

**SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**May 26, 2020 - 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

**GRAND COUNTY:** Councilmember Gabriel Woytek, Rhiana Medina, Steven Hawks

**EXCUSED:** Kelli Wilson, 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 5:05 p.m. by Debbie Peet.

II. **Public Comment** -There was no public comment.

III. **Minutes – Discussion and possible approval**

Debbie asked if there were any corrections that needed to be done on the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Debbie stated that at the previous meeting it was indicated that the agenda item for Disease Reduction Services was going to be discussed at the upcoming meeting, today, but was not on the agenda. Brady indicated that it was going to be a lengthy discussion and would be included at another date.

**Motion** – (Gabriel Woytek/Kathi Kearney) Move to approve and accept the minutes of March 24, 2020. Unanimous.

Debbie asked if there were any corrections that needed to be done on the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Zak asked that his last name be corrected to Konakis.

**Motion** – (Gabriel Woytek/Kathi Kearney) Move to approve and accept the April 30, 2020 board meeting minutes with the correction to Zak’s last name to be Konakis. Unanimous

IV. **Budget**

A. **New Budget possible approvals.** - Tracy stated that revenue changes made to the budget were due to new contracts for COVID-19 for \$167,655 and an additional amount of \$47,901 for COVID-19 Senior. This is the first funding being received for COVID-19 and additional funding will be sent to the SEUHD to go through the remainder of 2020. These funds are combined funds which means that they do not need to be separated by category to be spent because it is being used to assist COVID-19 seniors.

An additional contract funding increase was to the PHEP HPP (Hospital Preparedness Program) contract of \$27,387. There is also funding for \$174,736 for the WIC program for the purchase of a new van and to add drive thru windows at all WIC offices. Debbie asked if three motions were needed, one per contract or one motion for all three contracts. Tracy stated that one motion to accept the three funding contracts would be needed.

**Motion** – (Kathi Kearney/Rhiana Medina) Move to accept additional funding contracts as indicated above. Unanimous.

- B. Vouchers – Questions-Clarifications possible approval. Debbie asked Brady if anyone had submitted questions regarding the vouchers. Brady stated that she was the only one requesting additional information. Debbie’s question was regarding page 11 check number 15224 for Tamarisk Restaurant paid in March. There was no meeting in March but a check was issued for the board meeting dinner. Brady indicated that the bill was for the January board dinner and that the invoice was received in late February and was paid in March.

**Motion** – (Commissioner Kent Wilson/Gabe Woytek) Move to accept the vouchers. Unanimous.

V. **Policy Review**

- A. Review and possible approval of Standards of Conduct - Tracy stated that the current Standards of Conduct needed to be re-written to become more specific as to what is expected from employees. The updated policy is in line with what the State and the County use as their policy. Line item number four has been added.

**Motion** – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Steve Hawks) Move to approve and accept the re-written Standards of Conduct. Unanimous.

- B. Review and possible approval of Allocation of Expenses - Tracy indicated that the Allocation of Expenses is needed to be updated to include the salaried positions to show how they are being paid and also updating the Administrative Time section.

**Motion** – (Gabriel Woytek/Commissioner Kent Wilson) Move to approve and accept the Allocation of Expenses. Unanimous.

VI. **Environmental Health**

- A. Review and possible approval of Graywater Letter - Orion stated that at the previous meeting, the letter to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) indicating that the SEUHD was interested in having a Graywater program in Southeast Utah. Orion indicated that along with himself and other State health departments, they re-wrote the graywater rule. The letter indicates verbatim what the state code requires for submission of a request to be able to operate a program in Southeast Utah. Orion asked the Board to consider approval of the letter being sent to the DWQ. Receiving approval from DWQ to operate a Graywater Program will enable our communities to have more sustainable homes. Orion indicated that the letter was dated May 26, 2020, and it would need to be amended with today’s date. Debbie asked how many homes or businesses were interested in graywater. Orion stated that the interest is higher in Grand County. There is one potential project in Moab that will potentially have 300 units which will put Moab ahead in the state in the use of the graywater program. There are three systems in place as experimental projects and there are dozens of homes waiting for the rule to be in put place to install their systems. Steven asked that in regards to the experimental homes that are already using graywater, have there been any problems or issues or has it been more positive. Orion stated that what they have learned has been directly reflected in the state code for sizing and distribution and overall, it’s been

positive outcomes. There is also an educational aspect to the process of the requirement of homeowners maintaining their landscape. The systems will need to be linked to the property deed through the county recorder's office as an asset to the home and a requirement that the graywater information pertaining to the home be disclosed to future owners. Steven asked if the 300-unit project was the Arroyo Crossing Development project and if there was a timeline that needed to be met in order for the Arroyo project to proceed with their plumbing and obtain state approval. Orion indicated that he would continue to provide permits as experimental systems until such time as state approval is received. Southeast Utah will be the first to receive the approval, there is a lot of support from the State Water Quality Board for the rule.

Zak asked what potential hazards would exist if the systems were not maintained properly. Orion stated that the overall risk is quite low in general and one aspect of the system is to have a three-way valve or other means of diverting the graywater flow back into the blackwater flow then into sewer. There being no further discussion, Debbie asked for a motion from the board on approving and submitting the letter to the DWQ.

**Motion** – (Rhiana Medina/Gabriel Woytek) Move to accept and submit the letter to DWQ with the correct date. Unanimous.

- B. Review and possible approval of letter of support for CDC-RFA-EH20-2005 – Orion stated that he and Kate (Vista worker) have been working on putting together a grant request to the CDC. The grant is specifically for the expansion of Environmental Health Programs in rural areas. There are three multiple steps to the grant but the SEUHD is only eligible for two. Component A is the first component which is to expand overall environmental capabilities. The amount the SEUHD would be eligible for is up to \$40,000 which would be used to expand our digital capabilities, GIS Program, and inspection program. Component B has been brought before the board in the past for discussion. The SEUHD has a pool inspection program where samples are taken from pools once a month and up to two times per month if there are issues. All public swimming pools defined as any body of water such as hot tub, swimming pool, splash pads, etc. that serve four or more units or a location that is accepting payment for entry. Inspections do not include hot tubs at short term rental properties. There is a significant risk to public health occurring based on the experience the SEUHD has had with hot tubs. As funding becomes available, it is the goal of the SEUHD to be able to develop a program to obtain samples from those properties to ensure that they are meeting the standard for public health. If funding is obtained for the testing of these hot tubs, the number of waters being sampled will essentially double if not triple. At the present time, the SEUHD is providing sampling services but with the new program, that would no longer be available due to the logistics of the hot tubs. With the new regulation, Orion asked the board that they accept that in the future the regulation be will subject to change to require that there be a certified pool operator and that a water sample be submitted once a month the same as all public water systems do.

The purpose of the letter is to notify the CDC that the SEUHD has the support of the board to apply for the funding. If funds are received, Orion will come back to the board for approval of the final draft of the Short-Term Rental Pool and Spa Regulation. The letter is to obtain

the funding from the CDC by providing a letter of support from the board. After funding is approved, the board will need to approve to receive the funding and approve any regulation.

**Motion** – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Zak Konakis) Move to approve the letter of support to the CDC with current for the CDC-RFA-EH20-2005 grant funding. Unanimous.

- VII. **Fraud Risk Assessment-Review and possible approval** - Tracy stated that the Risk Assessment Review was conducted, under number one, basic separation of duties or mitigating controls, the SEUHD has worked on the separation of these duties for the last couple of years. It has been a challenge due to the fact that the SEUHD is limited on the number of people on staff. The SEUHD did receive the 200 points for that. Number two – for policies, there are policies that are not marked indicating that the SEUHD does not have them in place. Tracy indicated that she and Brady have been working on getting those policies in place and will work in conjunction with the board and look at what the state and local counties have in place. Number five, Board members have been asked to complete the online board member training. As of today, only a few have completed them. **A reminder will be sent to the board to complete the training.** Board member training completions will bring the score up for that category. Number seven, the promotion of the fraud hotline, this will be added to the SEUHD website. Once all of these categories are met, it will increase the number of points. The goal is to work to become a low risk area. Debbie asked if an approval of the assessment and the work on the assessment was needed from the board. Tracy stated that yes it was needed. Doug (Smuin, Rich, Marsing) indicated to Tracy that this was a good starting point to see where the SEUHD was at and what needs to be done to improve. Commissioner Jensen indicated that Carbon county had the same issue in regards to the fraud hotline and that there is a third party that provides that service. Tracy stated that on the state website there is a video pertaining to fraud which can be linked into the SEUHD website and it won't cost the SEUHD to implement a system/program for a fraud hotline. A policy needs to be put in place indicating how the fraud hotline is implemented.

**Motion** – (Kathi Kearney/Commissioner Kent Wilson) Move to accept the Risk Assessment presented and move forward in implementing a fraud hotline policy and meeting the goals of the remaining requirements in order to become low risk. Unanimous

VIII. **Health Officer Report**

- A. Public Health/COVID-19/Epidemiology – Brady stated that he was appreciative to staff for their response to the epidemic and their continued focus on their daily routines, he also stated that he was appreciative of the board members response to the public and their support of what the SEUHD has had to implement. Brady indicated that metrics are now available to show where our communities are pertaining to COVID-19. Some of the metrics did not have sufficient data to show information due to the fact that there aren't sufficient case counts in the counties. There was a small increase last week in the number of positive cases. Investigations into the cases were conducted and it was not enough to become a concern as far as unknown community spread. Some of the five cases were imported from outside of Utah or came from Utah County. Two were from Utah county and one was from Colorado and the change in status moving to yellow may have contributed to some of the increase. As Grand county continues to increase in openings, it continues to be an area of concern. Brady reviewed the dashboard that the state created in conjunction with DOMO. Our communities do not have sufficient data to be counted in some categories. Emery county is not shown in the health

district category because they do not have a hospital which is one of the key metrics. One of the main things being looked at is hospital utilization. The information portrayed in the Dashboard is derived from information received from hospitals.

Since May 6, the ICU utilization for Carbon county was one person shown in dark blue on the graph. Brady reviewed the numbers of testing done at the hospitals. The hospitalization case in Carbon County was a trucker, non-Utah resident who was hospitalized and then transferred to Utah county, recovered and is expected to be discharged. Statewide in Utah, the data looks good as well. In the growth rate category, our communities do not have sufficient data to be counted. The State-wide rate of infection is down to 1% at this time. The target number of tests to be done is 4,000-6,000 statewide in hopes of identifying 200-300 cases per day and begin to do contact tracing.

Testing in our communities remains relatively robust. Between our three counties, there are about 2,500 tests being done. That number may fluctuate depending on local circumstances. As summer begins, people are likely to be tested. We are going to be reaching out to the a-symptomatic group of people that may be at higher risk as well as testing our first responders to find a-symptomatic individuals and maintain testing levels. The State wants known contacts to be more than 85% of most recent cases. At this time our communities do not have an unknown community spread.

On the economic level, there was a big increase in unemployment claims especially in Grand county where it was affected the most but has gone down a little. SEUHD will continue to monitor the data and send updates to the board. Another category listed is what types of people are getting sick, whether they are employees, medical field workers and if they are people that are interfacing with the public. It is not easy to obtain that data but it can be done on an ongoing basis. The ages of individuals that are getting sick in our communities are from the ages of 30-50.

Zak asked if Pinetop was sharing serological data with the SEUHD. Brady indicated that they are not, the SEUHD is getting all of their serological data from the local hospitals. The SEUHD does not know who Pinetop is testing nor how many positives are being confirmed. Most antibody tests being run are not as accurate where the prevalence for disease is low. The rate of false positive and false negative increases. The SEUHD has talked about reaching out to Pinetop but has not made a connection yet but will do so.

Gabriel stated that in regards to contact tracing, is it surprising that there has not been increased spread. Brady stated that yes, the numbers we have had during the past seven days was what was expected for the past two months. For most of the cases, an epidemiological connection has been found and they have not been connected to each other but rather to family members, co-workers in another county, or by travel. Community wide we are seeing a small shift in attitudes and in many ways, people are starting to act like we are in the green phase and visitors to Moab are not wearing masks.

Due to there not being an increase of cases and the hospitals not being overwhelmed, Grand county may be transitioning to the yellow phase but confirmation from the Governor's office has not been received.

Arches and Canyonlands National Parks will resume operations this week. The SEUHD is working closely with them in integrating their employees.

Brady stated that contact tracing is also being done retroactively on individuals that had symptoms, waited a week after symptoms start and ended.

Rhiana asked if the current health order expires on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Brady stated that it does. Rhiana asked if he thought that Grand county was expected to stay in the orange phase or if it will be changed to yellow. Brady stated that he anticipates that Grand county will be going to yellow. Gabriel stated that it was his understanding that an alternate color was being considered for Grand County which may be for the lodging occupancy controls. Brady stated that that was part of the SEUHD proposal to the Governor's office that the transition be made from orange to yellow and to continue a gradual phased approach.

