

Pima County Board of Health Minutes
September 28, 2022
In-Person / MS Teams Meeting
Sheriff's Department 3rd Floor
Special Operations Center (SOC)
1750 E. Benson Highway
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Rebecca Franzi-Osborne – Present, Virtual

Mr. Rene Gastelum - Absent

Mr. Charles Geoffrion, Vice President – Present, Virtual

Supervisor Matt Heinz – Present, Virtual

Dr. Paul Horwitz, President - Present

Mr. Mike Humphrey - Present

Dr. Kathryn Kohler - Present

Mr. Miguel Rojas - Present

Dr. Lisa Soltani – Present, Virtual

Dr. Gail Smith – Present, Virtual

Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge - Present

A quorum was established (10)

Non-Board Members

Dr. Theresa Cullen, Pima County Health Department Director

Ms. Kimberly Van Pelt, Pima County Health Department, Deputy Director

Mr. Mark Person, Pima County Health Department, Program Manager

Mr. David Higuera, Chief of Staff, District 2 - Virtual

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Humphrey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. HONORING MARY LOU GONZALES

- The Board of Health (BOH) and Supervisor Adelita Grijalva of District 5 honored BOH retiring member Mary Lou Gonzales, for her 16 years of service. Supervisor Grijalva presented Ms. Gonzales with a personal note of thanks on behalf of District 5. Followed by Dr. Paul Horwitz presenting Ms. Gonzales with a commemorative Philabaum glass as a token of gratitude and respect for her service to the BOH. Members and Guests gave individual testimonials showing gratitude to Ms. Gonzales for all her service. A cake was presented for all to enjoy in celebration of Ms. Gonzales' years of service.

4. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopt Board of Health July 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes.
The motion was made and seconded (Dr. Kohler/Mr. Rojas) that the July 27, 2022, BOH Minutes be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. CALL TO AUDIENCE

- Ms. Ann Rose Dichoy – Addressed the BOH with concerns regarding COVID-19 and the truths coming to light now around COVID-19 and booster requirements.
- Ms. SueAnn Christenson - Addressed the BOH with concerns surrounding the announced state of emergency surrounding Ordinance 11957 recently passed by the City Council and Mayor on September 13, 2022.
- Ms. Terra Radliff - A former Pima County Deputy and Yuma County Deputy and Detective, Ms. Radliff addressed the BOH concerned about local Law Enforcement Officers (LEO's)

and how COVID-19 policies have effected moral, employment retention and family stability within the law enforcement community.

- Ms. Lauren McElroy – Ms. McElroy would like the BOH to consider incorporation of new emerging data into public health messages and practices. She feels this is key to moving forward to optimal wellness for Pima county residents.
- Mr. Peter Norquest – Mr. Norquest was concerned about the nature and quality of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) information and messaging. Urging Pima County Health Department (HD) and BOH to distance themselves from the CDC and initiate more independent analysis and policymaking.
- Ms. Dru Heaton – Ms. Heaton recommended that BOH members re-visit the manufacturer inserts for all childhood and adult recommended vaccines specifically Section 13.1. Also supports PC distance from CDC and do local analysis.
- Ms. Ursula Conway - President of the Arizona Chapter of Children’s Health Defense; Ms. Conway made her opinion statement on opening comments of World Council of Health Press Conference which called for suspension of all COVID-19 shots.

6. DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

- Dr. Cullen recognized the Land Acknowledgement honoring the Tribal Nations.
- COVID-19 Update as of 09/18/22:
 - Community transmission level is low
 - 109 cases per 100K
 - 1149 cases (data through 9/18/22) up by 74.09%
 - CDC testing positivity: 12.18% (data through 9/19/22)
 - Vaccination numbers as of 9/18/22:
 - 75.3% of 5+ are fully vaccinated
 - 79.3% of 18+ are fully vaccinated
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Test-to-Treat (TTT) was in Pima County for 90 days and ended 9/20/22. Services transitioned to PCHD on 9/26. Phone number for prescription services provided as (520) 724-7895 for call in prescriptions only. People who are COVID-19 positive or do not have a medical provider can use this number.
 - As of 9/20/22, 1,463 Paxlovid e-prescriptions were given and 164 Paxlovid in-clinic prescriptions.
 - PCHD has taken responsibility and established a treatment page at: [COVID-19 treatment - Pima County](#)
 - Impacts of Long COVID is an important concern.
 - Future research direction based on unanswered questions:
 - People:
 - Effectiveness of our approaches to center vaccine/testing equity.
 - Impacts of vaccine hesitancy on routine immunization rates
 - Loss and gains in the community (trust).
 - The process of vaccine/booster specificity and effectiveness.
 - Process:
 - Vaccine/booster specificity and effectiveness
 - Anti-viral therapeutics efficacy
 - Role of Viral sequencing
 - Ongoing vaccine efficacy and immune escape
 - ROI-Cost (school, business, behavioral)
 - Effectiveness of mass pods and equity
 - Technology

