

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Attendance was as follows:

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

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopt Board of Health May 28, 2014 Minutes

The motion was made and seconded (Geoffrion/Rojas) that the May 28, 2014 Minutes be adopted as written. The motion carried 7-0.

AD 1. STAFF REQUESTING BOARD OF HEALTH SUPPORT OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGE TO AMEND PIMA COUNTY CODE 6.04.090 AND 6.04.180 TO ALLOW RELEASE OF UNCLAIMED, UNALTERED ANIMALS TO A DULY INCORPORATED HUMANE SOCIETY OR OTHER NONPROFIT CORPORATE ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE WELFARE, PROTECTION AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Mr. Janes, Pima Animal Care Center Chief of External Affairs, started by saying he is grateful for the support of the Board of Supervisors and Board of Health as the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) has philosophically moved over the years from basically warehousing and euthanizing animals to efforts resulting in significantly higher live release outcomes. He was careful to laud the County Administration's decisions, efforts and investments to reduce euthanizing pets, to invest in spay/neuter and to build a new shelter.

Mr. Janes indicated staff is pursuing the ordinance change at the request of the County Attorney's Office. Current animal codes were based on thinking and dynamics in place when the codes were written; however, since then numerous rescue organizations have come into existence and have taken on a large role in treating, rehabilitating and rehoming animals in our community. In recent years rescue groups, by written agreement, have partnered with PACC and accounted for nearly half of the animals that leave PACC alive. However, current code does not acknowledge working with rescue organizations. Currently, Pima County Code 6.04.180 *Disposition of animals* only provides for two outcomes for animals in the County's control: a "suitable home" or "humanely destroyed." The proposed change would add, "released to a duly incorporated humane society or other nonprofit corporate organization devoted to the welfare, protection and humane treatment of animals" as another disposition option. Working with rescue groups allows for the saving of more pets. Mr. Janes pointed out that the live release rate for May 2014 was 80 percent, but just two years ago it was approximately half that. Year-to-date rescue groups have rescued 4,153 pets.

Additionally, animals not reclaimed are, by current code, with few itemized exceptions, required to be spayed or neutered prior to release from PACC. The proposed ordinance would also amend Pima County Code 6.04.090 *Mandatory spay/neuter program for dogs and cats* to allow for release of unaltered animals to the aforementioned organizations, which are then under the same legal spay/neuter requirements and would accomplish such at their expense. Mr. Janes is working with one of our community animal advocates to do a more comprehensive overhaul of the animal codes and said this proposed ordinance is an initial step.

There was discussion on rescue groups and problems occasionally experienced; how the problems were discovered; how they were addressed; and what PACC can and cannot do regarding complaints. Mr. Janes stressed that PACC will only work with trusted organizations that follow the law. PACC does not have resources to track pets in rescue, but deals with issues if they arise. Mr. Elías was careful to praise Mr. Janes for his efforts, care and advances at PACC, but suggested the ordinance needs tighter language. There was some concern that the ordinance could be controversial; and it was pointed out that the Pima Animal Care Advisory Committee narrowly passed their motion to support the ordinance, with the loosening of controls was a point of contention. Additionally, it was mentioned this ordinance could have implications on the upcoming PACC bond proposal vote.

The motion was made and seconded (Geoffrion/Rojas) that the Board table the proposed ordinance. The motion carried 6-2.

4. COMMUNITY CAT PROJECT

Mr. Janes said the County has been in dialogue with Best Friends Animal Society, an experience Utah based animal organization, regarding a three-year community cat, trap neuter release (TNR) project. The project infuses \$300,000 annually for infrastructure to address free roaming cats. There is no loose cat code like there is for loose dogs. Through the project cats exhibiting no evidence of being owned will be altered, vaccinated, ear tipped and returned to where they came from. Project benefits include altered cats being less of a nuisance and, over time, a reduction in free roaming cats. Other jurisdictions similarly partnering with Best Friends reported notable reductions in stray cats entering their shelters. This project is also an alternative to euthanizing feral cats brought to PACC. Through the project these cats can be handed over to Best Friends. The County will pay for the spay and neuter surgeries, with \$200,000 already set aside for this expense, in addition to funds set aside for low cost spay and neuter. Best friends will provide staff, a vehicle and traps to carry out the project.

The motion was made and seconded (Rojas/Emich) that the Board support the Best Friends Community Cat Project for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Elías did not vote.

5. AFFORDABLE CARE ACT DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

Health Department Deputy Director Marcy Flanagan introduced Program Coordinator Montserrat Caballero and Special Staff Assistant Spencer Graves who used the attached PowerPoint presentation to brief the Board on Affordable Care Act efforts in Pima County.

Open enrollment began in October, which is when staff began weekly meetings with community partners. Multifaceted collaborative efforts included being attached to large, local event websites; local media, flyers and posters; a Pima Community Access Program (PCAP) dedicated phone line; and hosted events. Collaboration continues and targeted outreach will resume in October.

Mr. Graves talked about Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) enrollment efforts in correctional settings. Currently community partners spend eight hours enrolling in the Pima County Adult Detention Center (PCADC or jail) on Tuesdays. Correctional enrollment efforts originally commenced in 2004. A few years ago AHCCCS worked with Pima County to allow AHCCCS suspension during incarceration versus termination. Referring to the chart in the presentation, Mr. Graves pointed out that detainees booked into the jail already AHCCCS enrolled climbed from 18 percent in December 2013 to 39 percent in May 2014. In the jail 51 percent of the inmates are on the mental health caseload; 39 percent have been identified as having a chronic medical condition; and 80 percent of medication costs are for psychotropic meds. The jail program begins with comparing booking reports with AHCCCS eligibility. When released from jail individuals are to call to finalize their applications. At the jail, January through May 2014 the program has initiated 175 applications. PCAP heads similar efforts in the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center five days a week. There are also enrollment efforts in other local correctional facilities, and Pima County Probation efforts will begin in July.

6. CALL TO AUDIENCE

There were no speakers from the audience.

7. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Horwitz did a meeting summation. An action item going forward was addressing the tabled proposed animal ordinance.

Mr. Elías requested the Board, at some time, hear about the Banner Health and University of Arizona Health Network merger.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.