

# SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT (SEUHEALTH DEPARTMENT)

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

January 28, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.

Green River City Hall

Green River, UT

### PRESENT

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

**EMERY COUNTY:** Kathi Kearney, Kelly Wilson

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

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Kent Wilson, Steve Hawks

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

- I. **Public Hearing** – A Public Hearing was held regarding the name change on the CIB application for funding to remodel the old District Justice Courthouse building. The name on the application would be changed from the Carbon County Municipal Building Authority to Southeast Utah Health Department as the applicant. The application was initially submitted under the Carbon County Municipal Building Authority. It was recommended that the SEUHD apply for funding under its own name. There being no public comments, Chair Peet asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.  

**Motion** – (Kathi Kearney/Commissioner Larry Jensen) Move to close Public Hearing.  
Unanimous.
- II. **Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chair Debbie Peet. Chair introduced new board member Gabriel Woytek. Gabriel gave a brief background of his work experience and present position with the Grand County Council. He will be filling the vacancy left by Councilmember Jaylyn Hawks.
- III. **Public Comment** – Comments covered in item one above.
- IV. **Minutes** – Chair asked board members for additions and/or corrections to the minutes.
  - a. Discussion on corrections. Kathi - page two, last paragraph, line three from the bottom, the dates should read “07/01/19 – 06/30/20” rather than 07/01/19 - 06/30/30. Page four, second line, spelling correction “clothes” and on paragraph eight, Kathi questioned the spelling of “comradery.” Christian – page three, under Policy, line nine, “over time” should be “overtime” and parenthesis be added.  

**Motion** – (Kathi Kearney/Kelly Wilson) Move to approve the minutes with corrections as indicated above. Unanimous.
  - b. Follow up on action item: Brady stated that at the last board meeting, additional information was requested regarding the rest area rule. He indicated that rest areas can be inspected as they are in the process of being constructed. The SEUHD has the ability to inspect it at any time but there is no requirement that there be a certain number of inspections per year. Rest areas are required to provide water samples to be tested regularly, provide soap and paper products, and properly dispose of waste water. Discussion followed.

V. **Budget** – Tracy had one budget change which was an addition of \$8,000.00 for the VISTA worker. The funding will pay for a VISTA worker to work from the Moab office in the development of a GIS program for the plotting of all septic systems.

**Motion** – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Kathi Kearney) Move to approve the change to the budget as indicated above. Unanimous.

a. Voucher Review – There being no questions regarding vouchers, Chair asked for a motion to approve the vouchers.

**Motion** – (Kathi Kearney/Rhiana Medina) Move to approve the vouchers. Unanimous.

VI. **Election of 2020 Board Vice-Chair** - Chair asked if there were any volunteers who would want to serve as vice-chair. Commissioner Larry Jensen nominated Rhiana Medina. Rhiana asked what the responsibility entailed. Chair indicated that the responsibility would be to conduct board meetings in her absence. The Board unanimously approved the nomination of Rhiana Medina as vice-chair.

VII. **Approval of Application for CIB Funds in name of SEUHD** – Christian asked that the board approve/authorize Chair Peet to sign the deed conveying the current SEUHD building to Carbon County in consideration of Carbon County deeding the old Courthouse building to the SEUHD. In doing so, this will allow the SEUHD to be the owner of the old Justice Courthouse building property. The Carbon County Commission has approved the transfer and has been authorized to sign and execute a deed for the County. Commissioner Larry Jensen stated that if the name change had not taken place and the CIB application remained in the name of the Carbon County Municipal Building Authority, the building would continue to be owned by the County and the SEUHD would have to buy the building from the County, doing the name change would secure the SEUHD ownership of the building.

**Motion** – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Kathi Kearney) Move to approve the name change from the Carbon County Municipal Building Authority on the CIB application to the SEUHD and also to authorize Chair Debbie Peet to sign the special warranty deed for the transfer of the property. Unanimous.

VIII. **Tobacco 21 Ruling** - Brady stated that at the last board meeting, the board voted to put forth a resolution in support of Tobacco 21 and regulation of the E-Cigarette. Brady has been working with other health departments to interact with the Legislators that are interested in these topics. In the meantime, the Federal Government made a ruling raising the age to purchase tobacco to 22. All vendors were contacted by the SEUHD notifying them of the rule and that they had until January 1, 2020 to change their computer systems. Tobacco buys were completed in December and are not scheduled to be done again until March or April. Larry asked how often stores had violations. Brady stated that it does not happen very often. Out of the 67 stores, there were three sales in December.

Rhiana asked if the clerks that sell alcohol to minors are charged with a violation. Brady stated that the SEUHD does not charge them, but that the store is charged by the court system. Stores that make three sales to minors within a six-month period lose their license and receive a violation. Sale licenses were previously issued through the Tax Commission, they are now done by local health departments. The FDA has outlawed the sale of flavored e-cigarettes but has not banned if there is a mechanism in place for companies to apply to the FDA to allow them to add flavors. Brady distributed a report indicating that 7% of youth will try vape first before cigarettes. Senator Christenson was very appreciative in receiving the resolutions from the health departments.