One big success the SEUHD has had is the distribution of PPE to our local health partners. The Preparedness program has changed directors to Chet Ingram. Brady reviewed the Preparedness PPE distribution chart. Businesses have contacted the SEUHD requesting PPE. The SEUHD does not distribute to businesses, that is run done through the County Emergency Management office.

Brady stated that even though we have not had a lot of cases, there have been a number of cases that have had to be quarantined in our local hotels. Rhiana asked that when someone tests positive and they have to be quarantined, are there grants that pay for their lodging, or does the individual have to pay the cost. Brady stated that the counties have a contract with local facilities to quarantine and the counties pay for the lodging cost. The SEUHD is contracted to take care of their laundry, food. There have been some individuals that have had to be quarantined and their employer covered their costs.

Commissioner Wilson stated that he has heard that the cities and counties will be receiving COVID-19 monies and asked where the SEUHD was financially in regards to COVID-19 expenses and if the SEUHD was going to be needing a distribution from the cities and counties. Brady stated that as it is projected right now, it is anticipated that what the SEUHD has received will last to the end of 2020 to cover expenses and to include vaccination clinics in our communities. Brady also stated that he has reached out to the commissions to understand their position in the event that there is a surge in the Fall and to see if they are animable to the SEUHD in securing part of their funding if the SEUHD becomes overspent. Gabriel stated that Brady had reached out to him about potentially offsetting COVID-19 expenses through grants. Gabriel indicated that he has made an attempt to work with the Grand county administration but has not received a response yet. Brady stated that it was an exploratory question and it was not a need for funding at this time nor a need that is anticipated but a part of the planning process.

**WIC** – Rhiana asked if the Moab WIC office was open. Brady stated that the office is open and is seeing clients by appointment and continuing to transition to being more open and are asking that clients wear masks. There are a lot of clients that like to interact via a telehealth situation. WIC enrollment throughout the district has increased. Moab had an increase of 11% which has some bearing from the economic impacts of COVID-19. WIC is exploring the possibility of doing appointments via telehealth moving forward, special permission was obtained to do appointments in this manner. Rhiana stated that it was a good idea because there are clients that do not have transportation. Sara stated that the offices will be slowly

opened to do certifications and recertification which is when parents bring their child with them to the appointment.

Kathi asked what the reasoning for the mobile clinic was. Sara stated that it has been a struggle to find places at the satellite clinics in East Carbon and Green River to do WIC. WIC has been done in different buildings and have been looking for a set location where clients can go and receive all the services WIC offers. The van can also be used for immunizations for kindergarten round up and for cancer screenings. Kathi stated that she also felt that it was a very good idea and it would be very beneficial for clients in those communities. At this time WIC is being done at the City Building in East Carbon and at the Green River clinic. The Green River clinic is growing and will be needing all of their space. The van will also help to promote the services that are offered at the SEUHD at community events. Rhiana stated that a couple of years ago when Grand county did a study on intergenerational study on poverty and what measures needed to be taken to combat it, programs such as this were discussed a lot.

**Environmental Health** – Starting to move forward with the program and looking at what the DEQ work plans and what the contracts will look like for the next fiscal year. A lot of the funding for the Harmful Algae Bloom program at the DWQ shifted away from what has been done in the past. More responsibility will be shifted to tracking Scofield lake because DWQ will not be doing their regular sampling. There has also been an increase in the Ecoli monitoring and sampling of recreational waters which will be a joint effort between DWQ and the SEUHD. DWQ will provide the materials to do the sampling and get them tested to determine if there is an E. coli risk. Hailey Gardner is currently working part time and is being trained to do sampling as well.

**Emergency Preparedness** - There is a lot of talk about large gatherings during the summer. A template is being developed for approval of those gatherings. Applicants will need to be responsible to go through the checklist and indicate how they will maintain control of social distancing and also provide a roster of attendance for potential epidemiological tracing. The template is under development and will be standardized through the State.

**SEUHD Price Building Update** – Brady stated that he has met with the engineer who is working on a more realistic design of the building which will be provided soon.

VIX. Board Comments, future discussion items.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

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Debbie Peet, Board Chair

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Bradon Bradford, Health Officer