- Testing and vaccine delivery technology
- Integration of data and tracking outcomes
- Monkeypox
 - There are over 400 confirmed cases in Arizona as of 9/19/22.
 - In Pima County, there are 49 confirmed cases as of 9/22/22.
 - Mean age of 41 years, (21-63 range) all people who identify as male.
 - Identified Risks:
 - Anyone exposed, regardless of gender, sexual orientation or background.
 - Higher risk for transmission in men who have sex with men.
 - Monkeypox is rare and overall risk to public is low.
 - PCHD focused response to Monkeypox is focused on:
 - Educate, prevent, vaccinate, Test, Treat, Trust
 - Engagement with community members and partners to inform approach and messaging.
 - PHEP, Epi and Clinical Services working together on vaccination clinics and point of distribution sites.
 - Identifying additional community partners for vaccines
 - Collaborating with Southern AZ health departments
 - Created online Qualtrics survey for vaccine interest and exposure identification
 - Conducting testing and specimen coordination
 - Coordinating TPOXX treatment for appropriate cases
- Reproductive Health Collaborative
 - On 7/5/22, the Pima County BOS formally recognized the importance of comprehensive reproductive healthcare. This action formally acknowledged the County's role as a convener and coordinator of reproductive healthcare resources and establishing a countywide position of ensuring access to legal reproductive healthcare.
 - Board Mandated Actions are 1) ensure a broad range of legal reproductive services to Pima County, 2) convene community clinical partners and 3) work with partners in the County, State and Nation about sexual and reproductive health.
 - Convened first provider collaborative on 8/26/22.
 - Next steps:
 - Expand members, extend provider survey to new members, develop a community-based survey for people using/needing services with TMC support and explore issues related to complicated pregnancy.
 - Next meeting will be held on September 30 from 3:30pm – 4:30pm to discuss:
 - Federal Circuit Court Ruling on AZ Territorial Law
 - Identify barriers and plan workshop in October.
 - Project CONTACT/Teen Mobile Clinic was implemented with the goal of reaching 1,000 young people/students in 22/23 academic year with the Teen Mobile Clinic at 11 area high schools.
 - Mobile Community Clinic- Family Planning and Immunization – planning underway.
 - Title X Family Planning service data from Theresa Lee Clinic, North and Mobile Clinics from April 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022, is 1,969 patients served or 50% of goal, 7.9% increase in use of Birth Control pill and 4.5% increase in use of 3-month hormonal injection.
 - Target goal of reaching 4,000 new Title X Family Planning clients between April 2022 and March 2023.
 - Also removed barriers to improve access to Plan B in PCHD clinics – free and no appointment needed.

- Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (WINS)
 - Conducted by the de Beaumont Foundation and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials in 2014, 2017 and 2021.
 - PH WINS 2021 surveyed 137,446 state and local governmental public health workers looking at workplace environment, COVID-19 response, Training needs, addressing public health issue and demographics. *PCHD had a 52% response rate.*
 - Findings for PCHD:
 - PCHD is more diverse compared to national average.
 - 21% of PCHD workforce is between 21-30 and also has a higher proportion of workers in older age groups (51-60 and 61+)
 - 72% female and 26% male with 2% identifying some other way.
 - 14% vs 86% has a formal public health degree.
 - 60% has less than 5 years with the department with 50% only working in public health for 5 years or less.
 - Intent to Leave or Stay shows 34% leaving in one year, 27% retiring in five years and 63% staying.
 - Job satisfaction show 72% vs organizational satisfaction of 58% and pay satisfaction of 34%.
 - Overall mental and emotional well-being shows 45% at very good or excellent and the balance at good, fair with >5% poor.

7. PROGRESS ON BOS DECLARATION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC INEQUITIES – Director’s Update

- Equity focused efforts with events scheduled:
 - Advancing Health Equity: Best Practices to advancing access to care for people with disabilities training.
 - Latino/a/e Heritage Month Forum
 - AZ Town Hall Substance Misuse, Mental Health and Homelessness
 - Equity Capability Maturity Model

8. ETHICS COMMITTEE - Director’s Update

- Committee met on 9/20/22 with nine members present and two community invitees.
 - Peg Harmon presented on planned Medical Respite Center for unhoused at Center for Opportunity on Paloverde. Will house 48 residents including 10 rooms for homeless women.
 - Ethical considerations discussed:
 - Eligibility
 - How to manage exit strategies
 - Disability accessibility for the center
 - Managing ethical consideration when operational
 - Ensure staff safety

