

MINUTES

March 27, 2023

Members Present:			
Dr. Jordan Singleton, Chair	X	Ryan Schooley	X
Carl Hanson, Vice-chair	X	Dr. Michael Kennedy	X
Dr. Mark Donaldson	X	Julie Fullmer	excused
Amelia Powers Gardner	X phone	Francine Jensen	X
Dr. Jeffrey Ogden	excused	Keith Rittel	X
Sonia Pineda	X		

Others present:

Eric Edwards, MPA, MCHES UCHD Executive Director
Julie Dey UCHD Secretary

Number of people in attendance 24

1. Welcome by Jordan Singleton, Board of Health Chair
2. Welcome new board members

New board members introduced themselves: Francine Jensen, Sonia Pineda and Keith Rittel.

3. Approval of the minutes from January 23, 2023

MOTION: Michael Kennedy made a motion to approve the minutes from January 23, 2023, which was seconded by Carl Hanson and passed unanimously.

4. Utah County Senior Service Volunteers – Presidential Award Recognition and Annual Program Update – Cheri Tuckett

On March 14, 2023 Michael D. Smith, CEO of AmeriCorps traveled to Provo to award the President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Awards to four of Utah County's senior volunteers at their monthly in service meeting. Cheri Tuckett, Program Manager of Senior Services, UCHD shared with the board that four of our senior volunteers received the

President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award. Senior Volunteer Candace Camp has volunteered 14,607 hours, Jessie Shirk 12,416 hours, Trudy McBride 6,204 hours and Lucy Fenn 3,032 hours. The award recognizes the valuable contributions volunteers make in our communities and encourages more people to serve.

Senior volunteer, Candace Camp, Presidential Volunteer Award recipient was present at the meeting. Candace received her award for her lifetime achievement of 14,607 hours of service over the last 12 years. Candace provides weekly visits to offer assistance and friendship to others that have difficulty with daily living tasks such as shopping, and routine errands. Though Candace herself has some physical challenges, her clients always express admiration that she doesn't let it slow her down. She is out helping other people. She gladly takes on some of our more unique and challenging clients with a lot of patience and humor. Candace is also bi-lingual and helps with our Spanish speaking volunteers and clients.

Cheri pointed out that Utah County's Senior Volunteer programs have many more dedicated, caring and selfless individuals that spend a lot of time helping other people.

Candace spoke to the board and told the board that the in-service meetings held monthly for the Senior Volunteers provide learning opportunities for many different resources the volunteers can recommend to the clients they serve. Our clients thrive better and stay more independent. Candace said she currently serves six people, half of whom speak Spanish. She advocated for the board members to let the community know about the program. The program also needs additional male volunteers to serve. This service gives purpose in life to the volunteers and is so beneficial not only for the people receiving help, but also for the volunteers themselves because it keeps them active in life. It provides a reason to get up in the morning. Both Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions are an integral part of keeping seniors active in the world. The knowledge the senior volunteers have benefits everyone. The programs are phenomenal. I cannot give high enough praise to the people who run them, and I am grateful for their support.

Dr. Jordan Singleton thanked Candace and all other Senior Volunteers.

5. Appointment of UCHD Administrative Hearing Board Members

This item was tabled.

6. Presentation to state and national agencies – NACCHO Preparedness Summit, Atlanta, GA, Utah Emergency Management Association – Aislynn Tolman- Hill

During UCHD's COVID-19 response, we took action in many good ways that benefited the community. Aislynn Tolman-Hill, Public Information Officer and Program Manager at UCHD was instrumental in one of the highlights of our response efforts, that we identified early in the vaccination roll out. Aislynn was selected and asked to present this response highlight at a National Preparedness to help Emergency Responders across the nation.

Aislynn's presentation was titled, "Build It, They Will Come. UCHD's scheduling tool developed under Eric's vision was to create an online scheduling platform that would handle the COVID-19 vaccination needs of Utah County. The platform was also created with the understanding of other potential needs beyond COVID-19 vaccinations. It was developed in a way to enable the system to schedule other in-house Health Department events. The new scheduler was created in-house using Utah County Information resources and expertise.