He is writing Bill 37 which will be regulating and taxing e-cigarettes. The bill will have \$2m earmarked for local health departments to cover one additional inspection per store per year and for educating youth. Commissioner Larry Jensen asked where e-cigarettes can be purchased. Brady stated that the Juul products that are closed system, can be bought in any store. The open systems can only be purchased from specialty stores. There is another bill being introduced to indicate that even if it is a closed system and flavored, they can only be purchased from a specialty store. Chair asked if the health department had formulated a statement to submit to the State Health Department or Senator Christensen indicating support. Brady stated that yes, Commissioner Wilson requested an amendment be made before it was submitted. It was amended and has been submitted.

Kathi stated that in last meeting minutes, discussion was held regarding the requirement of tobacco sales receipts. Brady stated that it was removed from the SEUHD resolution but is part of the Senator Christensen's Bill 37. The House Bill is 118 another bill and House Bill 23 addresses retailer amendments. Rhiana stated that e-cigarettes are a big topic in the Grand County schools and that there has not been any local media addressing the issue and suggested that more local awareness be promoted. Brady indicated the Health Promotion department will be promoting awareness and that there is a bill being proposed to give schools the authority to cease and destroy vaping products. Health Education is in the process of obtaining vape detectors in schools. Commissioner Larry Jensen agreed with Rhiana that there needs to be more public awareness in all our communities. Amanda McIntosh, SEUHD Health Promotion, stated that Shelli Ness, also part of the Health Promotion staff, has been providing education to students and teachers on the health risks of vaping. She has contracted with Tall Cop, Jermaine Galloway to speak and provide a community training/awareness on vape paraphernalia, drugs, alcoholism, etc. Parents are being notified of the event. The event will take place in Price on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Peet also added that the event will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 and from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30, registration is being done through Eventbrite. Discussion followed. Amanda stated that another education process is that of a large collection of mods and vapes that are being disguised as credit cards, USBs, etc. These items are used as part of the training for parents and teachers so that they are aware of what teens are using. Grand County schools have a ten-day suspension for vaping in school.

- IX. **Jurisdictional Risk Assessment** – Brady stated that the Jurisdictional Risk Assessment was brought up during the Minimum Performance Requirements for health departments. Questions were brought up regarding the Risk Assessment at the SEUHD. The Financial Risk Assessment is conducted yearly and is part of the budget in the board packet. There were no findings on the Financial Risk Assessment. Tracy stated that part of the assessment was a questionnaire that was completed in regards to how money is handled by staff at the SEUHD. Chair Peet asked if there were any check and balances in the process. Tracy stated that there was and that it is described in the management letter. There is a total of five staff members that are involved in the process of managing monies coming into the SEUHD. Brady also stated that there was a secondary assessment conducted last year regarding physical jurisdictional hazards. Brady reviewed the hazards in the local communities via projector. The SEUHD reviewed each risk and ranked the pandemic flu or disease as the highest risk. The top five hazards are pandemic flu, supply shortage, water supply disruption, wildfire and floods. For each there is a ranking and description as to what might be done in order to reduce the risks. SEUHD will be working on plans to address those risk.

Chair Peet asked that if a person is infected with the corona virus and they don't show symptoms initially, how long after infection do they develop symptoms? Brady stated that it was two weeks.

- X. **Health Officer Report and Division Reports** – Brady asked board members to sign the Conflict of Interest for 2020. If they have, as board members, a conflict regarding any topic pertaining to the SEUHD, they need to make that known and Christian can answer their concerns.

Flu cases went up and there were two deaths in Utah. It is expected that the flu virus will be wide spread this year. Moab Regional Hospital had 13 positive tests for the flu. The type B flu is affecting children. Information regarding the flu is being sent out via social media.

Christian asked if there was any reports or statistics on how many people receive the vaccine and still get the flu. Brady stated that yes, but it is usually with those individuals that are hospitalized.

Brady reviewed Utah Health Department resources. Representative Watkins is proposing a bill similar to a bill in California for the potential hazard of food being prepared in homes then sold. House Bill 86 is for testing of lead in drinking water in schools to begin in 2022. They are to be done once a year then testing will be done every five years.

The BLM has entertained the possibility of opening a lease option for fracking on a parcel of land above the Moab Aquafer by the Slickrock Bicycle Trail. The main concern is that it supplies the water to the surrounding communities. If the BLM proceeds to open the parcel of land, Brady will notify the board as to what it can do to make their opinion known regarding the drinking water risk. Commissioner Larry Jensen asked if it was an above or underground source and if it would be a well. Orion stated that it looked like it was going to be underground. The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining may offer insight as to the safety of the project. Discussion followed.