9. OPIOID SETTLEMENT

- PCHD Deputy Director Kim VanPelt, addressed Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Disorder in Pima County:
 - Mental Health was two of the four prioritized needs identified based on the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment and worsened during the pandemic
 - Nationally, 27% of high school students report experiencing poor mental health and 44% experience feelings of sadness or hopelessness
 - Since 2015, over 43,000 years of potential life have been lost due to suicide
 - In Pima County, the rate of fatal overdoses has nearly doubled in the past 10 years
 - Trends and Developments:

- Drug Deaths
- Age groups 50-59 represent highest number of deaths
- Opioids are contributing to the highest number of deaths
- Actions:
 - Narcan distribution
 - Fentanyl test kit distribution
 - Trainings
 - Overdose prevention services
 - Public Health Messaging
- Opioid Settlement Funds
 - PC and partner jurisdictions estimate receiving \$48.5 mil over the next 18 years.
 - Distribution agreed upon by jurisdictions
 - All funds come to PCHD for distribution.
 - Jurisdictions can choose to take or leave their share
 - Minimum, if no cities or towns wish to collaborate, PC is estimated to receive \$35 million over 18 years.
 - Approved Use of dollars:
 - Treat, Support, Connect, Address the needs of criminal justice involved persons and pregnant or parenting women and prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing.
- Marijuana Sales Tax monies
 - From Prop 207 (2020) revenue is allocated to local health departments through Justice Reinvestment Fund
 - Monies are distributed twice a year.
 - The PCHD is evaluating programming in two areas, public and behavioral health and restorative justice.
 - PCHD proposes to use initial funding to extend existing PCHD programming and partnerships with schools and youth organizations.
 - Pima County Administrator is recommending:
 - BOH empanel a Substance Misuse Advisory Committee comprised of:
 - 4 current BOH members
 - Community representatives with defined, diverse areas of expertise
 - Subcommittee membership will include and hopefully meet within the next 6 weeks:
 - Community member representation from the 5 supervisory districts
 - Proportional representation from rural communities
 - Community members that are reflective of the county's broad racial and ethnic diversity
 - Subcommittee members will meet (at a time and duration of meetings within the next 6 weeks) in publicly noticed meetings
 - PCHD staff will provide administrative and research support for the committee
 - PCHD will act as the Secretariat for this committee
 - Subcommittee members will be asked to provide recommendations to the BOH on how opioid settlement dollars will be spent, using defined criteria for decision making and choosing among permitted uses of settlement dollars
 - Subcommittee recommendations for both the Opioid Settlement Monies and Marijuana Tax Revenue will be provided to the BOH for ratification and presentation to the Public Health Director, who will prepare them for action by the Board of Supervisors.
 - Dr. Horwitz announced formation of a sub-committee of 4 BOH members to include Mr. Mike Humphrey, Dr. Kathryn Kohler, Dr. Paul Horwitz and Dr. Theresa Cullen. The first sub-committee meeting will be held at 2:00 pm on October 26, 2022, followed by the Board of Health Meeting at 3:00 pm. During the first meeting, additional community

members will be discussed and decided on for inclusion. Dr. Kohler asked for list of suggested groups that might be a good source of community members to participate.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF BOH MEETINGS

- Dr. Horwitz introduced concerns regarding safety and the location of the BOH meetings. Lack of armed security at the PCHD Abrams Bldg. is a significant concern. Dr. Horwitz is simply attempting to secure a location that will be safe for all BOH members and the public. The BOS meeting room may be available in the future, however, in the interim, the SOC meeting room remains available despite the inaudible transmissions during this meeting due to feedback from audio equipment (commented on by Dr. Kohler). Dr. Horwitz feels that the BOH meetings need to be held in a secured location with public access that provides an armed security presence or Dr. Horwitz will only attend future meetings virtually.
- In support of security concerns, Dr. Cullen stated there have been multiple threats including death threats with protestors at the Abrams building and so security is a concern, however, this is not unique to Pima County mostly due to COVID-19.
- David Higuera, Chief of Staff District 2, attending virtually, suggested that the meetings be held entirely virtual, however because his comment was inaudible due to feedback, his comment was not all clearly transmitted. Mr. Rojas motioned to have the meetings remain hybrid at the SOC and Dr. Kohler seconded.
- The vote was 5 to 1 in favor staying at SOC, however, **because of the inaudible transmission** feedback several of the votes were not recognized because of audio transmission issues on the tape or in person so the vote was not accurate.
- Dr. Horwitz added that badges will be issued to BOH members for expedited access to SOC if the meeting remain.

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

- Ability to raise outside funds and how to legally do that for... **(inaudible)**

12. ADJOURNMENT

- The motion was made and seconded (Dr. Horwitz/Dr. Kohler) that the September 28, 2022, meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.