Benefits of creating UCHD's own scheduler: In-house tailorability, in-house support, scalability, tags/labels, communication integration, robust system that is Oracle based.

Aislynn wrapped up her presentation by saying that we (Health Department) were experiencing many pressures in 2020-2021, and Eric made a good call to creating a vaccine scheduler. He was bold. "In times of uncertainty, BE BOLD. Build it. They will come."

Eric commented at the end of the presentation that the scheduler was built using tax dollars and is a lasting resource. We can now improve upon it. This will be a product that we can use in the future, rather than something that after the emergency is over and has no more utility. We are proud of it. We are already using it and are coming up with new ways to leverage it for the future. We would not have survived without the vaccine scheduler and would not have been able to serve the public as rapidly. It is a tool that is configurable and customizable.

Aislynn reported that as far as we know, we are the only Health Department in the state that did not use a third party vendor to create a vaccine scheduler. Beyond the pandemic, we are still using it on a daily basis. The county's Emergency Manager has access to the scheduler to use as needed.

Aislynn asked the board members if they can see additional uses for the scheduler. Dr. Donaldson suggested that perhaps it could be used for the potential spring flooding that has been predicted. He also suggested that someone on the Commission should be looking at the scheduler that was created and seeing they can find other things in the county that it can be used for. Eric also asked the board members for input and ideas on how the health department can utilize this in the future to serve the public.

Carl Hanson gave kudos to the Health Department for the scheduler and said, "I think in public health, we are used to providing things for free, and I am not sure that's all that beneficial sometimes. I wonder if we are missing an opportunity here if there are organizations and entities that are willing to pay something. Are we missing an opportunity or are there other barriers as to why we are not? We have talked about 'pain' points with the Health Department's budget many times and this may be an opportunity to help."

Eric answered, "I believe when something has been made with tax dollars an entity doesn't have the ability to utilize that as a revenue generating resource. I could be wrong, but that is my understanding. I have asked the question to our I.T. department because I think they are leaning in the other direction. They would like to see it as a potential way to support the county's efforts. If it was created with county funds, it is possible there may be more flexibility there. We will need to do some more digging to figure it out. We have leveraged other things made by the Centers of Disease Control that are made free of charge, such as Epi info." We have not had to pay for that resource in the past.

Ryan Schooley suggested that it could potentially be used to help the county recoup funds that were spent during the pandemic. However, not charging for it would be a noble gesture to provide access to such a good resource.

Eric reported that the Health Department is fortunate right now to have our county commissioner's support for innovation. They have provided project dollars for enabling the development of modernizing our electronic in-take forms in our Nursing Division. We are currently working EClinicalworks, our electronic medical record system. We would like to have an electronic/kiosk based system to allow patients in-take for completion before clients arrive.

The presentation slides are included in the minutes.

7. Innovative Food Access Collaborative – Kaylie Lake

Utah's Regional Food Access was presented by Kaylie Lake, Health Education Technician, UCHD.

The purpose of this program is to help Utah County residents have access to good nutrition and to help prevent chronic disease. Kaylie shared the "Utah Regional Food Access Assessment" with the board. She explained that "food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. It can be said that someone who experiences food insecurity may have limited access to a healthy diet; therefore, they may not be able to maintain a diet that would help prevent chronic disease. As a result, food insecurity can impede chronic disease management. It can also exacerbate problems with our healthcare system."

In 2021, we started to explore how to address food insecurity and food access issues in Utah County. Various regional partners were brought together to discuss ways to initiate a regional approach. We applied for a grant from the Utah Cancer Action Network to address food insecurity. With the grant, the partners were able to hire consultants from Health Management Associates. The consultants helped us understand what food insecurity looks like in our region and how to work more collaboratively as regional partners.

