



SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT (SEUHD)

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 23, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid Virtual & In Person Meeting

PRESENT

CARBON COUNTY *In-person* - Debbie Peet, Commissioner Larry Jensen, Zak Konakis, Chair

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

GRAND COUNTY *In-person* - Breann Davis, Vice-Chair

Virtual - Rhiana Medina

EXCUSED Kelly Wilson, Commissioner Melodie McCandless

ADMINISTRATION Bradon Bradford, Andrew Michaelis, Sara Braby

I. Call Meeting to Order

Zak Konakis called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and did a roll call.

II. Public Comment

Public comment was opened by Zak. Hearing no comment, public comment was closed.

III. Minutes for May 20, 2025 – Review and possible approval -

No comments were made on the minutes.

Motion to accept Minutes from May 20, 2025 - Debbie Peet - Jordan Leonard second - Motion passed

IV. Budget and Policies

A. Check Register and Disbursement Listing

Brady said there was one question on the Check register about the health assessment line item, he explained that it was an individual TILT health assessment done during a staff meeting. There was value found in it when leadership went through a training, so it was done for the entire staff. He also mentioned that Jill and Kristi from UALHD did this and have compiled the data and it is very similar across the board between all local health departments. He also said it has helped to learn how to talk to others and have individuals like to be talked to based on their TILT. No further questions.

Motion to accept the Check Register & Disbursement Listing - Larry Jensen
- Kathi Kearney second - Motion passed

B. **Marriage and Divorce Certificates**

Brady discussed that there is a difference between a marriage license and a marriage certificate, and marriage licenses you must get at the County. We have not in the past done these certificates at the Health Department. Recently we reached out to the state to get clarification and see if certificates are something we can do locally and they said yes. The cost is set in state rule, so we would just keep their cost, but would be adding this to our list of services. This would not require any additional training, so would be easy for the clerks to add. There were no further questions or comments.

Motion to accept the Marriage and Divorce Certificates - Debbie Peet -
Breann Davis Second - Motion passed

C. **AI Policy Updates**

Brady mentioned that we brought this policy to the board a while back and it was approved. He acknowledged that this would likely be something that we review a few times as AI evolves. There was a recent need for a few items to be added to this policy such as not putting PII into open source AI as well as making sure it is HIPAA compliant if we would be using PII. There were no questions or comments.

Motion to accept the AI Policy Update - Kathi Kearney - Larry Jensen Second
- Motion passed

V. **2024 Audit Report**

Andrew said we did have a clean audit done by Smuin, Rich & Marsing. He showed sections where they said essentially everything is good and there were no findings. He also reviewed their main summary. It shows the revenue and changes between years. Also noting expenses changed from year to year as contract changes occurred. Also noting there is a program by program section in the report. Breann asked if the department is audited every year, Andrew explained that yes there are some special things that require that of us. Brady also said that in addition to the main financial audit there are program audits done frequently as well.

Motion to accept the 2024 Audit Report – Jordan Leonard - Breann Davis
second - Motion passed

VI. Public Health Report

Brady spoke about the semi accident in Carbon County that involved an oil spill. He read the update given by Justin Needles that included current status and what they are planning to do.

There was discussion about the Valar atomics breaking ground at the San Rafael Energy Research facility - happening in Emery County. Larry Jensen explained what he knew about the project just for personal knowledge, but the Health Department has not been very involved in any of it and not too much worry or concern.

Brady spoke on the Rural Health Transformation Funds. There is not a ton of information, this is more about healthcare over public health. There are focuses on Information Technology and 2 others. There were a few questions about what this is going to look like, and due to it being so new it is very unknown at this time.

Brady also spoke about Utah Code the council on immunization practices (ACIP), recently almost all were fired and replaced with new individuals. Utah Rule refers to ACIP for immunization guidance for schools and such, and there are concerns that may not stay in the State of Utah if it isn't science based, etc. The discussion at the state level is what do we use as a baseline for these guidelines?

Discussions are underway with DHHS as to what we will follow, and would have to go through legislation to change. Good news for COVID vaccine, it was looking like you would have to have a prescription to get that vaccine, but that is not looking like the case anymore. We are still having a hard time getting doses at the HD, but we are looking at if we can or should based on the needs of the community. Sara mentioned that for all vaccines we always want to watch what we are spending, that we are not purchasing too many vaccines and throwing them away which is wasting money, so we buy what we expect to need and if we need to purchase more in the end, that is great, but would rather not have too much and waste them. There was a question pertaining to long covid or long covid from vaccines. Sara said she has heard of long covid from the disease, but have not heard of reputable long covid in connection to the vaccine.

