UTAH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

151 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PROVO, UTAH 84601

MINUTES

May 19, 2014

Members Present:

Name		Name	
Gaye L. Ray, RN	excused	**Teresa Tavares**	X
Clyde Nielsen, RPh	X	**Mayor Jeff Acerson**	X
Supt. Keith Rittel	X	**Diane Lohner**	X
Dianne C. Carr	X	**Cmsr. Doug Witney, Chair**	X
Henry M. Yeates, M.D.	X		

Others present: Dr. Joseph Miner - Utah County Health Department (UCHD) Executive Director
Debbi Solen - UCHD Secretary
Number of other staff and visitors who attended - 15

1. Board Chair Commissioner Witney introduced and welcomed new board member, Supt. Keith Rittel.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 24, 2014 meeting

MOTION: Dianne Lohner made the motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Teresa Tavares and passed by unanimous vote.

3. Household Hazardous Waste Event Report

Andrea Jensen reported on the great success of this annual event. Dr. Eugene Cole from BYU has helped tremendously with this event each year. There were 45 trained volunteers who served as well as employees from the South County and North County transfer stations. This year was the best attended with 855 vehicles, an increase from last year's count of 750. Some of the collection amounts were: shredder truck (5,580 lbs.), electronics (142,235 lbs.), glass (1,102 lbs.), paint (29,554 lbs.) and prescription take back (560 lbs.). Last year only 4 large boxes of prescriptions were collected, this year there were 17. All of the paint was donated to Habitat for Humanity.

If you missed this event you can recycle glass at the Target Stores in Orem and American Fork and recycle electronics at Best Buy in Orem. IM Flash in Lehi has requested Utah County support for a recycle event

in September using their facility and employees and they would pay to have Veolia pick up the collections. They are working out the details with their legal division.

4. Festival of Colors Report

Steve Alder and Jan Rogers reported on the Festival of Colors. An estimated 70,000 people attended. Letters were sent to hospitals and urgent care centers asking them to report back to the Utah County Health Department (UCHD) the number of respiratory issues, injuries and other medical occurrences related to this event. Mountain View Hospital, Timpanogos Regional Hospital and 4 urgent care centers reported back. There was a small increase in asthma related medical responses. There was one injury from crowd surfing, similar to the one in 2013. The other injuries were similar to those occurring at other mass gathering events.

Environmental Health was on-site and conducted air monitoring. When the colors were thrown the highest level was 19. This was short term but there was a residual thicker cloud as the day progressed. The colored particulate powder is cornstarch so if it gets into the food it shouldn't be too much of a concern unless you have an allergy to cornstarch. Blowers were provided at the parking areas for cleaning as water creates too much of a mess. Buses were provided from the parking areas to the festival and back, there were plenty of restrooms and the food was not cooked in the area inhabited by the animals. There were some power issues but these were worked out.

The people who put on the festival have been easy to work with and want the event to be safe for everyone. Some public information on asthma prevention related to this event could be useful for next year.

5. Utah County Clean Air Task Force Update

Although Utah County's worst problems are during winter inversions ozone is becoming more of a summertime pollutant as well. The Chamber of Commerce has been discussing with employers incentives for car pooling, riding bicycles to work, UTA passes, etc. Some have asked that diesel vehicle inspections be conducted again, but this isn't very effective because the computer chip can be easily turned on for the inspection and turned off again. The best alternative is to have the police/sheriff give fix-it citations for smoking vehicles. After 3 citations the vehicle can be impounded. This would be the most effective way to identify violators who willfully alter the diesel pollution control equipment back and forth at will.

Educating the public and having the public report smoking vehicles either on-line or with a phone call is effective as well. A reported vehicle is put on a list that makes it impossible to register it until repairs are made. Andrea Jensen and Steve Alder are planning to meet with the local mayors and law enforcement to discuss the smoking vehicle enforcement.

There was a bill before the Legislature this year that did not pass which would have authorized law enforcement to keep the money from the citations. EPA is starting to fine manufacturers of diesel on/off chips if they are sold for any vehicle other than those for off road. Most state rules are already on the books for enforcement of the "Fix it Ticket."

Our air quality problem is already affecting economic growth because companies considering locating here are concerned about the quality of life for their workers and about restrictions on their manufacturing

processes. An article was mentioned describing "Smog Eating Concrete," concrete with chemicals in it which react with air pollutants removing them from the environment.