Recommendations came from both the regional partners and the consultants. Minorities in our region are disproportionately more likely to experience poverty; and as a result, most likely to experience food insecurity. Approximately 80% of households who are eligible for SNAP are not currently on the program in our region. About 8% of our residents are below the federal poverty line, which is about \$47,000 for a four-person household in our region.

The consultants provided five recommendations for our region to help us address the barriers and get healthy and adequate food for our residents. 1) Create a resident advisory group, 2) Create a platform to access regional food resources, 3) Improve food pantry outreach and engagement, 4) Targeted outreach and enrollment in WIC and SNAP, 5) Leverage group buying power.

A steering committee will be created to lead the effort and see the work being done in our region. The committee will be made up of food pantries, local businesses, healthcare, schools, and many other sectors to work together for solutions. Then a regional plan will be developed.

Kaylie asked if anyone on the board wanted to volunteer to serve on the steering committee.

The presentation slides are included in the minutes.

8. COVID-19 Response/After Action Report and Improvement Plan – Aislynn Tolman-Hill

Aislynn presented the COVID-19 After Action Report to the board. A third party was hired to conduct an unbiased and comprehensive report. The report is a necessary requirement for our grant and more importantly to improve UCHD's response for future emergencies. This third party surveyed UCHD staff at many levels to obtain their opinions for what went well and what things can be improved.

The report concluded the following major strengths during the pandemic: 1) County Emergency Operation Center, 2) Employees worked long hours to complete necessary work, 3) Internal schedule system built by Utah County I.T., 4) Used a messaging platform for sending mass information to the public, 5) Eric Edwards, the new Health Officer, was able to break down barriers.

The third party provided primary areas for improvement: 1) UCHD could have activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) sooner in an emergency, 2) Better use of ICS organization and paperwork at the beginning of an emergency, 3) Improved communication between EOC and management to UCHD staff, programs and divisions, 4) Burnout was recognized, but not fully addressed. The presentation slides are included in the minutes.

The presentation slides are included in the minutes.

Following the action report and improvement plan presentation, Dr. Mark Donaldson reported on a study from the University of Chicago that measured fatalities, school time lost, and economic impact that COVID-19 had on various states. Utah did better than most states. Dr. Donaldson's opinion was that we didn't act independently. He suggested that perhaps there needs to be a public statement once the pandemic process is over saying, 'we did these things very well in Utah' and 'these are some things that could have been done better.'

Additional discussion regarding data surrounding the pandemic was made.

Keith Rittel, Superintendent of Provo City School District said, "He and the school superintendents in Nebo and Alpine tied themselves to the recommendations of the Health Department. We had regular meetings and as you all know, there was no manual. We were flying by the seat of our pants and making the best decisions we could based on the data we had that day. Provo City School District tied themselves to very regular meetings with the Health Department and received guidance on the best course of action. We collected data every single day about student absences and employee absences. It probably could have been done better, but in our look back, we could not have made the decisions we made to keep kids and staff safe without the association of the Health Department. I thank this Health Department because it helped us get through a very difficult time."

Eric said, "We need to collect input from the Board of Health and all of your perspectives so that we can capture all of it and add it to our strategic planning efforts. Please take the time to read the whole 48 page document, or at least skim the parts that are relevant to you in your areas of expertise. There are areas of improvement to be made with the public and with businesses and all of that information will be considered. Eric thanked Dr. Donaldson and the board for sharing their perspectives. Now we need to gather your professional input to help us collectively come up with the most comprehensive strategy moving forward. We are now working on our improvement plan, and we will not craft a plan until we hear from all perspectives to help guide our decision making and make improvements for the future."

9. Employee Changes

Eric reviewed employee changes with the board. With the COVID-19 response waning, we have terminated several positions that are no longer needed. It is unethical to keep COVID response efforts going with taxpayer funds if the effort is no longer needed.

We are having difficulty hiring in all of our specialty areas within the Health Department.

