

# Meeting Minutes from July 27, 2021

## ATTENDEES

Chairman Terry Nelson, Commissioner Greg Miles, Commissioner Randy Asay, Commissioner Brad Horrocks, Ms. Jodi Tinker (virtual call in), Mr. Keith Goodspeed

Director Kirk Bengé, Mr. Scott Gessell (Business Manager), Liberty Best (Administrative Assistant), Mr. Darrin Brown (EH Director), Ms. KayCee Asay (Nursing Director), Mr. Jake Isaacson (HP Director)

## ABSENT

Shanna Wheeler, Dr. Richard Jolley, Dr. John Mathis

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Nelson at 1205

## PUBLIC INPUT

None

## MINUTES APPROVAL - May 26, 2021

Horrocks had a question about minutes in the portion of URS rates. Horrocks mentioned that by law there is a requirement for a specific amount. Additional 401 voluntary contribution is not spelled out in the minutes. If it was specifically voted on, Horrocks mentioned the minutes should reflect what was presented and clearly delineate between the required contribution and any voluntary contribution. He suggested the minutes should accurately reflect what was discussed and approved. Bengé suggested that the minutes be amended to clearly reflect what is mandated and voluntary. There is a signed document that spells this out, the discussion will be amended to reflect that required from the state is 18.47 percent for Tier 1 and 16.69 percent for Tier 2 and voluntary for Tier 1 is 6.35 percent and Tier 2 is 7.14 percent.

Miles made a motion to approve minutes as amended to include specific contribution amounts, Goodspeed seconded.

## COVID-19 updates

Covid updates included in the packet, charts showing trends for local COVID-19 case counts, trends and vaccine rates. Statistics as of July 21, had one additional death reported in the area, Uintah County, 60s, non vaccinated, another death reported July 27. Uintah County County no noted comorbidities unvaccinated. 40 deaths as of July 27. ARMC is stressed they don't think they can continue to have consistent hospitalizations without wearing out staff. Hoping the trend does not increase. Will continue to monitor. Majority of cases hospitalized in ARMC, UBMC is a lower rate of hospitalizations. Duchesne County is on the rise but Uintah is still higher and Daggett County is still Daggett County with minimal cases. Theory: not enough people are being tested to accurately show what the virus is doing in the communities, primarily testing those that are infected. Watching trends of those who had had COVID but were reinfected. In January not testing enough to know, in May we were testing enough to know what was going on in the community. Now the only people really getting tested are those in hospitals or who are already sick.

## Social Media Policies

Discussion about social media, posts that had created some anxiety. Comments on the post had themes as if in the original post which it was not, segregating children, vaccinating without parental consent, not true we require a consent for every child vaccinated, the vaccinated are spreading the virus more than the unvaccinated in our community. All of which are blatant lies and constantly referenced.

The board members present discussed the need to have consistent messaging with school districts and superintendents.

Approaching COVID policy with a united front, should be a little easier since there is a vaccine. Initial approach will be giving parents a selection of recommendations to follow if students 12 years old and older are unvaccinated and there is a classroom exposure to COVID-19.

Benge explains that how we handle social media messaging as we get closer to the school year is going to make or break the community and how to approach the comment sections misinterpreting the posts. What TCHD has done is go through negative comments received and noted key words, so those posts require review.

The board chair mentioned that no matter what we do there is going to be backlash. There were a few threatening comments that are more concerning.

As long as TCHD social media policy is met there is the policy that can back up what TCHD posts.

Benge explains that going forward moving social media to facts, what is happening in the community, people already know they can get vaccinated at TCHD intent is not to silence people opinions the intent is to prevent creating a false narrative that may poison the mind of people who come to our page for facts and go to the comments and leave with a skewed perception of reality.

Kirk Benge discussed getting a letter from the BOH that would say these are the facts about COVID as we go back to school. Keeping it positive and keeping COVID education going. Horrocks said we need to remind people that we do not want to move back into mandates, a "look how far we have come this is how we move forward."

