

SOUTHEAST UTAH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

July 27, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.
Green River City Office
460 E Main - Green River, UT
(In-Person Meeting)

PRESENT

CARBON COUNTY: Debbie Peet (Chair), Commissioner Larry Jensen, Zak Konakis
EMERY COUNTY: Commissioner Kent Wilson, Kathi Kearney, Kelli Wilson-Virtual Attendance
GRAND COUNTY: Rhiana Medina, Breann Davis, Councilmember Gabriel Woytek-Virtual Attendance,
EXCUSED: Attorney Christian Bryner
ADMINISTRATION: Bradon Bradford, Tracy Randall, Delia Paletta, Orion Rogers, Sara Braby, Jared Cloutier

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Debbie Peet.
- II. **Public Comment** – Debbie asked if there were any public comments, there being no public comments, Debbie closed public comment.
- III. **Minutes for May 25, 2021 - Discussion and possible approval**
 Debbie asked if there were any questions or corrections regarding the May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. There were none.

Motion – (Kathi Kearney/Commissioner Larry Jensen) Move to approve the May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. Unanimous.

- IV. **Minutes for June 24, 2021 - Discussion and possible approval**
 Debbie asked if there were any questions or corrections that needed to be made to the June 24, 2021 meeting minutes. There were none.

Motion – (Breann Davis/Commissioner Larry Jensen) Move to approve the June 24, 2021 meeting minutes. Unanimous. One abstains – Kathi Kearney.

- V. **Budget**

- A. **Revenue Changes- Discussion and possible approval** - Tracy stated that the new contract amount was to extend the COVID-19 funding. The funding is to be used once the existing COVID-19 funding has been exhausted. Tracy referred the board to Attachment A, Special Provisions of the contract. The total funding amount is for \$2,778,519 and will be for a two-year period. Kathi asked what the acronym PPPHEA meant. Tracy indicated that it was three acronyms combined, Payroll Protection Program and the Health Care Enhancement Act. The Preparedness contract was extended for another year with no change to the contract amount which will cause the new and the previous contracts to overlap. Brady stated that the SEUHD will build capacity to spend the program funding and will use as much as is needed to operate the program and to meet all of the objectives.

Motion – (Kathi Kearney/Rhiana Medina) Move to accept the new PPPHEA contract. Unanimous.

Motion – (Commissioner Larry Jensen/Kathi Kearney) Move to accept the extension of the Preparedness contract. Unanimous.

Salary Incentive - Brady stated that an additional staff incentive was discussed in March and that he had anticipated coming to the board to utilize some of the additional contract funding for a staff salary incentive. The incentive would be to recognize the continued efforts of the SEUHD staff. The amount per employee will range from \$150-\$1000 to follow the same pattern of the last incentive that was given. The incentive helps to give SEUHD staff a sense of satisfaction and acknowledgment that their efforts are appreciated. Brady stated that after this incentive, he did not anticipate coming back to the board for an additional incentive but would be considering a COLA at the end of 2021. As school starts and interactions increase between April and June, there will be more work going into isolations and other quarantining with younger children. Tracy indicated that the funding would come from COVID-19 excess funds. Commissioner Jensen stated that the staff value is high and that he was in support of the incentive.

Motion – (Breann Davis/Kathi Kearney) Move to approve the incentive for staff. Unanimous

B. Check Register – Questions-Clarifications possible approval

There were no questions or clarifications regarding the check register.

Motion – (Commissioner Kent Wilson/Kathi Kearney) Move to accept the check register. Unanimous.