A new important position has been filled to serve as a drone pilot for our Mosquito Abatement. Our Mosquito Abatement division is unique in that we are the only health department in the state that has Mosquito Abatement as part of the Health Department. Elsewhere in the state, Mosquito Abatement is a special service district. Having Mosquito Abatement as part of the health department helps us to most effectively prevent vector/mosquito borne disease. We have found that a drone is the most efficient way to

surgically strike in areas that are inaccessible any other way. This is proving to be especially effective with all the development happening around Utah Lake. The drone can reach where airplanes and Mosquito Abatement staff cannot spray. The drone saves money and also can prevent adult mosquitos from ever hatching by larviciding in areas such as Vineyard, Lincoln Beach, Saratoga Springs and other areas. A drone pilot for this type of craft needs to be a licensed professional, to make sure it is done correctly. Eric thanked the Commission for making the drone and drone pilot available as a public health resource to the public. We would like to invite board members to see the drone in action.

Dr. Donaldson asked if the larvicide is a bacillus thuringiensis or bacillus sphaericus and if it were a bacterial. He also asked if it is a chemical. Eric said he would share the MSD sheet.

10. Other Items

Eric was happy to report that Utah County Human Resources has developed an employee incentivization plan. We have never been able to provide significant bonus' for our Over-Achievers and our Producers. These are the staff members who just go over and above. We can now provide a one market-step increase. In addition, rather than just waiting for when their one-year regular performance evaluation is due, if there is some amazing contribution made in public health for our county, we can now provide an event based and immediate bonus to that employee. This is the first time in the history of Utah County Government that we have that opportunity to really recognize and show appreciation for those staff members who are adding exceptional value to public service. This will help with retention and also help raise the bar for all of us in wanting to serve in the best way we can for Utah County residents.

Carl Hanson asked about the SAMSHA Grant prevention money. He asked if we lost the Community Coalition Leader, or the funding for the Health Department's Prevention team? Eric said that grant was lost but the good news is that we are receiving other opportunities to target the opioid epidemic. The opioid dollars that are coming from the settlements from lawsuits with significant amounts of prevention dollars coming our way to be able to target the epidemic with 'Communities that Care' models. There will be a lot going into treatment to help people who are overcoming addiction with Wasatch Behavioral Health as well as the Sheriffs office and what they do with addiction in the jail and things like that.

Dr. Mark Donaldson asked if there is a way to access data on reportable diseases that the board could have access to? Specifically looking for data with HPV and cervical cancer and the vaccine. The other data of interest is congenital syphilis because numbers have been on the rise. Both of these diseases are on the rise in the U.S. and it would be helpful to have access to how much of that is happening. Dr. Flinders that the infectious disease data is available. Eric Edwards told the board that we will send it out to all board members for their interest and review.

11. Approve and set a date, time, and location for closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual or individuals for today's date, at this location, following the completion of the regular agenda.

MOTION: Keith Rittel made a motion to approve and set a date, time and location for closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual or individuals for today's date, at this location, following the completion of the regular agenda. The motion was seconded by Sonia Pineda and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Amelia Powers Gardner made a motion to move to open meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Donaldson and passed unanimously.

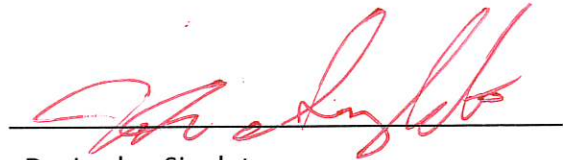
5. Appointment of UCHD Administrative Hearing Board Members

MOTION: Sonia Pineda made a motion to nominate two candidates for the Administration Hearing board. Sonia moved to appoint Ryan Schooley and Francine Jensen to the Administrative Hearing Board. The motion was seconded by Carl Hanson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ryan Schooley made the motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Jordan Singleton and passed unanimously.



Eric Edwards, MPA, MCHES
Executive Director / Local Health Officer
Utah County Health Department



Dr. Jordan Singleton
Chair
Utah County Board of Health