

# **EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**

**January 22, 2025**

## **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 January 22, 2025. Eight Board of Health members were present.

President Ted Collas, called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

### **Board of Health Member Roll Call:**

#### *Present:*

Ted Collas, President  
Doris Ralston, Vice President  
Commissioner Cory Applegate  
Hunter Barnett  
Councilmember Dave Donelson  
Commissioner Carrie Geitner  
Mayor Glant Havenar - *Teams*  
Dr. Richard Vu

#### *Absent:*

Dr. Debora Chan

### **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  
Michelle Guenther, Business Operations Director  
Michelle Beyrle, Strategy, Data & Communications Director  
Summer South, Clinical Services Division Director  
Kat McGarvy, Environmental Health Division Director

### **El Paso County staff present at Regular Session:**

Amanda Hamilton Andrea Schumacher Emily Barba-Jaume Jamie Morris Lauren Johnson Legrand  
Logan Hyder Marigny Klaber Nicole Evans

### **Members of the public present at Regular Session:**

none

### **Approval of Agenda**

President Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the January 22, 2025, Board of Health Meeting.

**MOVED:** by Vice President Doris Ralston, seconded by Councilmember Dave Donelson to approve the agenda for the January 22, 2025, Board of Health meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Board of Health Comments**

1. President Ted Collas welcomed new members. The next Board meeting will feature a farewell for Commissioner Cami Bremer. He acknowledged Director Susan Wheelan's retirement and thanked her for her service as Director of Public Health.
2. Commissioner Carrie Geitner commented that she is looking forward to the opportunity and is interested to see how the changes at the federal level will be implemented.
3. Hunter Barnett greeted fellow Board of Health members and expressed excitement to be on the Board. He thanked Susan and staff for the warm welcome and orientation, along with the Board of County Commissioners for the appointment. He briefly shared his experience in health care.
4. Councilmember Dave Donelson welcomed the new board members and thanked Susan for her service as Public Health Director.
5. Vice President Doris Ralston welcomed new members and thanked the staff for the work they do. She said Susan will be missed and thanked her for her service.
6. Dr. Vu wished everyone a Happy New Year.
7. Commissioner Cory Applegate briefly described his background and expressed excitement over his appointment to the Board.

### **Approval of Minutes**

President Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the December 11, 2024, Board of Health Meeting minutes.

**MOVED:** by Councilmember Dave Donelson, seconded by Vice President Doris Ralston to ratify the minutes from the December 11, 2024, Board of Health meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Public Comment on Items not Scheduled on the Agenda**

No comments presented.

### **Public Safety and Public Health Partnerships**

Director Wheelan introduced El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) Bureau Chiefs Andrew Prehm and Scott Deno and highlighted the work that has been done in partnership with EPSO.

DeAnn Ryberg, Deputy Director of Public Health, provided a brief overview of EPSO and Public Health partnerships ranging from infectious disease prevention to behavioral health response. She commended Marigny Klaber, Communicable Disease Assistant Manager, for her work in disease prevention.

Jamie Morris, Reproductive Health Division Manager, presented on congenital syphilis prevention in the Criminal Justice Center. EPSO Bureau Chiefs Deno and Prehm provided their perspective related to the value and benefit of partnership on mutual priorities.

### **Contracts**

#### **Renewal of Previously Approved Contracts**

Jamie Morris, Reproductive Health Division Manager, presented on the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Screening and Treatment Grant.

President Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Screening and Treatment Grant.

**MOVED:** by Councilmember Dave Donelson, seconded by Commissioner Cory Applegate to approve the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Screening and Treatment Grant.

Commissioner Carrie Geitner abstained.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Director's Report**

Dr. Bernadette Albanese provided an update on the HPAI A(H5N1) Avian flu.

### **Executive Session**

Lori Seago, County Attorney, read the Executive Session statement into the record.

At 10:02 a.m. President Ted Collas entertained a motion to recess the meeting into Executive Session for the purposes stated on the record.

**MOVED:** by Vice President Doris Ralston, seconded by Councilmember Dave Donelson to recess the meeting into Executive Session.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Adjournment**

The Executive Session adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

### **Next Board of Health meeting**

The next Board of Health meeting will be:

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

**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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