

Meeting Minutes from the TriCounty Board of Health Regular Meeting

March 27, 2024

LOCATION

TriCounty Health Department - 133 S 500 W - Vernal

ATTENDEES

Chairman Dr. John Mathis, Commissioner Randy Asay, Commissioner John Laursen, Commissioner Tracy Killian, Dr. Richard Jolley, Shanna Wheeler, Keith Goodspeed, Kim Harding, KayCee Asay, Sage McMickell, Ashley Linshoten, Director Kirk Benge, Bruce McKee, Raima Colledge, Sydnee Lamb, Darrin Brown, Joe Hadlock, Jon Stearmer

Virtual Attendance: Jodi Tinker

EXCUSED

None

AGENDA

Call to order

12:08 pm

Approval of January 17, 2024 Minutes

Kim Harding made a motion to approve the January 17, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Laursen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

Director Benge reviewed the significant legislative bills for the year 2024:

- Tobacco
 - SB61 - prohibits the sale of electronic cigarette products that have not received market authorization or are pending market authorization from the FDA; codifies a nicotine limit for electronic cigarette products; prohibits the sale of flavored electronic cigarette products (all flavors other than tobacco and menthol); and creates a registry for electronic cigarette products. Increases LHD authority to inspect and take action on illegal vape products. UALHD is working to create a workgroup of LHD tobacco enforcement folks to review and create an operational framework.
 - SB133 - Requires the State Tax Commission to report suspected sales of illegal electronic cigarette products or nicotine products to the LHD, DHHS, and the Department of Public Safety; Requires the local health department to investigate whether the sale is illegal; Requires the State Tax Commission to maintain and publish a list of license vape product distributors; Requires retailers to buy nicotine and vape products from a licensed distributor or face fines.
 - HB128 - Permits minors to consent to and participate in tobacco and nicotine cessation services that are delivered or contracted for by the Department of Health and Human Services or a local health department. Environmental Health
 - HB403 - Requires the DHHS to create minimum rules of sanitation for body art facilities; (TriCHD BOH adopted a local rule in 2001. This will be a good opportunity to get all LHDs on the same page and update rules to better respond to changes in the industry) - SB106 - Prohibits DHHS from creating rules related to Cold Plunge Baths
- PH Authority

- HB405 - Changes local LHD orders isolation and quarantine; Involuntary quarantine and Isolation can only be imposed on a person who has cholera; pneumonic plague; SARS; smallpox; tuberculosis; viral hemorrhagic fever; measles; or a new, drug-resistant, or reemerging infectious disease if it is highly dangerous; but only if the relevant legislative body of the county where the infection is located approves. Requires medical students' vaccine and mask requirements to have the same exemption policies as healthcare workers. DHHS opposed this bill, in part, due to the repeal of 26B-7-204. (In my opinion, this is a non-issue. This section defines who is subject to examination, treatment, quarantine, or isolation under an order of restriction, then simply states that in these cases, we can follow part 3; Part 3 then goes on to define an order of restriction (specifically in regards to examination, treatment, isolation, or quarantine)... that the DHHS director or an LHO can issue an order of restriction... and then relists exactly the same definitions as in Part 2; as they apply to both "individuals" or "groups of individuals", as opposed to only individuals as in part 2). Repealing 26B-7-204 really cleans things up and simplifies the code in my opinion.
- HB422 - Clarifies that LHDs or the state medical director of DHHS can issue prescriptions. Removes the requirement that the DHHS medical director must approve a written health department protocol for LHDs; Grants authority to the medical director of the LHD to approve a written health department protocol on prescriptions.
- SB 13 - Creates home-based micro-school and micro-education entities with "similar duties, requirements, waivers, and rights as private and charter schools". Exempts such schools from vaccine requirements and prohibits LHDs from inspecting if the entity does not prepare and serve food.
- Data
 - HB212 - Vital record Amendments. This bill has provided a lot of technical changes. It clarifies what type of information the Office of Vital Records and Statistics must delete; clarifies who must submit a birth registration; clarifies when a birth registration must be submitted; allows DHHS to notify DOPL when health care providers fail to complete a birth registration; clarifies who may complete a fetal death certificate;
 - HB41 - Health Data Authority - modifies the membership of the Health Data Committee; transfers duties from the Health Data Committee to DHHS; modifies requirements related to obtaining health data; extends the sunset date related to DHHS health data authority.
- DEI
 - HB261 - I'm still working through this one, but it essentially prohibits higher ed and government from relying on "individual characteristics" when making decisions about employment or education. It has more impact on state colleges and universities, but it prohibits policies, procedures, practices, programs, or initiatives that are referred to as diversity, equity, and inclusion. The law also prohibits the use of diversity statements or commitments in hiring and admission processes.

Director Kirk Benge reported on individuals in the Tri-County area who were hospitalized for infectious diseases and had received vaccines.

- Influenza: 8% of hospitalizations were vaccinated
- COVID: 3% of hospitalizations were vaccinated
- Adult RSV: 0% of hospitalizations were vaccinated

Environmental Health Updates

Darrin Brown reported on recent Environmental Health updates.

- ESRI is currently helping us with the implementation of our new database. We are currently working on getting all Environmental Health records scanned and uploaded. This database should be a paperless system once it is completed.
- Tanning salons are not to allow anyone under the age of 18 to tan without a parent or guardian present. Unfortunately, two out of four of our local salons were in violation.

- At our next meeting, Darrin will present fee schedule changes. We have not raised many of our fees in years and with inflation, we do not want a large increase. We would prefer to opt for smaller and more frequent increases.
- Discussion about waiving fees for nonprofit and/or underprivileged community members.

Approval of Check Register

Bruce McKee reported the check register for December 2023 to the present.

Commissioner Tracy Killian made a motion to approve the check register as presented. Kim Harding seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

- Bruce McKee presented a snapshot of the current financial report.
- There was discussion about the need to purchase fleet vehicles as leasing vehicles is no longer an option.

Add Bruce McKee as authorized Signer - Zions Bank

Commissioner John Laursen made a motion to approve the addition of Bruce McKee to the TriCounty Health Zions Bank account. Commissioner Tracy Killian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Contracts

Director Kirk Benge went over new and amended contracts.

DHHS

- SDOH Plan and Implementation
- TB Prevention and Control Amendment 7
- STD Disease Intervention Services - 2019 Amendment 7
- HIV Prevention 2023 Amendment 2
- Compass System Amendment 1
- TriCounty Health and WISEWOMAN 2024-2028
- Local Health Dept WIC Program - Amendment 7

Annual Report

Director Kirk Benge presented TriCounty Health's 2023 Annual Report.

- There was a lot of discussion in regards to TriCounty having the highest age-adjusted suicide rate and birth rates for females aged 15-19.

Additional Updates & Discussion

During the meeting, Director Kirk Benge reminded the board members of the upcoming 2024 UALBOH and NALBOH Annual Conferences. He requested that those who are interested in attending should contact Raima Colledge. Additionally, there was a discussion about TriCounty's Board of Health Retreat, and it was agreed upon that they would visit a facility in the TriCounty area. Director Kirk Benge will be responsible for finding a suitable location, and the tentative date for the visit is May 2nd, 2024.

Adjourn

Dr Richard Jolley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm.