

SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

January 26, 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, Attorney Lynelle Hansen

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

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

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 asked the new board member from Moab, Breann Davis to introduce herself to the board. Breann will be filling the vacancy left by Steve Hawks. Breann stated that she was originally from Moab and had been living in California, she attended the University of Utah and studied Health Promotion and Education and also attended massage school and presently has her own business in Moab where she also teaches yoga classes. Breann is also the Volunteer Coordinator for Our Village in Moab, a non-profit organization. Debbie also introduced Traci Bishop from ETV News, Lynelle Hansen and Hannah Schoon. Lynelle is a Carbon County attorney and will be representing Christian Bryner. Hannah is the new SEUHD Epidemiologist, she is from Illinois and obtained her Master’s Degree in England in August of 2020.

- II. **Public Comment** – Debbie asked if there were any public comments, there being no public comments, Debbie closed public comment.

- III. **Minutes for November 24, 2020 - Discussion and possible approval**
 Debbie asked if there were any corrections that needed to be made to the November 24, 2020 meeting minutes. Kathi stated that on page four second paragraph the word “contract” should be “contact.” Kathi asked if Christian was going to be sending certificates for the Electronic Meeting Training conducted at the previous board meeting. Brady stated that he would follow-up with Christian. Towards the end of the meeting the board went into closed session for the discussion of the Health Officer Annual Review. Debbie asked that a statement be added indicating that the board came out of closed session. The outcome of the discussion was favorable and Brady was approved.

MOTION – (Gabriel Woytek/Kathi Kearney) Move to approve the November 24, 2020 meeting minutes with corrections as stated above. Unanimous.

- IV. **Budget**
 - A. **Revenue Changes- Discussion and possible approval** - Tracy stated that an amount of \$2,500 was added to the Medical Response Corp (MRC) program. An additional amount of \$13,196 was also added for Covid-19 vaccinations.

MOTION – (Kathi Reaves/Commissioner Larry Jensen) Move to accept the revenue changes to the budget as listed above. Unanimous.

B. Vouchers – Questions-Clarifications possible approval

There were no questions or clarifications regarding the vouchers.

MOTION – (Kathi Kearney/Gabriel Woytek) Move to accept the vouchers. Unanimous.

V. **Grand County Application for Board of Health appointee**

- A. **Possible recommendation for Breann Davis** – Brady stated that Breann has been recommended by the Grand County Commission to serve on the SEUHD board. Breann will be filling the vacancy left by Steve Hawks. Applications for board membership are submitted to the county commission, they are then reviewed by the health officer and interviews are conducted. Brady indicated that he had talked to Breann and reviewed the SEUHD board requirements and health department programs with her. Brady presented her application to the board for consideration of approval to serve. After the vote of the board and if she is approved to serve, her name will be submitted to the Grand County Commission for ratification.

Motion – (Gabriel Woytek/Zak Konakis) Move to approve the nomination of Breann Davis as the new board member. Unanimous.

VI. **Fraud Risk Assessment 2020**

Tracy stated that the Fraud Risk Assessment was presented to the board in July and because the SEUHD is on a calendar year, it did not have to be submitted at that time. Two more items on the assessment have been completed. One is to perform an internal audit functions and the other is the addition of the fraud hotline policy. The audit will be done in conjunction with other health departments where they will be auditing each other. These two additions have increased the SEUHD points on the assessment. The separation of duties is a challenge due to the fact that the SEUHD has a small staff to perform certain duties. Carbon County is the treasurer for the SEUHD which helps to protect against fraud. For 2021, focus will be placed on IT security and ethical behavior along with obtaining the board members completed training certificates that are required to be done every four years.

Motion – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Gabriel Woytek) Move to accept the 2020 assessment. Unanimous.

VII. **Policy and Procedure -Discussion and possible approval**

- A. **Fraud Hotline Policy** – Tracy stated that the Fraud Hotline Policy is one of the requirements of the Fraud Risk Assessment. Once approved, the policy will be in place and will be put on the SEUHD website along with an email address for fraud submissions. Brady will assign staff to review fraud complaints.

Motion – (Kathi Kearney/Rhiana Medina) Move to approve the Fraud Hotline Policy. Unanimous.

VIII. **Accreditation Presentation**

Brady asked Hannah to prepare a presentation for accreditation. Accreditation of the SEUHD has been a project that has taken time to bring into fruition. Hannah made a presentation of the Public Health 3.0 Saving Generations and background and as to why accreditation is needed. Hannah stated the quote from Dr. Hawthorne, from UCLA, "We need to shift from a health care system focused on producing medical care toward a health system focused on health." In order to accomplish this, public health entities have started partnering with their local communities to build a better public health. Hannah reviewed what the social determinants of health care are in our local communities. Based on the data gathered, it indicates the importance of why the SEUHD should transition to accreditation. The entire process of accreditation is monitored by Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). To begin, an accreditation coordinator and team is appointed. The accreditation team then prepares plans in the process of transitioning into the accreditation.

Hannah presented a timeline for the beginning and ending of accreditation which is a five-year process. There are three fees required, the initial application fee is \$12,720, \$14,000 accreditation fee for the first year, and an annual fee of \$5,600. A re-accreditation fee of \$8,200 is done every five years. The total initial payment is \$26,720. Hannah reviewed the number of possibilities of how to get local communities involved and how it will be beneficial. Zak stated that the graduation rate for our region was over 98%. Zak asked why was miner education and a high school diploma in the presentation if social determinants of health is the target and if the base wage for a miner with no experience or skill is over \$44,000/year what makes it a target population problem. Hannah stated that it's a problem to convince them that in order to obtain a high level of health, it would not be feasible to leave out the miners. The one thing to know about social determinants of health is the result from anything that would be implemented which would not be seen in one year, it would probably be seen in 15-20 years. It would not necessarily be about the miner's health but their children/grandchildren. Debbie asked if Hannah was referring to mining as a career. Hannah stated yes. Zak stated that regionally, right now mining is third in all of the local economies where health care education is being taught along with the State which is another big employer. If the local economy is to be diversified, moving away from coal will need to happen because coal will eventually run out and politically right now, it's not a benefit. Debbie stated that the economy needs to be more diversified and more of our youth need to be able to obtain their high school diploma and/or college education. Zak stated that he didn't want to see the SEUHD accidentally or inadvertently making the cure worse than the disease which may inadvertently hurt people we are trying to help. Debbie asked what the local governments were doing to bring new industry into our local communities. Commissioner Jensen stated that a lot of effort is going into economic development and diversifying and expanding local businesses and that there are some things that are going to be happening in the future.

Debbie asked if the SEUHD would be able to cover the initial cost for accreditation and the \$5,600 per year. Brady stated that generally speaking, yes, and the SEUHD will start to budget for it now if the board commits to doing the accreditation. The essence of what the presentation is, one, to convey a process improvement which will benefit the SEUHD long-term, two, focus is made on the graduation rates and miners, etc. The concept is that the board would set the guidance and policy that would benefit public health in all three counties long-term. Zak asked what was gained and how does the SEUHD benefit from seeking and obtaining accreditation. Brady stated that it's a major quality improvement process and establishes an organization that is sustainable long-term. If for example, all of the SEUHD staff had to be replaced, there would be a framework ready under which the SEUHD would be able to operate. Right now, there are no grants or contracts available for accreditation. Brady stated that it is his intent in pursuing accreditation to do everything to become accredited and evaluate if it was worth the cost once

the SEUHD reached that point. Commissioner Jensen asked Brady if it was his recommendation that the board approve moving forward with the accreditation process. Brady stated that his recommendation is that the steps be followed to become accredited. A vote to budget or fund the process is not needed at this time. Due to the time that COVID-19 is taking from staff, it is highly unlikely that anything will be done this year. As time permits and COVID-19 takes less staff time, the steps will be followed as Hannah has laid out and a management group will be put in place. Each department will be notified as to how it will affect their department. Kathi asked if there were any other health departments in the State that are accredited and how it has benefited them. Brady stated that Tooele, Salt Lake City and Davis health departments have become accredited. Utah County, Bear River, Tri-County and Central are debating the process. More research will need to be done regarding the cost. The purpose of accreditation will not be for profit but rather to obtain a process that is sustainable. Kathi asked if it was possible to not go through the steps process independently without being accredited and have the same outcome. Brady indicated that that was his recommendation and if a federal requirement is instituted and the health department becomes accredited, finalizing paperwork and making the payment needed is all that will need to be done at that time. Debbie asked if Brady was going to be needing any assistance from the board. Brady stated that initially no, but as the process moves deeper into the discussion of topics regarding accreditation and making policy decisions they will be involved.

Commissioner Jensen asked if the SEUHD had access to the materials needed to begin the accreditation process without having to pay any fees. Hannah indicated that she had all of the documentation needed. Debbie asked if the cost would be covered by funding that each county pays into the SEUHD or would it be an additional cost to the counties. Brady stated that considering that it will be a three-to-five-year process, planning for that budget expense will begin and will be discussed further. Hannah stated that there are certain grants that the SEUHD can apply to receive funding. Debbie stated that the process is something that the board needs to think about and perhaps contact Brady and Hannah and continue to review it moving forward.

- IX. **Health Officer Report** Brady stated that from the legislative stand point, the Governor is proposing that the Utah Department of Health merge with the Department of Human Services. This merger is not worrisome at this time because it will not present any barriers to what is being done at the SEUHD now. Another proposed merger is the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Merging DEQ and DNR could result in some regulatory conflicts within the department. If those mergers happen, it will have some impact on the SEUHD.

Representative Christine Watkins has introduced House Bill 94. As is currently written, it essentially allows a restaurant to be in any home. From the SEUHD standpoint it is very concerning due to potential food safety issues and hazards. The Bill will be asking health departments to give permits to home locations and the SEUHD will have very little regulation regarding safety measures that are implemented with restaurants. Brady stated that he has talked to Representative Watkins and is also working with others that are working on this Bill.

- A. **Public Health/COVID-19/Epidemiology** – Brady stated that the number of cases are trending a lot better lately and positivity rates continue to drop. The issue right now is that there are not enough vaccines. Brady also commented on the SEUHD staff from each department regarding their continued good work as it pertains to COVID-19. They continue to go above and beyond their duties and have been going 100% since March of 2020.

They have demonstrated hard work and good team work. As we move to six-eight more months of COVID-19, the concern for burn out issues may arise.

At this time, we do not have any staff indicating as such. Long-term as we move from 500 vaccines to 1,000 per week, it is important that the board knows of the SEUHD staff efforts. The SEUHD is close to completing vaccines for the tier one group, health care workers and first responders. All first doses for K1-12 employee vaccines in all three counties will be done next week. The SEUHD currently has a waiting list for those that are not able to navigate the website, mostly 70 and older. As different age groups open, there will be smaller waiting lists as those age groups will be able to make appointments online.

The actual vaccine experience has been excellent, people are moved through the process within 20 minutes or less. After this week, 2,200 vaccinations will be administered plus the additional lot that is done by the hospital and long-term care facilities. Kelly stated that her office gets a lot of calls from people wanting the vaccine and when her office calls the SEUHD the staff always responds promptly. There is a lot more work involved than people realize and the SEUHD staff is doing a good job in assisting those people while also addressing concerns from other offices. Brady stated that he appreciated Kelly's comments. It is complicated to give two doses within a month period which will begin tomorrow and the SEUHD staff is ready. There have been rumors that people need an application to get the second dose, they do not. The second dose clinics have been set up and have been scheduled. Gabriel asked what mechanism was in place to remind people of their second dose. Brady stated that there is a company working with the SEUDH that promises to be able to provide text messaging but at this time they have not provided what was needed. At this time, people are being called and reminded of their appointment. In the future, a better reminder process will be in place. Gabriel also asked from the Epidemiological perspective, is there any precedence for a two-step vaccine within the proximity of time and is there any expected rates of compliance. Brady stated that no, not for the second vaccine. We don't know what to expect. A lot of people know that they will not have the maximum effectiveness if they do not get the second dose. State-wide there hasn't been enough distribution of the second dose. At this time there is no information as to what symptoms have occurred after the second dose. Gabriel asked for an update after the first few days of the second dose. Brady stated that second doses will begin in Carbon County next week and after next week they will begin in Grand and Emery County. Debbie asked if there have been any significant or critical side effects with doses that have been administered. Brady stated no, there has been a rash and soreness on the arm one to seven days after the shot. There have been two instances where oral medication was administered for mild reactions that cleared up instantly. Those that previously had COVID-19, had more symptoms.

Kathi asked what was being done or going to be done to diminish staff burnout. Brady reiterated that the SEUHD staff is not at that point. For now, focus is being kept on keeping clinics to two days per week, first dose and second dose. This allows the nurses to work on other programs. There have been other licensed people reach out to the SEUHD to also help in giving shots. Workloads for the nurses are being reduced by providing other staff members to do data entry for them, then the nurse charts the file.

The State has been notified that should this require a sustained response of many 1,000's of doses per week, the National Guard will be needed in all three offices possibly by late April. If a lot more doses are received, there may be Saturday clinics.

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** - Nothing to report at this time.

G. **SEUHD Price Building Update**

Building Remodel – Brady indicated that it has taken some time for Jones & Demille to submit the RFP to the media. There is funding that needs to be spent by September or it will be lost. The project needs to begin.

X. **Board Comments, future discussion items** - Debbie thanked Brady and all of the SEUHD staff for all of the work they do as well as the board members and the work they do in their communities.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Debbie Peet, Board Chair

Bradon Bradford, Health Officer