

SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 25, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.

SEUHD – 28 S 100 E

Price, UT

(Electronic Meeting)

PRESENT

CARBON COUNTY: Debbie Peet (Chair), Commissioner Larry Jensen, Zak Konakis, Christian Bryner, Attorney

EMERY COUNTY:

GRAND COUNTY: Councilmember Gabriel Woytek, Rhiana Medina, Breann Davis

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Kelli Wilson, Kathi Kearney, Commissioner Kent Wilson

ADMINISTRATION: Bradon Bradford, Tracy Randall, Delia Paletta, Orion Rogers, Brittney Garff, Sara Braby, Chet Ingram

I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Debbie Peet.

II. **Public comment** – There were no public comments.

III. **Minutes for March 23, 2021 – Discussion and possible approval** - Debbie asked if there were any questions or corrections that needed to be made on the minutes of March 23, 2021. There were none.

Motion – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Breann Davis) Move to approve and accept the minutes of March 23, 2021. Unanimous.

IV. **Budget**

A. Revenue Changes-Discussion and possible approval - Tracy stated that there were no changes to report on the budget summary sheet for the first quarter of 2021. All revenue and expenses are where they need to be at this time. There hasn't been too much collected in fees in Environmental Health because they are not billed until the fall. The insurance expense has been matched and was paid in January for the rest of the year. Debbie asked if patient care had to do with COVID-19. Tracy stated yes, there hasn't been a line item for patient care for a while but because of COVID-19 there is a charge for that service and also for positive norovirus patient care. Commissioner Jensen asked why the office supply expense was high. Tracy stated that that line item includes the purchase of printers, computers and ink which is quite high.

Motion – (Breann Davis/Commissioner Larry Jensen) Move to approve the budget summary. Unanimous

B. Vouchers-Questions, Clarifications possible approval – There were no questions from the board. Debbie asked regarding page 14, reference #16315, what were the 15 transmitters purchased for and what would they be tracking. Tracy stated that it was bought by Environment Health for checking septic systems. Brady stated they are used by flushing in the toilet to help locate septic tanks.

Motion – (Rhiana Medina/Commissioner Larry Jensen) Move to accept the vouchers. Unanimous.

Audit engagement letter – Tracy stated that the letter indicates what the auditors will be doing during the audit. The audit was performed last week and there were no findings to report and Smuin, Rich and Marsing will be presenting at an upcoming meeting. There was one item in question, which was equipment that was donated to the SEUHD from Carbon County, it was not for certain how it should be reported on the SEUHD inventory correctly. The auditors helped in correcting the report and moving forward all equipment will be added to the SEUHD inventory.

V. **First Review of amended Housing Regulation and approval to begin 30-day public comment**

period- Orion presented the amended Housing Regulation along with Jared Cloutier, CDC Public Health Associate, assigned to work with the SEUHD for two years. The original housing regulation was put together by Brady and Orion a number of years ago and this is an updated version of that. Jared has been working on updating the regulation on housing in Carbon and Emery counties and has brought up things that needed to be updated and made more efficient which will in turn better our communities.

At the local level, there are two parts that need to be adopted. One is the more stringent State Housing Regulation which is at a higher level of regulation. The SEUHD has to show record of evidence as to why a regulation needs to be in place. In Carbon and Emery counties, there is a higher level of people that live in poverty versus the 8.9% level in the State. To better protect the community, if a regulation is in place, the SEUHD can better work with the landlords to provide a better standard of housing. The board was sent a copy of the Housing Regulation for review and an updated copy with also be sent once the public comment process is complete.

Jared presented pictures of homes with aggressive water damage and structural damage. Landlords are being negligent by not providing adequate heating and air conditioning units, they are not maintaining the homes to a livable condition. The Division of Water Quality is notified of violations regarding homeowners/landlords who do not comply with clean water issues. Major detritus and refuse in homes and negligence is some of the time due to mental health and addiction issues of tenants. The regulation will provide tools for landlords and tenants in order to obtain a more positive outcome when housing issues arise or exist. Homes that are unlivable will be closed until they are in compliance with the regulation. Orion stated that homes with violations are reported to the SEUHD in the three counties. SEUHD staff works with the tenants and landlords in order to fix the issues and improve relations. An individual of sound mind can decide to live in refuse and a detritus situation as long as it does not affect their neighbors and land. The vulnerable adults and children need to be protected.

Some of the additions were that landlords cannot turn off utilities in order to remove a tenant. Doing so may place the tenant in a serious health situation and also impact their neighbors negatively. High density developments containing 16 or more dwelling units will be required to have a manager onsite 24/7. Rent to own units have become seriously neglected in the three counties due to the unclear rule as to who will maintain the dwelling/property. After consulting with municipalities and county attorneys, the addition to the regulation was made to read that until all payments are made on the property and the title recorded by the county and transitioned to the tenant, it is the duty and responsibility of the entity/person collecting payment to maintain the property. Jared indicated that the regulations presented were derived from what other State housing regulations have in place.

