



SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT (SEUHD)

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 26, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

Virtual - In Person MEETING

PRESENT

CARBON COUNTY *Virtual* - Zak Konakis, Chair,

In-person - Debbie Peet

EMERY COUNTY *In-person* - Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Kathi Kearney

GRAND COUNTY *Virtual* - Rhiana Medina, Vice-Chair

EXCUSED Kelli Wilson, Commissioner Mary McGann, Breann Davis

Commissioner Larry Jensen

ADMINISTRATION *Virtual* - Bradon Bradford, Delia Coss, Tracy Randall, Sara Braby, Brenda Addley
Brittney Garff

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Zak Konakis, Chair.
- II. **Public Comment** – Zak asked if there were any public comments. Hearing none, public comment was closed.
- III. **Minutes for July 18, 2023 – Review and possible approval** – Zak asked if there were any comments or corrections that needed to be made regarding the minutes. There were none.

Motion - (Kathi Kearney/Debbie Peet) Move to accept and approve the July 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Unanimous

Minutes for July 31, 2023 – Review and possible approval – Zak asked if there were any comments or corrections that needed to be made regarding the minutes. There were none.

Motion - (Kathi Kearney/Debbie Peet) Move to accept and approve the July 31, 2023 meeting minutes. Unanimous

IV. Budget

- A. **Check Register and Disbursement Listing** – Brady indicated that there were no questions or concerns received regarding the check register and disbursement listing. Debbie asked if the month of August was supposed to be part of the disbursement listing. Tracy stated that it was an error and that it would be included in the next meetings listing.

Motion - (Commissioner Jordan Leonard/Debbie Peet) Move to approve the Check Register and Disbursement Listing as presented. Unanimous.

- B. **Budget Changes** – Tracy stated that there was one new contract. The MRC STTNRONG (State, Territory and Tribal Nations, Representative Organizations for Next Generation). The purpose of the grant is to help in supporting the efforts of the MRC program in strengthening readiness in rural underserved communities, outgoing outreach and addressing needs of at-risk individuals. The funding is to be spent within a two year period. Zak asked if the funding was for hiring additional staff or was it additional ongoing funding. Tracy indicated that it was to get the program better established in rural areas.

Motion – (Debbie Peet/Kathie Kearney) Move to accept the Budget Changes as presented. Unanimous.

- C. **WIC and the Federal Shutdown** - Brady stated that the possibility of the State shutting down would mostly impact funding for the purchase of food and the way funding is distributed. Funds will be restricted and it will be up to all local agencies to float funding for the program. At this time, the State has enough funding to cover the administrative portion of WIC for one month. The funding for food purchases are unclear. If needed, the SEUHD general funds may be used to keep the program running with reassurance that the State will reimburse the SEUHD. For now, a general agreement can be made as it becomes more likely moving forward. Actual funding amounts needed will be provided. A plan has been put in place for WIC staff to work in other SEUHD programs doing cross training utilizing Covid funding. Kathi asked where funding for the purchase of food would come from. Brady stated that the SEUHD would not have the ability to cover that cost. It will be up to the State to determine how to cover that cost. Board action is not needed at this time but there may be a need for potential action in the future and an emergency meeting will be called if needed.

- V. **Accreditation - what does it look like** – Brady stated that accreditation has been discussed for some time now and presented to the board of what the process will look like for the SEUHD and to educate the board on where the SEUHD is at in the process. This discussion will be taking the place of the discussion on the strategic plan of which this is related. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has created a Pathway Program that assists health departments to get 50-60% of their accreditation completed. The cost is also significantly less from about \$2000 which is less than the \$15-20k depending on population size. Brady stated that he and Delia had met with PHAB and reviewed the Pathways Program. Brady reviewed the different measures to be completed. Measure 1.1.1 is just one of the measures that is part of the accreditation process.

Part of this measure is to develop a community health assessment which has been done where other organizations were involved but it was not indicated how they were involved. Moving forward that step will be added. The data points are good and won't require much enhancement. Demographics information has been prepared by Hannah and will be provided in a positive light to the accreditation board. The description of health challenges experienced by the populations served by the SEUHD is a fairly robust positive. The SEUHD has spent some time examining the differences between local populations and their access to care, etc. Due to the fact that our local populations are small, there hasn't been a lot of effort put into obtaining data differences between them. The Health Equity program has done a good job working on inequities and community assets.