## PTO Bank Allotment

Previously the BOH had moved to lower the amount of PTO an employee can bank from 600 hours to 300 hours. Benge explained this is brought up because under FMLA allows up to 12 weeks. Benge wanted to bring it to board attention that previously there were 600 hours able to be banks, dropped to 300 hours but if wanted to bank 12 hours for FMLA it would be 480 in the middle of the two.

Horrocks reminded everyone that it creates unprecedented cost when employees leave. Miles agreed it can be an unfunded liability.

Short term disability was brought up. Gessell reminded the board that it was discussed to wait a year after Peloris to see what short term disability would cover.

Miles mentioned that when the discussion was originally made to lower PTO bank that it was found to have little relevance because short term disability would cover what the PTO bank would not in the case of FLMA.

Scott Gessell will look into short term disability and bring numbers back to the board. Quotes through PEHP.

## Contract Summary (New Contracts)

Benge explains that the majority of the contracts go from July 1 to June 30, which makes it difficult to summarize the new contracts. Therefore Benge went over contracts that are being amended or changed.

Current contracts, some expire September and December.

All non COVID related contracts \$2.45 million annually in existing contracts with UDOH and DEQ, which are the vast majority of contracts. In COVID contracts, there is currently \$7.3 million to work off. Many are multi year like expanded enhanced testing contracts that go through July 31, 2023 for \$3 million. It can only be spent on testing, time and materials related to testing and expanded testing.

COVID specific have more than doubled annual contract funding typically to 2.5 million to charge time and material against to have that plus \$3.5 million to charge time against.

The newest have the start date of July of 2021

A new K-12 COVID-19 testing contract for \$400,000 and that is to help us establish a team to respond and to do testing in schools this year and to work with schools with plans to encourage students to get tested as often as possible. In addition there is a draft contract that hasn't been finalized yet for crisis care school nursing.

A COVID-19 disparities contract that is still in draft form for \$500,000 that is aimed at helping us reach underserved populations that might not be getting access to COVID vaccine or COVID support if they are quarantined.

Vaccine Supplemental contract for \$1.2 million to continue to help vaccinate anywhere as often as we need to till everyone that wants vaccinated gets vaccinated.

Benge explained these new funds allow TCHD to build the teams necessary to respond if needed. This means hiring temporary people.

Standing item on agenda to inform about new contracts.

## Approval of Check Register

Gessell gave the board a copy of the most recent check register, cleaned up as asked for in the previous meeting. Gessell simplified the check registry to show more at a glance where and on what money was spent.

Miles made a motion to approve, Asay seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

## Financial Report

Gessell goes over the financial report. This will remain a standing item on the agenda.

Operating Funds total \$1,691,639.63

Restricted Funds total \$690,986.57

## **2022 Proposed Fee Schedule**

Board reviewed documents for the proposed fee schedule. The fee schedule is typically reviewed every year, though in 2020 the fee schedule did not change. The proposed fee schedule was for 2022. The draft fee schedule showed now changes to fees in the health promotion division of the health department. Environmental health had a few fee schedules changes with the adoption of the new cosmetology rule, allowing for one fee to include the several components of cosmetology and body art if the business had both cosmetology and body art and tanning. Water quality and wastewater inspection had a small change to language in the fees.

Immunizations had a couple changes in fees in correlation to an increase in cost to the health department acquiring the immunization to have on stock.

Asay made a motion to approve, Goodspeed seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

## **Strategic Planning/Retreat**

Decision was made to combine the next Board of Health meeting with the Strategic Planning Meeting/Retreat on September 29, 2021, moving the standing meeting for September to the following week.

## **Symposium**

Goodspeed encourages the Board members to register for the UALBOH symposium this year in Richfield. As of the meeting Goodspeed did mention he was the only TriCounty Board of Health member that was registered for the symposium.

## **Adjourn**

Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1429