6. Arsenic Levels allowed in drinking water from Private Wells

Some private well owners have water exceeding the EPA standard of no more than 10 ppb arsenic; therefore, they are not allowed to build a home using that water. The County Community Development office has drafted a proposal allowing private well owners in unincorporated areas of Utah County to build a private home if they treat the water at the source by reverse osmosis to less than 10 ppb. The untreated water must not exceed 20 ppb arsenic. The filter needs to be replaced routinely and periodic water testing must be done either by UCHD or the home owner. The well would have to be re-certified every 3 years with UCHD. Monitoring and enforcement of this ordinance would be conducted by UCHD and a fee would be charged to cover our costs.

The requirement to treat the well water for arsenic would be disclosed to future buyers of the property because it will be on the title report and should therefore be disclosed before closing. The Ordinance wording is for subdivisions but the Board recommended it be changed to cover every affected lot as well. It was also recommended that non-compliance with the ordinance be a zoning violation thereby not allowing anyone to live in a home with untreated water.

MOTION: Dianne Carr made the motion to support the new ordinance with the recommended changes which was seconded by Diane Lohner and passed by unanimous vote.

7. Board Member Feedback from Constituents

1. Commissioner Witney said the West Mountain Clean-Up was a huge success. This is the area west of Utah Lake where many people dump trash, old appliances, tires, electronics, etc. and use the trash for target shooting. Approximately 250 Alpine and Nebo high school students participated along with the BLM and the Dept. of Agriculture. In just 2 hrs in one area of Soldier Pass, 8-10 tons of garbage was collected. The previous month 12 tons of garbage was collected in another West Mountain area. There is still much to do. The Dept. Of Agriculture has received a grant that will allow Utah County Public Works to build a fence and plant trees along the road which will hopefully keep the area from becoming a garbage dump again.

2. Superintendent Ritell asked Dr. Miner to present information on the health effects of electromagnetic radiation from cell phone towers to the Provo School Board. Dr. Miner, Bryce Larsen and Brian Nielson, from Environmental Health, presented information to the school board. The School District rents space on roofs of several school buildings to the cell tower companies as a revenue source for the schools. Some parents had concerns about the safety of this practice.

The energy level of radio-frequency (RF) waves is relatively low, especially when compared with the types of ionizing radiation that are known to increase cancer risk, such as gamma rays, x-rays and ultraviolet (UV) light. The energy of RF waves given off by cell phone towers is not enough to break chemical bonds in DNA molecules, which is how these stronger forms of radiation may lead to cancer. Levels of energy from RF waves near cell phone towers are not significantly different from the background levels of RF radiation in urban areas from other sources, such as radio and television broadcast stations.

The cell towers must be protected with a fence or barrier to prevent electrical or other safety hazards. No one should be allowed to climb the towers or play around them. Four pages of information were given out as well as discussion. Brian will send the information presented to the Alpine and Nebo School Districts.

3. Two of the three large commercial trampoline gyms have been complying with our request we receive their injury reports. We also have the report from Utah Valley Trauma Center. The Trauma Center is also in the process of gathering information from all IHC physicians and insta-care facilities. Listed on the hospital report were trampoline injuries that occurred at smaller trampoline businesses open to the public for very limited hours. These are believed to be gymnastic school facilities and portable bounce houses. Other hospitals in Utah County need to be contacted to make sure we are getting a complete picture. Eric Edwards, from UCHD Health Promotion, will oversee this project.

8. New Employees

Board members were referred to the list of employee changes. Mosquito Abatement has completed hiring their seasonal workers.

9. UPHA Conference Report

It was a very informative meeting held at the new Convention Center. The room space for the meetings was excellent, but there were complaints about the quality of the lunch served on the first day.

10. Other Business

July 24th there will be a Rodeo at the Spanish Fork Fairgrounds.
The Board was shown the new Utah County logo which the Health Department will also use.
A draft of the 2013 Annual Report was given out for Board member review.

Our next meeting will be July 28, 2014.

MOTION: Henry Yeates made the motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Clyde Nielsen and passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Joseph K. Miner, MD

Joseph. Miner, M.D.
Executive Director
Utah County Health Department

Commissioner Doug Witney
Chair
Utah County Board of Health