

Pima County Board of Health
Minutes
February 27, 2013
Room 1108, Abrams Building
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Mr. Schlueter called the roll as follows:

Mr. An - absent
Mr. Elías
Mr. Gastelum
Mr. Geoffrion
Ms. Gonzales
Dr. Horwitz
Ms. McComb-Berger
Mr. Rojas - absent
Dr. Smith
Mr. Stopani - absent
Ms. Trowbridge

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopt Board of Health January 9, 2013 Minutes

The motion was made and seconded (Gonzales/Trowbridge) that the January 9, 2013 Minutes be adopted as written. The motion carried.

4. CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MARTIN WILLETT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chief Deputy County Administrator Martin Willett said the legislative session has begun; the deadline for bill submissions has passed and approximately 1,600 bills were introduced. The deadline to hear the bills has also passed and roughly two thirds of the bills have ceased moving. He indicated that in any given year approximately 400 bills are identified that will impact our County in some manner. Every year there are themes; this year's themes include, gun control, school safety and election reform. This legislative session also includes bills on two large issues, sales tax reform and the expansion of Arizona's Medicaid system, which is the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or AHCCCS.

The Medicaid expansion deals with low-income childless adults. Due to the recession the State froze enrollment for these individuals; however, the Affordable Care Act will require State Medicaid programs to cover childless adults up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level or lose substantial federal funding. The proposed legislation includes a provider assessment to help generate revenue. However, if the “assessment” is considered a tax, then it will require a two-thirds majority to pass. Mr. Willett also touched on regulatory reform and a proposed bill to require no license fee for service and search and rescue animals.

5. PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY PRESENTATION ON “SPICE” AND SIMILAR DRUGS

Deputy County Attorney Paula Perrera discussed that her office was contacted by DEA and other law-enforcement agencies regarding their inability to enforce the Control Substances Act in relation to drugs commonly referred to as Spice and Bath Salts, due to these substances being easily and frequently modified. Initially the intent was to solicit community support, including a resolution from the Board of Health declaring such substances as a nuisance to public health, then obtain a Preliminary Injunction against businesses to prohibit them from selling Spice, Bath Salts and similar substances. However, State legislation, House Bill 2327, has been introduced that will address the issue and therefore the County Attorney’s Office will not be going the Preliminary Injunction route.

There are two groupings for these substances, synthetic cannabinoids, which are drugs that have effects similar to marijuana; and synthetic cathinones, which are drugs similar to amphetamines, cocaine and LSD. Health Department Special Staff Assistant Jodi McCloskey utilized the attached PowerPoint presentation to brief the Board on these substances.

The motion was made and seconded (Horwitz/Elías) that: 1) the Board of Health send a letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting House Bill 2327, and 2) Dr. Horwitz will contact Health Department Director García with suggestions about the Health Department doing a public education program and contacting vendors regarding these synthetic drugs.

6. PIMA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – HEALTH COMPONENT

Every decade Pima County establishes and updates a long term plan for land use, policy, strategy and action. This plan is known as the Comprehensive Plan and is mandated by Arizona Revised Statute. As directed by County Administrator Huckelberry, the upcoming plan will focus more on social equity, health and well-being than previous plans did. Ms. McCloskey provided the Board of Health with a copy of the current draft Pima County Health Planning Infrastructure Assessment (attached), which is a gap analysis to be used to inform the health portion of the Comprehensive Plan, and utilized a PowerPoint presentation (also attached) to brief the Board on the assessment. The Comprehensive plan is expected to be completed and approved by the Board of Supervisors by the summer of 2014.

7. CALL TO AUDIENCE

There were no speakers from the audience.

8. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Trowbridge summarized action items from the meeting. The action items identified were:

- Chief Deputy County Administrator Martin Willett was willing to return to future Board of Health meetings to discuss legislative issues as necessary and/or requested.
- Regarding Spice, Bath Salts and similar synthetic drugs, the Board will send a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of HB2327.
- Dr. Horwitz will talk with Dr. García about doing a public education program and contacting vendors regarding the aforementioned synthetic drugs.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.