- VI. **Housing Regulation** – Orion stated that since the last regulation draft was presented at the previous meeting, updates were made in order to incorporate new rules that will help to address challenges and issues in housing while at the same time supporting the renter and landlords. After the changes were made, the regulation was opened for public comment, printed in the local newspapers and also emailed to all of the lodging facilities that the SEUHD regulates in order to get more exposure. The Moab Sun News published an article regarding the regulation and is posted on their website. The Carbon County Planning and Zoning Building Official Planning Director, Todd Thorne, had a concern that the SEUHD may be overstepping bounds under the SEUHD license by looking at housing issues that are typically regulated by the Building Department. Todd is correct in stating that the SEUHD should not be regulating building code. Generally, building officials are only allowed to enter a home when it is issued a certificate of occupancy. Under the SEUHD license, Title 26A, the SEUHD is able to regulate housing depending on the reason/situation. When a life safety issue is identified by the SEUHD, the Building Department can be contacted. Within the regulation, the SEUHD has and will continue to invite the Building Department officials to go into a home as subject matter experts to ensure that the home is brought to safe standards. The Building Department in Moab is a good resource that has been utilized. The plan is to build good working relationships with Carbon and Emery counties as well. Questions/concerns submitted were: **1-** How the building code was to be regulated by the SEUHD and how it would be detrimental to home owners who own older homes and would they need to bring them up to the current code. Orion stated that that was not the intent of the regulation, if the home met code initially, it did not have to meet current code unless the home has safety concerns that need to be addressed. **2-** Regarding temperature requirements, why does the home have to be at a specific temperature? Homes need to be heated by permanent means at 68°, three feet above the floor and 18” from the wall.

3- Why are building permits required and why does the repair work need to be done by a licensed professional for certain types of work in the home when the landlord can do the work? Building permits are required for certain types of work. Referral is made to the Building Department in order to determine what can be done by the landlord. 4- The town of Castle Valley has a housing ordinance that allows for temporary dwelling structures (RVs) on a two-year basis with review after. They are wanting to know how the SEUHD Housing Regulation was going to pair with their ordinance. The SEUHD reviews and also authorizes those dwelling structures to ensure that they are safe and have proper utility usage. Commissioner Wilson asked that from the SEUHD perspective, is the usage of the RV dumps sanitary for those structures? Orion stated that they are as long as they are properly self-contained. Commissioner Wilson stated that Carbon County has a coin operated system and Emery County is thinking about creating ordinances to match their system due to the fact that the Special Service District does not feel it is sanitary. Orion is currently working with the Grand County Building Department to design specifications for RV dumps that can be used in a sanitary way to prevent contamination. The SEUHD is also working on specifications and regulations specifically for contamination concerns at the RV dumps. 5- A table of contents be added to the regulation.

Commissioner Jensen thanked the Environmental Health staff for engaging the Carbon County Building Department in the project. Rhiana indicated that the Moab MultiCultural Center is one of the lead homeless resource providers and thanked Jonathan for coming to the center and provided information as to when the regulation would go into effect, that it may possibly create homelessness and what resources were available.

Commissioner Jensen suggested that the definitions and regulation start on page seven and change the format of the beginning of the regulation.

Jared Cloutier thanked Commissioner Jensen for his input on the regulation and also Todd Thorne for his input and comments regarding site codes from Title 26A which gave the SEUHD staff a clearer insight into where the jurisdiction comes from and how it applies to the Housing Regulation. The SEUHD and Todd came to an agreement as to where the SEUHD's jurisdictions begin and how to make it most effective.

Jared indicated that he has been working with Salt Lake County Health Department and that they had made changes to their Housing Regulation. One was the reduction of responsibility that the health department has. The SEUHD's regulation is in line with their regulation when it comes to disputes with landlords. Due to the fact that there are landlords, particularly in Carbon County that may have issues with the changes that were made, a copy of the updated regulation was sent to them in order for them to be properly informed and aware of those changes. Zak asked if there were any punitive powers that the SEUHD has within the injunctions of the Title 26A or are there new punitive powers being added. Orion stated that no, it does not add to what the SEUHD already has with the current housing regulation in addition to the Title 26A. The regulation gives the SEUHD the ability to close a home to occupancy for life safety issues/reasons. The SEUHD is providing a free service for the community. This service falls under the community health services programs that receive very limited funding. The SEUHD goes into a home when a landlord, renter or owner requests help. Brady indicated that the SEUHD does not go into homes, facilities, when not invited unless it is to issue a permit for a restaurant.