Gabriel asked if the present regulation had changes suggested by Christina Sloan, Grand County Attorney, and if edits and changes were made since the document was emailed to the board on the 17th. Orion stated yes, there have been edits and changes and that it did include comments and edits by Christina Sloan.

Commissioner Jensen asked that the board review the regulation before it goes to public comment. Christian stated that regarding Christina Sloan's definition of residential dwelling, it needs to cohort with the definition that is in the Emery and Carbon counties development codes. Christian indicated that he was comfortable with the other suggestions made by Christina and once the regulation was updated it could go to public comment. Breanna asked if the fees were different for those that have violations and does that need clarification. Orion stated that the fees will be brought to the board for review and possible approval and then be added to the fee schedule for mobile homes and apartment buildings that will be required to have an onsite manager. The permit fee will be set at \$103/yr. Breanna asked if additional clarification could be made to the interior finishes on section 6.7.1, the easily sanitizable and nonabsorbent material, can examples be added. Jared stated that a clearer definition can be added.

Motion – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Zak Konakis) Move to approve to have the updated Housing Regulation sent to the board and Christian for review and comment and after a two-week period it can go to public comment.
Unanimous.

VI. **Health Officer Report**

- A. **Public Health/COVID-19 Epidemiology** – Brady stated that vaccinations continue to be done. Vaccine availability has expanded in our communities. Grand County has gone through a surge during the last couple of weeks due to tourism and events in the community. Commissioner Jensen asked what the vaccination percentages were. Brady stated that 42% of the Carbon County population has received the first dose and 40% are fully vaccinated. In Grand County 58% received a first dose and 53% are fully vaccinated. Emery County has 36% first dose and almost 40% are fully vaccinated.
- B. **Health Promotion** – Nothing to report at this time.
- C. **WIC** – Nothing to report at this time.
- D. **Clinical Services**- Nothing to report at this time.
- E. **Environmental Health** – Nothing to report at this time.
- F. **Emergency Preparedness** – Brady introduced Chet as Emergency Preparedness Director. Chet worked in the medical field for 14 years and is an MP for the Carbon County Ambulance. There have been 125 clinics done to date along with the Medical Response Corp (MRC) which was utilized for the effort along with other community volunteers. There are about 25 MRC volunteers. Ten contact tracers were hired along with two COVID-19 testing personnel. The Carbon County Event Center and the School District office were utilized to administer the vaccine. The Grand Center was used in Moab and in Emery County the clinics were done in the SEUHD office and at the schools.
Eric Anderson was hired as the Emergency Preparedness Planner. Eric oversees the Hospital Coalition and the program has grown immensely. The SEUHD partners are Castlevue, Moab Regional, Blue Mountain, and San Juan Hospitals. In the past there has not been a lot of participation from home health care facilities nor from long-term facilities but now they have become part of the coalition. In the event of a disaster, we now have the ability to coordinate with them and provide care for their clients. The SEUHD has a Chem Pak system which was provided by the CDC and contains multiple medications to be used in the event of a chemical

attack or exposure. Most hospitals have the medications but at a smaller amount. In the event that medications were needed in Emery or Grand County, Life Flight services would be utilized. Carbon County provided a new trailer to be used as an incident response unit and to do vaccinations if needed.

A simulation of a plane crash was conducted at the Moab Airport. Chet and Eric both participated in the exercise along with the University of Utah, TSA, and the Grand Junction Airport.

An Emergency Plan is being put together on how to assist patients that are on dialysis in our local communities in the event of a disaster. A Hospital Preparedness Program meeting will be held in July to review the programs and plan. Jake Powell, PhD, is an emergency room physician at Castleview hospital and he reviews all of the Emergency Plans. Dr. Powell was in the Army as a physician and has experience in large trauma events.

G. SEUHD Building Update – The demolition has been completed and framing has begun. Brady thanked Carbon County for assisting in relocating the Carbon County Guardian ad Litem office.

- VII. **Board Comments, future discussion item** – Debbie stated that Utah Association of Local Boards of Health (UALBOH) is going to have an in-person symposium in Richfield September 23-24, 2021. There will be a save the date notice going out to all board members. The NALBOH has opened early registration for the August 1-3, 2021 conference.

Brady stated that electronic meetings can continue to be held or possibly move back to in person meetings in Green River and asked the Board what their feelings were moving forward.

Commissioner Jensen stated that the July meeting could be held in Green River. Breann suggested that meetings could be alternated to be held on-line and in-person. Other members agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Debbie Peet, Board Chair

Bradon Bradford, Health Officer