

SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

March 23, 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

EMERY COUNTY: Commissioner Kent Wilson, Kathi Kearney, Kelli Wilson

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

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Attorney Christian Bryner

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

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Debbie Peet. Debbie acknowledged the attendance of Tracie Bishop from Emery Telcom.
- II. Public comment – There were no public comments.
- III. **Minutes for January 26, 2021 – Discussion and possible approval** – Kathi asked if the certificates for the board’s completion of the Open and Public Act Meetings Training were sent out. Brady stated that they are ready and will be mailed this week. Debbie asked that on page three, section eight, first paragraph, third line from the bottom, the letter “a” before Public Health be removed.

Motion – (Kathi Kearney/Gabriel Woytek) Move to accept the minutes of January 26, 2021 with the removal of the letter “a” as indicated above. Unanimous.

IV. **Budget**

- A. **Revenue Changes-Discussion and possible approval** - Tracy stated that there was additional funding to one contract of \$891,118 for COVID-19 Vaccine Supplemental bringing the contract total to \$1,043,518. It is anticipated that the funding will be used within a four-year period but it will most likely be used in 2021 to cover the expense of administering vaccinations. Kathi asked if the additional funding was going to be used for staff and administration or for the purchase of equipment and vaccines. Tracy stated that it is to be used for staff and administration.

Motion – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Gabriel Woytek) Move to approved the revenue addition as listed above.

Expenditure changes – Brady stated that last year he had requested that the board approve a percentage of salary incentive for SEUHD staff based on what had been accomplished. Brady requested that the board again consider approving additional funding to be disbursed from the new contract to reflect the work that SEUHD staff has been doing in relation to COVID-19. SEUHD staff has made schedule adjustments in order to do their typical work functions and also vaccine clinics on Wednesdays and Thursdays along with some additional small clinics.

By providing a salary incentive, Brady stated that it would show the SEUHD staff that he and the board recognize the extra effort that they are making to provide vaccine clinics as well as their ability to work in their individual programs. The SEUHD is one of a few health departments in the State that has not utilized the assistance from the Utah National Guard or other agencies in vaccine clinics. The incentive will not be based on a percentage of salary like it was calculated in 2019 but based on the amount of time they have worked and contributed to the COVID-19 efforts. Debbie asked if every staff member would receive \$22,300.00. Brady stated no, the \$22,300 is in addition to FICA, pension, fringe and disability totaling \$27,839.32 which will be disbursed between all of the employees. Zak asked if it was just for one quarter. Brady stated yes, and that the bulk of the vaccination effort will be complete by June and that he is also anticipating requesting an additional amount in the next quarter to do another incentive for staff. Brady stated that moving forward, should additional staff need to be hired, the funding would be there to do that and provide an incentive as well. Gabriel asked if the incentive had been evaluated and analyzed to show that rather than hire additional staff, the incentive would give the SEUHD the flexibility to do both at this time. Brady stated that more volunteers will be used over the next month and a half, and at this time, there is no need to hire additional staff. Individuals that are presently trained and ready to assist in vaccine clinics may be incorporated into the larger contract over the next couple of years. Gabriel asked if it was easier to provide a bonus rather than hire additional staff, despite the influx of cash. Brady stated yes, and particularly with nurses and basically all other staff, they recognize that it's not a high paying job and they don't make what they could be making elsewhere but it is an incentive to stay and also helps them to know that they are appreciated. Commissioner Jensen stated that it was a good idea and that Carbon County has funding available that can be used to cover COVID-19 related wages. Debbie stated that it was a good idea to provide an incentive to SEUHD staff because they have stepped up to the challenge and have pulled together and worked well as a team. Brady stated that for the last year it has not been possible to hold any staff events or activities and that the vaccine clinics have taken place of that and have become a team activity.

Motion – (Larry Jensen/Kelli Wilson) Move to approve the incentive expenditure for SEUHD staff with the possibility of an additional future incentive. Unanimous.

B. Vouchers-Questions, Clarifications possible approval – There were no questions from the board.

Motion – (Zak Konakis/Gabriel Woytek) Move to approve the vouchers. Unanimous.

V. **Ratification of contractor selection** – Brady stated that bids were opened and Commissioner Larry Jensen was present. The budget for the project was \$3.4m and three bids were received. Engineering fees were at about \$300,000. Warner Construction was selected as the winning bid. The three bids received were as follows: Warner Construction - \$2,524,970, City Creek Construction- \$2,733,750, BODEC- \$2,894,780. Warner Construction has very good references and Jones and Demille and Carbon County have been working with them to get through the pre-construction process. A bond closing has been set for April 6th. Commissioner Jensen indicated that Carbon County has accepted Jones and Demille as the project supervisors and authorized them to proceed with the contract with Warner Construction. A building permit will be issued within the

next couple of days and even though the building is in Price City, Carbon County will provide the building inspections. A motion from the board is needed to ratify what has been done thus far. Carbon County will administer the bulk of the funding for the building remodel and the SEUHD will lease the building until the loan is paid off. At that time the county can give the building to the SEUHD or they can lease it for \$1.00 per year. It is Carbon County's goal to give the building to the SEUHD. Carbon County Attorneys are working on an agreement to trade the SEUHD building for the new remodeled county building. The final agreement will need to be drafted and the SEUHD board will need to approve the agreement. Commissioner Jensen indicated that bids had come in below the CIB funding that was awarded and that the facility needs to be upgraded completely and also that the parking lot be redone. Commissioner Wilson thanked Commissioner Jensen and Brady for all the work that they have done to bring the project into fruition.

Motion – (Commissioner Kent Wilson/Kathi Kearney) Move to ratify the bid from Warner Construction and to accept all of the work that has been done on the building process and project. Unanimous.

VI. **Health Officer Report**

Regarding board meetings, there is a possibility that the board may be able to meet in person. There is value to meeting in person as well as meeting electronically where there isn't travel involved. Discussion will be held during the upcoming meetings to determine the need of meeting in person and electronically.

Legislative updates – There are presently two Bills that pertain to health departments SB107 and HB294. HB294 deals with legislative and health department power in emergency situations. The Bill provides metrics under which all public health orders will no longer be valid as it relates to COVID-19. Currently, the fourteen-day case rate in Utah is less than 191 and right now it is a little over 200, ICU admissions are below 15% and Utah is a month away from the allocation of 1.6m doses. Additionally, the state mask mandate is set to end on April 10th with the exceptions of gatherings of 50 people or more and where a health department in conjunction with the local governing body agree that it can continue. Grand County and the SEUHD have a joint public health order in place for the mask mandate until June 12th and individual establishments can require masks if they choose. Bill SB107 states that if a rule is imposed on a school, notification needs to be sent to the school before it can be imposed. SB107 goes through to the end of year and is based on how to keep schools in session. Green River High School and Book Cliff Elementary were both shut down for one week and were the only schools that were affected. At this point the SEUHD does not anticipate that any of our schools will implement any additional measures outlined in the Bill. Testing of school athletes, dancers, etc. will continue.

Senate Bill 189 increases fines for retail tobacco shops that are located within 1,000' from a school if they do not relocate by July 1, 2022, increases other fines, modifies requirements, and creates restrictions on the sale or transfer of a business.

Senate Bill 94 is for microenterprise kitchens. There is a cap on how many homes can be permitted per district and in the Southeast district it is around 100. This is a Bill that the Utah Association of Local Health Departments (UALHD) opposed, it requires health departments to issue a permit with no say on whether it is a sanitary kitchen or not. Health departments in the State are working on rewording their permits to indicate that these types of locations are not held to the same standards

as restaurants. Orion stated that he did not see a major issue with those types of kitchens in the Southeast Utah area because the Bill focuses on the health departments having rules over those microenterprise kitchens and it doesn't require the use of hoods and ventilation. It does not prevent the building authorities from imposing the same requirements.