Commissioner Jensen stated that there is value in what is being done with the regulation and also stated that in reference to the Utah Code 19-A6901, etc., it may be helpful to add a brief description of the codes to indicate what they cover. Orion stated that every regulation of code is explained by the SEUHD and would have Jared work on adding a full summary of that particular code. Jared stated that he had also added the definitions for contaminated and decontaminate which helps to outline what is being done. Orion suggested that the regulation be maintained as it is written and add a summary that is easy to read. Discussion followed regarding different aspects of the housing regulation.

Having the support of county attorneys is important when the SEUHD has to deal with landlords that abuse the system and also working with other resources in the communities will help the communities with housing issues. Debbie asked if the regulation had to go to public comment again. Orion stated that no, after board review the board can vote. Debbie asked for additional discussion. There being none, Debbie asked for a motion from the board.

Motion – (Rhiana Medina/Kathi Kearney) Move to approve and adopt the Housing Regulation as written. Unanimous.

VII. **Health Officer Report**

A. Public Health/COVID-19/Epidemiology – Brady reviewed the current COVID-19 data.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the number of 16,000 was accurate for fully vaccinated individuals and about 16,107 for one dose. Brady stated that it was very close because the Johnson and Johnson vaccine was also factored in and is one dose only. Commissioner Jensen asked if there were a high number of people that did not come back for their second dose. Brady stated yes, and that the second does can be done within six months. Debbie asked why Grand County had more dose vaccines done than the other two counties. Rhiana stated that along with other non-profit agencies in Moab, the MultiCultural Center had received a grant from the Office of Health Disparities for COVID-19 vaccine education and outreach. Orion stated that it was also due to the high numbers of tourism rates and employers paying employees to get the vaccine. Debbie asked if shots are given every day in Castle Dale? Brady stated yes, focus is made on Mondays and staff is available to go to a local business to do vaccines. From surveys done both in state and nationally, people now want to hear from doctors and friends regarding their experience with the vaccine. Clinics have increased in popularity as school begins. At the beginning of vaccine distribution, and mass clinics, health departments, the University of Utah and IHC accounted for 100% of distribution. Weekly vaccine distribution among health departments in the state now accounts for about 30% of the vaccinations with pharmacies and hospitals doing the rest of the vaccines. Commissioner Wilson asked what vaccine is given most. Sara stated that it was Pfizer and a lot of the reason is that there are three weeks between doses rather than four with Moderna. Commissioner Wilson asked how many people have gotten COVID-19 that had received the vaccine and how many were hospitalized. Brady stated that out of the 16,000 vaccinated, 43% were break through cases, two were hospitalized and one confirmed death. Kathi asked if kids were getting vaccinated. Sara stated that kids 12+ can get the vaccine and there has been an increase in vaccines for kids.

Brady stated that 23% of 12–18-year-old kids in Southeast Utah are vaccinated. The State’s goal is to be at 70% in vaccinations. Commissioner Jensen asked that out of those that were not vaccinated, are they being encouraged now and with the 16,000 who have received the vaccine, does that number help to get to 40%. Brady indicated that it would put Carbon County closer to 60% vaccinated.

Brady reviewed the Epidemiologist report regarding the numbers of vaccinated and positive cases. Deaths were 70% lower than they were last year due to the vaccine. Commissioner Jensen asked if there are treatment options available for those that are hospitalized now that were not available at the beginning of the pandemic. Sara stated that infusions are now available for treatment.

Brady indicated that as the school year begins, vaccines are a proven way to mediate the virus and that masks will be a personal choice.

Legally, if any public health order of any type and specifically regarding masks is issued, it is up to the SEUHD to notify the county governing authorities 24 hours before it happens and the order can last for up to 30 days.

The governing authority can cancel it before the 30-day period. Commissioner Wilson asked that when an ordinance is issued, can the county offices be notified. Brady stated yes.

At this time, elementary school children cannot be vaccinated. One suggestion was that if an exposure occurred, that there be a 10-day quarantine order for the classroom. In our communities, if there is an exposure, they will go into isolation as well as those that have not been vaccinated to include family members.