Brady also gave kudos to Jonathan who is on the environmental health team. He has been working to create maps and streamline things for the department and also helping out other LHDs to do similar things.

We also got a vape disposal box at our Price office. We are very excited to offer this to our community and will soon be advertising to the community.

A. Clinical and Family Services - Measles cases are at 3 in Grand County, all unvaccinated, and all are recovered. We are keeping schools and childcare facilities informed and have messaging prepared for if things progress.

Sara presented on the immunization reporting and the immunization goals. She shared the successes we have had. For several years we have been working on HPV vaccine. The 1st goal was by June 30, 2025 we would increase the meningococcal

rates for any dose. We met this with an increase of 1.13%. This was very exciting. The 2nd goal was to increase vaccination rates for “up to date” HPV doses. We have worked to educate on that. We went up by .88%. Also very exciting. For the 3rd goal we focused on the MenB vaccine and wanted to go from .54% to .63% and we actually got to .89%. This was so great to see and proud to have met all 3 goals. We push these on social media, kinder round up, 7th grade vaccine clinics, etc. So it is great to see our hard work is paying off.

Sara also spoke about flu clinics coming up and all scheduled. We will start in the office on October 1. We are also doing boo to the flu events in all counties and invited the board members to attend. These are open to the community and will include trick or treating and car seat checks as well. Shots are available for cash pay as well as insurance billing in the office and at these events. She has been working to get more insurances available for us to accept.

B. Community Health (Promotion and Education)

C. Environmental Health - Algal blooms - we have come a long way on how we look at these blooms. DEQ has wanted to move to permanent signage stating information about Algal Blooms, rather than reactively. We are in favor of this approach and wanted to see if there were any concerns from the board or if they agree. It seemed as though most agreed and there weren't any concerns in that approach.

D. Emergency Preparedness

E. Public Health Information - San Juan has hired someone for their Health Officer so very good and exciting news there!

F. Epidemiology - Data modernization workforce acceleration initiative - last year Bear River Health Department applied and got 3 interns to assist them in many projects. This year they needed an additional health department on board and reached out to us. We were very interested in this to improve and assist us in some of these data modernization projects. We have been working with Bear River on putting this proposal out and looking forward to it.

VII. Facility Update

The Moab building is coming along well. Brady shared some pictures of the current progress and referenced where employees have moved from and where they are expected to land once all is completed.

VIII. Board comments and Ad Hoc Committee Reports and Assignments (Formation of Health Officer Annual Review)

Zak asked if there were volunteers to join this Ad Hoc Committee. It was asked when the committee would meet and they said it would be in October, and the committee would choose date, time, location, etc. Some brief conversation continued determining this committee. Debbie Peet offered to represent Carbon. Kelli Wilson was nominated for Emery County. Rhiana Medina offered to represent Grand County.

Motion to accept and begin the ad hoc committee consisting of Rhiana Medina, Debbie Peet and Kelli Wilson – Larry Jensen - Breann Davis second - Motion passed

Zak Konakis asked if there was any further discussion or thoughts that the group wanted to have. Debbie Peet mentioned that it is very difficult to listen to directions coming from the federal government; realizing that she may not have all the information that, say, a Dr. may have. Just not trusting the information that is coming from them. Brady mentioned that some things are raising his blood pressure as well. Kathi mentioned it seems like a very trying time for public health right now, she can sense that already. Brady said the good part is that we are very connected with our community and through the communities. Although some people you will never be able to connect with, but as a whole, people feel like they can come to us and get a good answer, which is the benefit of being local. Larry said we are lucky that we are a smaller community environment because we have the ability locally to make good decisions and not necessarily listen to the other stuff. Brady mentioned that we spoke with a community member recently where it was discussed that we need to make public health look positive and not always the negative, reminding people we are on their side. Sara spoke about an STI call recently and the people from the state mentioned that our health department is one of the ones they hear most about how connected we are with our community. Some health departments they hear about are very disconnected and don't have good communication on that front, so hearing that about us from the state is very encouraging. Debbie said in her experience locally we have some of the best rates of individuals completing the anonymous STI screening survey when compared to other areas of Utah. Brady said Steve Rouser in Grand County retired which is who we contract with for medical consultation. We tried to find another provider for that in Grand County, and have ultimately moved to have Dr. Gagon cover all 3 counties rather than having a different one for Grand. He signs standing orders and is available to consult on cases.

IX. Closed Session - if necessary

No closed session was necessary.

Motion to adjourn - Kathi Kearney

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.