



April 28, 2020

Board of Health Minutes

Two Rivers Public Health Department

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
X*		Dennis Reiter-Buffalo County Commissioner
X		Sue Hunter – Buffalo County Citizen
X*		Dennis Rickertsen – Dawson County Commissioner
X*		Nicole Thorell –Dawson County Citizen
	X	Scot Grams – Franklin County Supervisor
	X	Mike Dallmann – Franklin County Citizen
	X	Glen Monter – Gosper County Supervisor
X*		Patty Bader – Gosper County Citizen
X*		Cindy Boehler – Harlan County Supervisor
X*		Doris Brandon – Harlan County Citizen
	X	Wayne Anderson – Kearney County Supervisor
X*		Cody Krull – Kearney County Citizen
X*		Barb Malm – Phelps County Commissioner
X		Tana Fye – Phelps County Citizen
X*		Dr. Brady Beecham – Physician
X*		Dr. Melissa Drain – Veterinarian
		Dentist – (OPEN position)
	X	Cecelia Perales – Minority Representative
	X	Nicole Buettner – Midlevel Practitioner

Also present: TRPHD representatives: Jeremy Eschliman – Health Director; Glenda Fraber- Assistant Director; Jesse Valenti-Finance Manager; Haleigh Cunningham-Health Educator

Note: Barb Malm arrived virtually at 6:12.

Members of the public also present (in person and virtually): none

*Attended virtually via Zoom

CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

The Board of Health (BOH) meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM virtually via Zoom with Hunter, Fye, Eschliman, Fraber, Valenti, and Cunningham present in the Kearney office. Meeting was called to order by Hunter. Hunter acknowledged the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was posted in the room with booklets available.

Meeting notices: Eschliman noted the special meeting notice publication has occurred in all possible newspapers of record within each county of the district, in addition to an agenda being continually current and available at the TRPHD offices and on the TRPHD website. Eschliman stated to the best of his knowledge the publication occurred in the Kearney Hub, Lexington Clipper, and Holdrege Citizen, prior to the board meeting due to the timeline of this special meeting.

Roll call completed by Fraber, 11 members present at time of roll call. Note: Malm arrived at 6:12.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY PRIOR TO THE MEETING & AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Updated on website, at both offices, sent out via press release contacts, etc. Motion made by Fye, seconded by Rickertsen to approve agenda as presented.

Roll call vote, 11 ayes, 0 nays, with Brandon abstaining. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2020 MEETING. Motion made by Krull, second by Rickertsen to approve minutes from April 7, 2020 meeting. **Roll call vote, 11 ayes, 0 nays, with Brandon abstaining. Motion carried.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eschliman gave an update on Covid 19 utilizing Incident Command, implemented about 12 weeks ago, and formal IAP's are held daily. There is also a District Unified Command for the past 6 weeks (health system leadership and emergency managers). A unique characteristic of Two Rivers Public Health Department is the amount of health systems -10 (tied with 1 other LHD for the most of any public health district in the state). At this time virtually all non-essential tasks for TRPHD have been deferred so that all staff can work on the Covid 19 situation. At this time our incident command structure is comprised of 64 FTE which consist of:

12 regular

10 temporary

12 partner

29 volunteer

Note: this doesn't include NG or significant partnerships (e.g. Tribasin)

Critical public health tasks in response to Covid 19 are Contact tracing and testing. Eschliman discussed the continual need for contact tracing and increased testing for the foreseeable future until pharmaceutical interventions become available.

Eschliman provided an update on the numbers for our district as of daily press release time on April 27th, 2020.

503 total cases, 42 new cases (78% Dawson Co. 19% Buffalo Co.)

Dawson 392

Buffalo 94

Gosper 8

Kearney 4
Franklin 3
Phelps 2

Old Business

No old business noted from the board

New Business

- a. Enter Closed Session RE: Legal advice regarding potential litigation

Fye representing as legal counsel

Motion by Thorell, second by Malm to enter closed session RE: Legal advice regarding potential litigation. **Roll call vote, 11 ayes, 0 nay, with Fye abstaining. Motion carried.** TIME: 6:25

Exit Closed Session RE: Legal advice regarding potential litigation

Motion by Rickertson, second by Beecham. **Roll call vote, 11 ayes, 0 nays with Fye abstaining. Motion carried.** TIME: 7:01 **Fye no longer representing as legal counsel**

- b. Recommendation to ratify executive committee actions (April 17, 2020)

- a. Discussion on Buffalo County's 2nd request of information

Eschliman provided brief on request for information. Board members called on several public citizens present to offer comments as proponents and opponents of the Buffalo County's request for information sharing.

Motion by Thorell, second by Bader to deny the request to release protected health information below the county level, as requested by local law enforcement, Buffalo County, and other local political subdivisions. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 1 nay by Reiter, with Fye abstaining. Motion carried.**

- b. Approval of salary range for epidemiologist position (\$56,000-\$75,000), as a temporary position with no benefits.

- i. **Beecham exited from the meeting for discussion. Discussion of conflict of interest as Dr. Aravind Menon was spouse of Dr. Beecham.**

- c. Addition of epidemiologist position-potential temporary hire-Dr. Aravind Menon

- i. Discussion of conflict interest- Dr. Brady Beecham's spouse.

Hunter stated Executive Committee has discussed conflict of interest and has approved salary range. Recommended ratification of salary range. Eschliman discussed temporary position status and comparable ranges linked to Lincoln and Omaha health departments as closest comparable.

Motion by Fye, second by Drain to approve the salary range for the epidemiologist. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstaining, Thorell and Beecham.**

Motion by Fye, second by Krull to acknowledge conflict of interest in hiring Dr. Aravind Menon as epidemiologist. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstaining, Thorell and Beecham.**

c. Recommendation to approve March 20, 2020 financial report

Valenti discussed Mary 2020 financial report. Finance committee members provided additional comments.

Motion by Fye, second by Bader to approve the March 2020 financial report. **Roll call vote, 12 ayes, 0 nays.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board, Employee, and Public comment section

Fye commented that it would be wise to extend the DHMs due to the district being a hotspot. Boehler questioned whether the district could be split for DHM purposes given that some counties have very few cases. Eschliman discussed the challenges with limited testing occurring in many areas of the district.

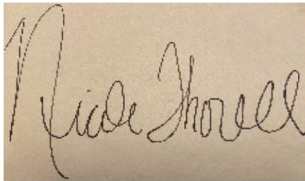
NEXT BOARD MEETING:

June 2, 2020 , location TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The Two Rivers Public Health Department Board of Health meeting was called to adjourn by consensus at 8:48 PM by Hunter.

Respectfully submitted,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script on a light-colored piece of paper. The signature reads "Nicole Thorell".

Nicole Thorell,
Secretary (GF/JE)