Chair Peet reported on the Bill Watch. Jill Parker, Utah Association of Board of Health, is going to be notifying the board about what bills the SEUHD needs to be proactive on. The bills will be specific to the local area. She will be on a weekly phone call with Debbie, she will then send emails to the board regarding the bills. Phone calls will be held every Thursday.

Orion reported that a VISTA has been hired. The position was offered to Lara Idris who will be moving to Moab from New York City for one year. She will be developing a GIS data base. Rhiana asked if funding for the software was going to be added into the budget yearly. Orion stated that the software being purchased now will work for what needs to be done and will also work for what they need to do in the future. Also, another VISTA will be starting as a grant writer. She will be writing grants for water protection and for the expansion of the Moab office to include solar. Hailey, the new part-time Environmental Health Scientist, may be working full-time by this summer. Hailey will be the food specialist and will be doing restaurant inspections.

Kathi asked if the board packets will now be sent out electronically. Brady stated that they would be. It is more efficient and reduces the cost of production. The electronic file will be sent 10-14 days before the board meeting. Commissioner Larry Jensen asked that hard copies be provided as well for those that wish to review the data during the meeting. Also, all upcoming meetings will be held at the Green River City Hall building in Green River.

Orion made a brief presentation of what the Environmental Health Department is and what they have accomplished and done this last year. He explained what Environmental Health does in the communities to regulate anything that can affect communities adversely. The board was

encouraged to send him messages regarding any issue or concern they may have or know of in their communities and he will address them. He reviewed pictures of different environmental issues that occurred throughout the year. A drone system is now being used for recording septic systems and a new GIS system will back up all data for that.

Air quality – The Department of Air Quality will provide monitors but only for communities with a population of 50,000 or one can be purchased for \$250,000. The argument can be made that Grand County has a transient population that could benefit from them.

Brady stated that Brittney had completed the new website for the SEUHD and it is now online at seuhealth.com.

- XI. **Suicide Program Report** – Amanda McIntosh, Suicide Prevention Specialist. In 2018 the Utah State Legislature appropriated funding for the establishment of two positions, one for a Suicide Prevention Specialist and for an Opioid Prevention Specialist. Amanda gave a brief history of her journey with suicide as it has affected her personally.

Amanda reviewed the eight objectives that were given by the State for the program. She made a presentation of all of the community events that were held in both Carbon and Emery counties during the last year which help to meet those objectives. All of the events focused on awareness and resources available to individuals needing assistance. The events were made possible by donations from different businesses and entities. A women's support group was established providing women with constructive courses and modules, self-care tips, health, etc. Amanda has attended a number of conferences pertaining to suicide throughout the year. She presented QPR (Question Persuade Refer) at the Diversity Conference and Opioid Summit both held at USU Eastern. A Hope Walk hosted by the HOPE Squad of Carbon, Emery, and Grand Counties was held in Price during September (Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month). This was the 7th annual community walk. A media campaign for Carbon and Emery County consisted of yard signs with pictures of those that died by suicide and a family member were placed throughout both communities. The signs had hopeful messages on them to inspire those that are struggling to get help. Angel gardens were planted in both Carbon and Emery Counties to remember the 95 people the community has lost to suicide since 2013. The Hope Squad had gone from a coalition to a board and now has a mission statement.

Letters and surveys were sent out to 52 doctors and PA's in Carbon, Emery and Grand counties. Of the 52 surveys, 17 have been completed and returned. The surveys asked what screening process was being used for suicide risk and if they were in need of additional training. The objective is to teach QPR to as many in the community as possible. In 2019, 24 QPR trainings were conducted which reached a total of 700 people in Carbon and Emery County. A QPR training was also done for Sufco Mine with 330 miners in attendance. Amanda has done trainings in most of Emery County schools and is in the process of working with the Carbon County School District to do them at the high school. QPR trainings will be done in Grand County schools as well.

The Hope Squad of Carbon County was recognized by the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce by giving them the September Business of the Month spotlight. Amanda also received the President's Choice Award from the Carbon County Chamber. Part of the mission for 2020 is to become more involved in Grand county by promoting awareness and holding events. Another project underway is to get approval to have the Hope Squad symbol on license plates. The money paid for the registration would go to local suicide prevention and awareness programs within the respective counties statewide. Amanda is in the early process of writing a grant to help fund a set of thirteen

children's books that address suicide loss and grief that will be gifted to each elementary school within the three counties.

XII. **Board Report** –

a- Chair Debbie stated that she had received an invitation for the retreat in March to be held in Salt Lake City. It is a one-day event and is free. The event is for people who are interested in Healthy Utah.

An opioid overdose prevention coalition holds events in both Carbon and Emery counties by providing information and a dinner to families. Medical providers present the latest information pertaining to overdose and opioids.

Debbie will be attending the NCCHO in Washington DC for three days.

On August 18-20, the National Conference will be in Grand Rapids Michigan.

XIII. **Board Comments, agenda items for future board meetings** – There being no additional information, the meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**

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Debbie Peet, Board Chair

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Bradon Bradford, Health Officer