

Meeting Minutes from the TriCounty Board of Health Regular Meeting

Dec 4, 2024

LOCATION

TriCounty Health Department - 133 S 500 W - Vernal

ATTENDEES

Chairman Dr. John Mathis, Commissioner Randy Asay, Commissioner Tracy Killian, Shanna Wheeler, Keith Goodspeed, Kim Harding, Director Kirk Benge, Darrin Brown, Bruce McKee, Raima Colledge, KayCee Asay, Rob Grove, Ashley Linshoten, Sydnee Lamb, Dr. Karl Breitenbach.

Virtual attendees: Jodi Tinker, Sage McMickell

EXCUSED

Dr. Richard Jolley, Commissioner John Laursen, Emmett Duncan, Joe Hadlock

AGENDA

Call to order

12:13 p.m.

Approval of Sept. 25, 2024 Minutes

Kim Harding made a motion to approve the Sept. 25, 2024 minutes. Tracy Killian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

- DEQ - Unilateral Decision to Cease Contracts
 - DEQ informed TriCounty Health Department and other local health departments that it would no longer contract with local health departments starting July 1, 2025. This decision comes without any input from local health officers. Kirk Benge expressed shared frustrations among health officers considering that the minimum performance standards would remain the same with less funds being distributed to LHDs to support their work.
 - The Board advised Kirk Benge to seek legal counsel on how to proceed.
- Active Pertussis Case(s) Updates:
 - There was a known case in November where several students from Uintah High School were exposed. Prophylactic measures were taken with the students who were exposed and no other cases have been reported.
 - While there have not been any new known cases, TriCounty Health Department has noticed a significant increase in immunization exemptions (12%) and is concerned at the potential for a disease outbreak. The current rate of adequately immunized kindergarteners is at roughly 80%, where the ideal rate would be somewhere between 90-95% for herd immunity. Given the current trend in declining vaccination rates, it would be very difficult to contain and handle an outbreak.
 - The change in the online exemption process has made it more convenient to get an exemption and TriCounty Health plans to work with the Utah Department of Human & Health Services to

review the module.

Director Kirk Benge turned the time over to Dr. Karl Breitenbach to offer his insights and assessment of the declining trends in child vaccination rates.

- Dr. Breitenbach called attention to the fact that while the module can be helpful for those who are sure they want an exemption, it is not a sufficient source for those who are hesitant about immunizing their child and have questions.

Director Kirk Benge asked the Board for their support to write a letter to the community regarding this trend and the associated risks.

Randy Asay made a motion to draft a letter to the community to be signed by the Board. Kim Harding seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Check Register

Bruce McKee reported the check register for September through November of 2024. He provided a more detailed digital account of the expenses as well as an abridged paper copy for board members' perusal.

Tracy Killian made a motion to approve the check register as presented. Shanna Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

- Bruce McKee presented the current financial report which included; all bank accounts, health department cash and cash equivalents, federal and state revenue vs total expenditures and the operational budget report.

Resolution to adopt 2024 Amended Budget

The Board reviewed both the original and the amended 2024 budget. The original budget was adjusted from 5,299,583.00 to 5,365,845.80 to accommodate building renovations that were permitted in the Sept. 25th meeting.

Kim Harding made a motion to approve the resolution to adopt the 2024 amended budget as presented. Shanna Wheeler seconded the motion. The resolution passed.

Adoption of the 2025 Proposed Budget

TriCounty Health Department held a public budget hearing on Dec. 3rd, at 6 p.m. which no one attended. The board reviewed the proposed budget and agreed to adopt it.

Kim Harding made a motion to adopt the 2025 budget. Keith Goodspeed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of 2025 Meeting Schedule

The Board reviewed the proposed meeting schedule with plans to adopt it as is and make any changes as necessary.

Tracy Killian made a motion to adopt the meeting schedule as presented with the option to make adjustments as needed. Shanna Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Contracts

Director Kirk Benge went over new and amended contracts.

- Community and Clinical Interventions Amendment 3
- Local Health Department WIC Program - 2024-2029

- TriCounty Death Data Sharing - Amendment 1

Closed Meeting (litigation)

Kim Harding made a motion to move into a closed session to discuss eminent litigation. Shanna Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Asay made a motion to move out of a closed session. Keith Goodspeed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Meeting (evaluation of the Health Officer)

Tracy Killian made a motion to move into a closed session. Keith Goodspeed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kim Harding made a motion to move out of a closed session. Shanna Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional Updates & Discussion

- Student Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Legislative Dinner - Dec. 2nd, 6:30 p.m. - feedback
- Reminder of Board Terms Set to Expire - 2024
- Board Elections will be in January
- OPMA reminder - Required annual training for all public governing body members
- Annual Conflict of Interest -
- Manila Clinic Construction: Building design has been finalized and will include office spaces for TriCounty Health Department and Northeastern Counseling.

Adjourn

Kim Harding made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 p.m. Shanna Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.