Documentation of those factors and how they will be maintained moving forward, is something that will need to be improved. 1.2.1 Collects non surveillance health data - Unemployment, poverty, physical facility access, transportation. This data has been collected by our community health center. 1.2.2 Data sharing agreements with other State and Federal governments. Data is analyzed and policy decisions are made.

The 2.1.1 Surveillance protocol is related to the infectious disease rule and maintaining connection with the State epidemiologist. The remainder of the measures pertains to Emergency Preparedness measures that are addressed by the preparedness staff. Brady stated that discussion has not been held regarding a Community Health Care Plan (CHCP) which is an area that the SEUHD will need to be more involved in. Zak asked if section 1.1.1, in yellow, indicated that a better management plan needed to be in place or a better data management warehouse and/or what has been the major hurdle. Brady stated that it is mostly documentation of what is being done. Policy decisions have been made in the past, but documentation of how and why it is going to affect a certain population has not been done. That data access is improving and has been presented to the board. Zak asked if the data was going to be used to do another community health needs assessment. Brady stated, yes. The SEUHD is 18 months away from the next community health assessment. This is good timing to formalize language, establish partnerships, work with certain groups in preparing to complete the community health assessment to meet requirements. Debbie stated that as far as implementing the plan and doing the accreditation, will the board be part of the process or will they just approve the plan. Brady stated that the board involvement will be minimal and will be for approval of the plan and funding to proceed. Brady presented additional slides on the measures. Once these measures are completed, the SEUHD will be 65% done in meeting the goals of accreditation. No action by the board is needed at this time.

- VI. Possible Transition of Employee to Practice Social Work -** – Brady stated that Brenda Addley is presently a Community Health Worker at the SEUHD and now a certified social worker. Brenda will continue to work Health Equity and eventually will potentially, with the boards approval, fill a gap in the community particularly counseling with youth that don't meet the criteria to be seen by Four Corners Behavioural Health and don't have insurance to be seen by a private agency. In order to proceed, the SEUHD will be required to contract with a licensed supervisor for one year for \$1.00/year. Brenda's counseling ties in with her Health Equity tasks. Brenda introduced herself and stated that she has been a community health worker since November 2021. In January of 2022 she began the graduate program of social work at USU Eastern.

During that time she has helped staff cases with the PAT and WIC programs with first time parents and grandparents as caretakers, which is a large population now, helping parents deal with special needs children and the new life change. Brenda has donated 500 hours during her practicum serving clients.

The numbers reported on the board packet are a lot higher than reported. Mental health providers in Carbon County are one to 600 people, Emery County is one to 1,400 people and Grand County is one to 600 people. Moving forward Brenda indicated that she would be able to help young families change the generational hardships/struggles that they are experiencing. Brenda stated that she graduated in August and is DOPL approved with Jan Thornton, professor at USU Eastern as her supervisor and has signed a contract with her for the next two years in order to obtain training hours in order to become a licensed clinical social worker.

The local resources available in the community have a waiting period of six-eight weeks. PAT and WIC clients will meet with Brenda and make an action plan then they can be referred to local resources for additional assistance.

Brenda reviewed the budget needed to fund a full-time social worker at the SEUHD. Grant funding can be used to offset cost and for treatment for SEUHD clients. Debbie asked if Medicaid or private insurances would be billed through the SEUHD or is it going to be a cash payment. Brenda stated that Four Corners Behavioural Health has the contract with the State Medicaid. It is the intent of the grant funding to cover the expenses for a social worker and the services would be free of charge. At this time there is not a licensed clinical social worker on staff at the SEUHD. Brenda stated that during her service hours at the SEUHD, most of the people that were seen by her indicated that they did not have the financial means to pay for mental health services. Zak asked how many she had seen built in a given month. Brenda indicated that her service hours were done within a nine month period and she saw 20 clients. Some were referred to a medical doctor for medication treatment. Most clients were seen every week to every other week until it was determined and agreed upon that services were no longer needed. There were five clients that continued until the end of Brenda's service time and they were then resourced out into other mental health facilities. Zak stated that this service although it may not seem to be within the scope of the SEUHD, it is based on health equity and social determinants of health. Zak continued by stating that the State is coming out with a few different behavioral health positions that do basic triage, that may be something that the SEUHD can look at if a supervisor position was established first.