In the middle and high schools, the path will be that if there is an exposure in a classroom or sports team, parents will be notified and will be given the option to send their child to school with a mask or do school virtually. Education and information will be provided for parents. The CDC is recommending masks for all children in schools and teachers but that may not happen in our communities. The SEUHD is working with each school to find out what they are comfortable with. Rapid testing can be done in schools as well.

The Delta variant accounts for 80% of cases. Kathi asked how it is determined if a person tests positive for COVID-19 or the Delta variant. Brady stated that the sample is determined in a lab. The CDC released information stating that those that have the Delta variant will not have major symptoms but they can be highly contagious and is mostly affecting the younger age group. Discussion was held regarding vaccine rates and groups in local communities. Current Utah law indicates that if any school gets to 2% of the population in positive cases, they will have to go through the state protocol which means every student will be tested and those that are positive or who refuse to be tested will be sent home for two weeks. Brady indicated that he would send the presentation to the board.

Regarding long term care facilities, 91% in Southeast Utah have been vaccinated which is the second highest in the State. Vaccination among staff of these facilities is 56%. SEUHD has reached out to the long-term facilities and encouraged them to provide an incentive to have staff vaccinated. Grand County was at 75%, Carbon and Emery were below 50% of vaccinated staff.

- B. **Health Promotion** – Nothing to report at this time.
- C. **WIC** – The next program year may see a reduction in funding which will be state-wide. Enrollment is down by 10-20% between health districts which will impact the SEUHD. In our communities, eWIC is successful and will continue.
- D. **Clinical Services** – Presently working with Preparedness to do vaccines in our counties and will be offering vaccines at schools for children this year. COVID-19 clinics are getting a lot of walk-ins. In Carbon County there have been 20-30 walk-ins per day. Both Moab and Castle Dale have ran out of vaccine due to demand. The Meningitis B vaccine which covers four strains is not a vaccine that local providers offer for 7th grade kids. The SEUHD will begin to have the vaccine available by mid-August in each county.
- E. **Environmental Health** – The cleanup project in Thompson Springs is ongoing due to a fire that burned three separate mobile homes. According to the data pertaining to fires, this area is 1,000 times higher than the national average to have another structure fire.

A town clean up event was put in place to help mitigate the fire danger in the town. There was 10,000 cubic feet of material removed.

The SEUHD received an extension of the Environmental Health Capacity Grant for a five-year period. Due to increased restaurant inspections by staff, improvements in restaurants are being made.

Orion stated that he was appointed to the Division of Public Licensure Environmental Health Board. Commissioner Jensen asked if the SEUHD was licensed to inspect for asbestos. Orion stated that the inspections are expensive and that the State Division of Air Quality has called it a conflict of interest because the SEUHD regulates under their rule. Discussion followed regarding the removal of asbestos.

F. Emergency Preparedness – Staff is in Alabama for a training on preparedness planning.

G. SEUHD Price Building Update Brady reviewed the floor plan of the building. Brady indicated that the original budget between grants and loans was \$3.35m and the lowest bid was \$500,000 less. The majority of that amount will be used to replace the parking lot, install a better-quality carpet and tile, bathroom fixtures, added/replaced windows, and a water line for fire wiring. Commissioner Jensen stated that the CIB gave ½ loan ½ grant. The funds that need to be used first will need to come from the loan which is \$1.4m. Closing with CIB will be on Thursday, July 29, 2021. Debbie asked if the concerns with Dr. Martinez’s property from three years ago had been mitigated. Brady stated that the concerns were with the fencing, evergreens, and drainage and that those items have been addressed. The building is scheduled to be done by November. Carbon County has to own the building according to CIB. After the loans are paid, the County can give the building to the SEUHD. Attorneys will work on getting the proper documentation to do that.

X. Board Comments, future discussion items – Debbie stated that the NALBOH annual meeting will be held virtually. The board has been preregistered to attend. An app is available to download and view the sessions. On September 22-23, the UALBOH annual symposium will be held in Richfield. Registration and lodging will be covered by a grant.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Debbie Peet, Board Chair

Bradon Bradford, Health Officer