- A. **Public Health/COVID-19 Epidemiology** - The number of cases has dropped significantly except for Emery County. Carbon and Grand Counties are in a moderate rate of transmission while Emery County is high. If Grand County continues at the rate that they are at presently, their transmission levels will increase. The SEUHD will be receiving 900 doses of vaccine per week and that number will increase to 1300 next week. On a national level the cases of deaths in long-term care facilities have decreased. Brady reviewed Hannah's COVID-19 Science Update with the board. The SEUHD has partnered with the local long-term care facilities to vaccinate their clients. The Multi-Cultural Center in Moab has been great to facilitate a vaccine clinic today for the local Hispanic population and the homeless in Grand County. Rhiana indicated that the clinic went well.

At this time, the most vulnerable population 65+ are now vaccinated at 70% and the numbers are increasing. Debbie asked that in regards to staff, has there been an indication of staff burnout. Brady stated that no, not at this time. Clinics are set up to give staff time off and are moving towards doing mobile clinics to do vaccines. Another thing that has helped is that an electronic data system has been implemented which eliminates the time it was taking to enter data. Burn out of staff has been addressed with the SEUHD managers and right now that is not a concern. It is anticipated that the first doses will be done by April 1st. There is still a lot of work to be done between now and May-July. Kathi asked if Brady had any theories as to why the rates in Emery County continue to be high. Brady stated that when the mask use legislation passed on April 10, the use of masks declined which may have contributed. Commissioner Wilson stated that during the last ten days there is a large family that has been affected which may have contributed to the number increase.

- B. **Health Promotion** – Nothing to report at this time.
- C. **WIC** – Nothing to report at this time.
- D. **Clinical Services**- Sara indicated that the nurses have enjoyed doing the vaccine clinics and now that the charting has been simplified, it has made the process move quicker and smoother. The regular program services are continuing to be provided. WIC continues to see clients two days a week, the Cancer Screening Program is being done monthly on Friday in Moab and in Price as needed. PAT nurses continue to do their visits with parents. The school nurses are doing well also. The SEUHD is presently looking at providing a Meningitis B vaccine.
- E. **Environmental Health** - Orion stated that during the last two months, two foodborne illness outbreaks have been and continue to be investigated. One was in Carbon County and was associated with restaurant food workers who were infected with the norovirus. The second case was at a bike tour company where ten people became ill. Presently working with Grand County Planning and Zoning, Building Department and Monument Waste to put together a cleanup event in Thompson Springs. There was a large fire there a few months ago and a number of structures were burned. Essentially, the likelihood of another fire happening in Thompson Springs is 1,000 times higher than that of the national average. The cleanup will help to mediate the fire risk in the area. Grand County approved \$7,500 for the rental of ten to twelve 30-yard dumpsters, a backhoe will be provided by the Water District and

a private citizen. Grand County will be providing equipment and dump trucks to help further the effort.

Environmental Health staff have been promoting the radon tests which were obtained from other health departments in order to use them before they expired. Most recently a mobile home park in Price was having sewage release causing public health risks to the community. An order was issued for the water to be turned off to the mobile home park. The SEUHD partnered with Price City and the AOG to provide water and toilet systems until the sewage system is replaced. A new VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Ginger Allen has been hired to assist in the Human Waste project.

F. Emergency Preparedness – Nothing to report at this time and will be presenting at one of the next meetings.

G. SEUHD Building Update – Information discussed on agenda item five.

VII. **Board Comments, future discussion items**

Debbie asked if there were any other comments or questions from the board. Gabriel indicated that he was appreciative of the staff reports of them coming together and the board voting to provide an incentive for them. Kelli thanked Brady and SEUHD staff for all of their hard work and updates. Everything they have done is appreciated. Kathi stated that she worked at some of the vaccine clinics in Emery County and indicated that they are well structured and well done. The only complaint was some people's inability to make an appointment on the website.

Debbie thanked Brady, SEUHD staff and the board for their work and service.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Debbie Peet, Board Chair

Bradon Bradford, Health Officer