Mental Health Practices Grant Information - Brenda stated that the grant applies to the underserved population in the three counties. The due date for submission of the grant is July of 2024. Brady stated that the SEUHD will continue to pursue other resources for funding of the program and when a grant is awarded, the Board can review and make a motion then. Debbie asked Brenda if Jan Thorton was her mentor/advisor during the time that she was doing her service 500 hours. Brenda stated, yes.

VII. Board of Health Social Media Campaign - Brittney reminded the board members about submitting their information for the campaign if they haven't already done so. .

VIII. Public Health Report

A. Clinical and Family Services - Sara stated that every Thursday a touch point meeting is held with all clinical services staff regarding vaccinations and updates.

There are shipping and order delays regarding the Covid vaccines RSV will be offered for infants, pregnant women and older adults.

A new program is being implemented called TransAct RS which will allow for the billing of vaccines covered by Medicare.

The flu roll out will begin on Monday in all of the offices. The CDC has introduced posters called Wild to Mild for flu vaccines.

The SEUALG Food Bank has donated diapers through their assistance program for SEUHD clients

The clinical services staff and nursing director goals have been reviewed.

TB screening procedures for staff have been reviewed and Donald Cotton will be tracking the TB screenings for all staff.

Whitney Oviatt has been hired as the public health nutritionist. Whitney has a three year degree in nutrition. A three year plan is in place to allow for Whitney to obtain her license as a dietician. After she obtains her license, this position will be expanded to other SEUHD programs such as PAT and Health Promotion. An additional PAT educator will be hired for the PAT program.

The SEUHD will be hosting the Price Headstart health fair in Price and at the Castle Dale offices on October 4th. There will be resources and activities for families.

A partnership has been established with the USU to have a flu clinic on October 9-10 and it is open to the public. USU will pay for the first 300 vaccinations. The drive thru flu clinics will be held October 25th from 9-4 in Emery County, the 30th in Grand from 1-4 and the 31st in Price 1-4.

Discussion was held regarding the delays in receiving the Covid vaccine.

- B. Community Health (Promotion and Education) - Nothing to report at this time.
- C. Environmental Health - Nothing to report at this time.
- D. Emergency Preparedness - Nothing to report at this time. The local Health Care Coalition will be doing a radiation surge plan. The SEUHD was asked to assist with the solar eclipse event in San Juan county.

IX. Ad Hoc Committee (Moab Office Building, Health Officer annual review)

Brady stated that the health officer evaluation takes place between September and November. Brady indicated that preliminary bid information from one company was sent to the board regarding the expansion of the Moab office and are awaiting additional bids.

An ad hoc committee needs to be established to oversee the process for the Moab office Building. Zak asked for nominations/volunteers for the Moab office building review committee. Rhiana stated that she would be able to help depending on time commitment.

Brady stated that it would be hard to know how much time will be needed but to start possibly one hour per month. Brady stated that this committee will ensure that all aspects of the project is sound and financially where it should be and basically that good decisions are made. Nominated to serve on the committee was Commissioner Larry Jensen, Commissioner Jordan Leonard and Rhiana Medina. Zak asked for volunteers/nominations for the health officer annual review committee.

Kelly Wilson, Zak Konakis, and Commissioner Mary McGann were nominated.

Motion - (Kathi Kearney/Rhiana Medina) Move to approve the Moab office building Ad Hoc Committee and the health officer annual review committee as listed above. Unanimous

X. Closed Session - if necessary

XI. Board Comments - Brady stated that he wanted to ensure that there were no changes to the board stand on the decision that was made regarding the settlement with the Moab Free Health Clinic and stated that the legal council recommends that the board stand on the decision made. Kathi stated that there was no need to change and proceed with legal council recommendation, Zak agreed. Rhiana asked if the settlement offer from the MFHC was for the amount indicated in the letter. Brady stated, yes. Rhiana also asked if the WIC program would be paid back. Brady stated, yes the WIC grant will be paid back. Debbie asked that the meeting be moved to a closed session

. Motion - (Kathi Kearney/Debbie Peet) Move to move the board meeting to a closed session. Approved - Debbie Peet, Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Kathi Kearney, Rhiana Medina and Zak Konakis.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. **The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.**

Zak Konakis, Board Chair

Bradon Bradford, Health Officer