

Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Southwest Utah Board of Health
Festival Hall Rooms 5 & 6
105 N 100 E, Cedar City, UT
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Celeste Meyeres Kane County
Commissioner Gil Almquist..... Washington County
Commissioner Jerry Taylor..... Garfield County
Commissioner Paul Cozzens..... Iron County
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead..... Beaver County
Dr. Kenneth Snow..... Washington County
Mr. Nick Reynolds..... Garfield County
Mr. Scott Symond..... Beaver County
Mr. Kent Peterson Iron County

Members Not Present:

Ms. Jerica Bauer Kane County

Others Present:

Dr. David W. Blodgett, Director/Health Office..... SWUPHD
Mr. Cameron Mitchell, Deputy Director..... SWUPHD
Mr. Jeff Shumway, Business Manager..... SWUPHD
Ms. Katherine Soto, Administrative Assistant..... SWUPHD

Commissioner Jerry Taylor called the meeting to order at **10:00 a.m.**

Minutes Approval	Commissioner Cozzens made a motion to accept the minutes from FEBRUARY 2023 . Dr. Kenneth Snow seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Financial Update <i>by Jeff Shumway</i>	A Revenue and Expense Financial Report was shared with Board Members. The Report showed that with 42% of the year complete, the department had received 49% of expected revenues, and spent 41% of budgeted expenditures. Mr. Peterson made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Commissioner Cozzens seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
Minimum Performance Standards Certification <i>by Dr. Blodgett</i>	Overview of health department state requirements. Signed that we have a certified health department and meet minimum requirements by having community health assessments, register deaths & births, environmental health scientists, epidemiologists, health officer, emergency preparedness program, financial audit every year, access to the lab for water sampling, and access to the state lab, etc. Dr. Snow made a motion to accept the minimum performance standards certification. Commissioner Meyeres seconded the motion.

**Department
Communications:**
by Dave Heaton PIO

The communications department focused on getting vital information out to the public within the five counties. With a team of 2 staff members, Dave Heaton & Tina Hicks, they create, approve, distribute, and monitor public health information through current outlets of live presentations, newspapers, magazine, radio/podcast, and online: website, social media & email.

Radio: Dr. Blodgett on KDXU first Wednesday of the month am 890.
Dave Heaton: Wednesdays at 630-7am.

Website: swuhealth.org majority of services can be found and accessed online. Forms are available to fill out, download and print. Phone numbers are listed to call and make appointments.

Health magazine: Visually interesting public health magazine is sent out free of charge to most residents in the district, about 80,000 homes. The magazine has won 6 Best of State awards. Received feedback from the public that it is short enough to enjoy the entire magazine. The next issue will be focused on sleep.

Social media is generationally based. Older generations use Facebook while younger generations are on Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. Twitter is useful for large scale emergency communication channels. Social media can get immediate feedback by knowing who is watching and commenting. Boosting posts is great to bump up posts and receive greater responses. The biggest demographic is females between ages 25-45 and 65% consist of mothers & wives.

The continual challenge is reaching rural areas.

**Trending Issues in
Public Health**
by Dr. Blodgett

The data modernization initiative is a multi-year multi-billion effort to modernize data across the federal and state public health landscape. This would create a more actionable set of data that is real-time, and constantly updated to the hands of decision-makers to act more quickly when things develop. Privacy is a main concern.

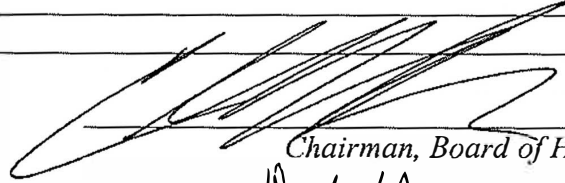
Covid is still reportable but Southwest Utah Public Health is not reporting on the website. We are recipients of this information and only 1-2 staff have access to information.

Vaccine hesitancy: Vaccines began to drop one year before covid and have plateaued. Once a community reaches below 80% vaccination rate, herd immunity is lost. Discussed public confidence levels.

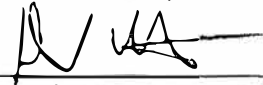
Aging of America: Global Phenomenon. Within the next 5 years, supposed to cross the threshold where there are fewer children under the age of 18 than there are people over the age of 65. Society is supposed to be structured as a pyramid with young people coming up to take care of older people.

WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Program Update: previously proposed to cut a lot of money, but was able to secure previous funding.
DEQ, Division of Environmental Quality: Interactions with DEQ have been limited, strained with small grants, and we overspend every year. Funding has not substantially changed in the last 10-20 years. Probably won't sign contracts this year.

Other Business <i>by Dr. Blodgett</i>	Introduction of Lloyd Berentzen, part-time consultant. He comes with expertise in financial management and updating accounting systems.
Presentation <i>by Dr. Blodgett</i>	Presented on the topic of healthy weight and obesity. Utah is at 28% obesity rate, compared to over 40% in most states.
Adjournment	Commissioner Hollingshead made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.



Chairman, Board of Health



Secretary, Board of Health

8-9-2023
Date

8/9/2023
Date