

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
May 22, 2024
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

The El Paso County Board of Health met at the Citizens Service Center at 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on May 22, 2024. Six Board of Health members were present.

Vice President Doris Ralston, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Board of Health Member Roll Call:

Present:

Doris Ralston, Vice President
Dr. Debora Chan
General Jack Briggs
Councilmember Dave Donelson
Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez, Jr.
Dr. Richard Vu

Absent:

Ted Collas, President (excused)
Commissioner Bremer
Mayor Glant Havenar

Directors and Officers Present:

Susan Wheelan, Public Health Executive Director
DeAnn Ryberg, Public Health Deputy Director
Dr. Bernadette Albanese, Co-Medical Director
Dr. Paul Mayer, Co-Medical Director
Dacia Hudson, Community Health Promotion Division Director
Leigh Perry, Business Operations Director
Michelle Beyrle, Public Health Information Officer
Pamela Preston, Deputy Public Health Information Officer
Summer South, Clinical Services Division Director

El Paso County staff present at Regular Session:

Brittany Riffle	Lori Cleaton	Lori Seago	Nikki Simmons	Rubba Ahram
Sara Kinney				

Members of the public present at Regular Session:

Abbey Mobolade	Cass Walton	Cassidy Crossman	Cathy Michopoulos	Dr. Charles Benight
David Leinweber	Jayne McConnellogue	Kirk Woundy	Kristeen Danburg	Dr. Lauren Eckhart
Mary Rosenoff	Ryan Spillane	Dr. Tatiana Bailey	Thomas Thompson	

Approval of Agenda

Vice President Doris Ralston entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the May 22, 2024 Board of Health Meeting

MOVED: by Dr. Chan, seconded by General Briggs to approve the agenda for the May 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board of Health Comments

1. Vice President Doris Ralston commented on the local needle exchange program. Vice President Ralston commented she became aware that these sites were operating in Colorado Springs through an article in the Gazette.
2. Commissioner Gonzalez commented on the needle exchange program. Commissioner Gonzalez commented that the sites are acting outside of the law, and he contacted the Mayor of Colorado Springs and asked the law to be enforced.
3. General Briggs commented on the needle exchange program. General Briggs commented that the program is not a true “exchange” as multiple needles are being handed out at a time.
4. Councilmember Donelson commented on the needle exchange program. Councilmember Donelson commented that he has asked Colorado Springs City Council to look into the issue as he was not aware of these sites being active in Colorado Springs.
5. Dr. Chan commented on the needle exchange program. Dr. Chan commented that she was not aware that the program was allowing people to receive dozens of needles at a time.
6. Dr. Vu commented on the needle exchange program. Dr. Vu disagrees that this program is a harm reduction service. Dr. Vu inquired if there is data available to support or refute the efficacy of this program being a harm reduction service.

Approval of Minutes

Vice President Doris Ralston entertained a motion to approve the April 24, 2024 Board of Health Meeting minutes.

MOVED: by General Briggs seconded by Councilmember Donelson to ratify the minutes from the April 24, 2024 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comment on Items not Scheduled on the Agenda

No comments presented.

Proclamation

Vice President Doris Ralston read the Proclamation Recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month

MOVED: by Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by General Briggs to Recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

*Numerous representatives from partner organizations were present to speak in support of this proclamation including:

Abbey Mobolade, First Lady of Colorado Springs
David Leinweber, Colorado Springs City Council
Deputy Chief Mary Rosenoff, Colorado Springs Police Department
Deputy Chief Jayme McConellogue, Colorado Springs Fire Department
Dr. Lauren Eckhart, Children's Hospital Colorado
Ryan Spillane, Peak Vista Community Health Centers
Kirk Woundy, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
Cathy Michopoulos, Diversus Health
Cass Walton, Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention

Finance and Budget

Sara Kinney, Budget Supervisor, presented the April 2024 financial summary.

Director's Report

Dr. Tatiana Bailey, Executive Director, Data-Driven Economic Strategies presented on the El Paso County Public Health Return on Investment project.

Adjournment

Vice President Doris Ralston entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED: by Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by General Briggs to Adjourn the May 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment at 11:08 a.m.

Next Board of Health meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

at The Citizens Service Center

1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd. in Colorado Springs.

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