**Presenters**

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

Mr. Andrés Portela, Pima County Health, Health Equity Program Manager

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Due to Teleconference Meeting the Pledge of Allegiance was not conducted.

**3. MINUTES ADOPTION**

- Adopted Board of Health January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Geoffrion/Dr. Kohler) that the January 19, 2022, Board of Health Meeting Minutes be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. CALL TO AUDIENCE**

- No calls to the audience were requested.

**5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- Pima County COVID-19 as of 02/16/2022:
  - Pima County remains in high transmission with a case rate of 453/100K.
    - Test positivity has dropped to 20.05%.
  - Vaccination rates as of 02/15/2022:
    - 71% of the population aged 5+ are fully vaccinated. 42% of the fully vaccinated are boosted.
    - The CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker provides vaccination rates.
    - Vaccine for children 6 months-5 years old may be approved by the FDA and CDC by April 2022. Approximately 45K children will be eligible.
    - An immunization plan is being developed.

- Pima County schools report:
  - 20,758 total positive cases reported. 86% students. 14% staff.
  - On average, each positive case results in 2.4 contacts.
  - The Epi curve for K-12 schools is starting to decrease.
  - In response on whether a mandatory COVID-19 immunization will be required in Pima County school districts, Dr. Cullen noted that PCHD does not provide guidance on for matriculation and graduation of students. Dr. Cullen will follow-up.
  - Surgo Ventures are mapping the Pima County CCVI. This data will be public in the next week or two.
  - Dr. Horwitz inquired if the school boards select their own criteria regarding masks in schools. Dr. Cullen noted that the mask decision is made at the discretion of the school board. PCHD recommends wearing a mask. This guidance will not be changing.
- Seasonal influenza cases decreased as compared to the state's average. The decrease may be due in part to the COVID-19 mitigation efforts.
- The Clinical Services Division remodel of the East Clinic is completed.
- PHEP/Epidemiology:
  - The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists recommends contact tracing be reduced in high-risk areas including schools, congregate setting and people with a high social vulnerability index.
  - The COVID-19 case investigation/contact tracing transition plan is being reviewed.
- COPE WIC program:
  - Won two performance awards for FY21
    - \$10,000 award for meeting 100% of caseload for 3 consecutive months.
    - Current case load is over 10,000/month.
    - \$15,000 award for having the largest percentage of nursing mothers in the state.
- CHFS:
  - Grant award of \$397,032 to advance conformance with the FDA Retail Programs Standards over 3 years.
  - Provides full funding for a Retail Program Standards Coordinator position.
  - CHFS sends a quarterly newsletter to food vendors in the community.
  - Board members can be added to receive it.
- Health Equity:
  - February is Black History Month.
  - Thursday, February 24 from 2-4p.m. is the Advancing Health Equity x Black History Month Forum via Teams, discussing advancing African American health outcomes. Online registration will be available soon. The Board will receive a flyer.
  - National Public Health Week April 4-10, 2022.

## **6. INTRODUCTION TO VICTOR "VIC" PEREIRA, HEALTH DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTORY, OPERATION**

- Dr. Horwitz introduced Mr. Victor "Vic" Pereira, who began with PCHD in August 2021.
- Previously employed as the Vice Wing Commander at Davis Monthan Air Force Base (DMAFB). Retired after 31 years in the military. At DMAFB, Mr. Pereira oversaw every activity which included oversight of the hospital.
- Oversees the Business Operations and Cross Functional Divisions.

- Duties include operational tasks with other County departments, interacting with stakeholders.
- Dr. Cullen selected Mr. Pereira because PCHD will benefit having a leader experienced and able to direct and provide guidance. To date he has proved to be transformative due to his leadership experience and willingness to work.

**7. COVID-19 UPDATE – STANDING ITEM**

- Discussed during Director’s Report.

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

- Ms. Jennie Mullins reported on the January 20, 2022 Ethics Committee meeting discussion on the Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) and crisis staffing in the current healthcare/hospital system:
  - The ADHS developed an addendum to the Arizona CSC Plan that specifically addresses the triage protocols during COVID-19.
  - Discussed how the CSC was being operationalized in the hospitals.
  - Roles of providers in interpreting the guidelines.
- Mr. Geoffrion noted that the addendum seems burdensome and impractical, and that implementation is a challenge as healthcare providers cannot move from standard to contingency to crisis unless everyone in the statewide hospital system is implementing the CSC. Additionally, the addendum states that a triage person overrules the attending physician, implying there will be a triage person, or committee, available all the time to provide guidance.
- The next Ethics Committee meeting will be on February 17, 2022.

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

- Mr. Andrés Portela reported that funding received in 2022 helped in multiple program areas: literacy, health disparity, vaccine equity and policy.
- The goal is to move this funding interdepartmentally by 2023.
- Mr. Portela will focus on organizational structure, building community familiarity, and address race, racism and inequalities using storytelling and training.

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

- Dr. Horwitz invited Dr. Gregory Hess, Pima County Chief Medical Examiner, to speak on what criteria is used to determine whether a death is COVID related.
- Dr. Horwitz invited Dr. Thomas Insel, former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (2002-2015) to speak on what public health departments can do to direct attention to mental illness.
- Dr. Horwitz reminded the board members to send him an email and ask to have any items they wish to discuss put on the agenda.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made and seconded (Ms. Trowbridge/Supervisor Heinz) that the January 19, 2022 meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.