

Pima County Board of Health Minutes  
March 27, 2019  
Abrams Building, Room 1108  
3950 S. Country Club Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85714

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M.

Attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Mr. Bin An – Absent

Mr. Richard Elías – Absent

Mr. Rene Gastelum

Mr. Charles Geoffrion, Vice President

Ms. Mary Lou Gonzales

Dr. Paul Horwitz, President

Mr. Mike Humphrey

Mr. Miguel Rojas – Absent

Dr. Gail Smith

Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge – Joined the meeting late

**A quorum was established (6)**

Non-Board Members:

Dr. Francisco García, Assistant County Administrator, Pima County

Dr. Marcy Flanagan, Pima County Health Department Director

Ms. Paula Mandel, Pima County Health Department, Deputy Director

Presenters:

Ursula Nelson, Director, Department of Environmental Quality, Pima County

Rebecca O'Brien, Program Manager, Pima County Health Department

Dr. Donald Gates, Program Manager Senior, Pima County Health Department

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Charles Geoffrion led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. MINUTES ADOPTION**

- Adopted Board of Health February 27, 2019 minutes.

The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Humphrey / Ms. Gonzales) that the February 27, 2019, minutes be adopted as written. Motion carried 6-0

**4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- Dr. Flanagan updated the Board that a press conference was held today in coordination with the Superintendent of Schools office regarding the anti-vaping campaign that the Health Department's (HD) Tobacco Team have been working on with

student youth coalitions. All media stations were present and interviewed members of the youth coalitions.

- Dr. Flanagan updated the Board that the Community Health Needs Assessment has been completed, published, and released. The HD have received calls from reporters wanting to know what this means for the community and how often this assessment is completed. The HD will provide the Board copies of the assessment as soon as they are available.
  - An article in the Arizona Daily Star regarding annual county health rankings are published by the University of Minnesota and the Robert Wood's Foundation. Unfortunately, this report was published the same day as the Community Health Needs Assessment. The Arizona Daily Star reporter wrote the article confusing the data utilized in each report. Subsequent media interviews were all related to the Community Health Needs Assessment and subsequent articles were published accurately.
- Dr. Flanagan updated the Board that the State of Arizona receives CDC funding to address opioids. In the fall of last year, the HD received funding that was believed to be a one-time funding however, an application for additional funding has just been submitted. We anticipate its award which will provide \$500,000 per year for the next five years.
  - Mr. Humphry indicated that the State of Oklahoma was awarded \$285 million for an opioid research and treatment program. He inquired if the State of Arizona considered suing to recover some of the costs? Dr. Flanagan stated there is a law suit that was filed between the city and the county filed and continues to move forward with national legal counsel. Dr. Garcia indicated that at this time the state has not filed any action. Individual hospitals and health plans have filed a series of law suits. Some law suits are being consolidated.
- Dr. Flanagan updated the Board on the Health Department's efforts with asylum seekers coming from South America. The HD continues to work with the Catholic Community Services and other faith based organizations to help support their efforts by providing vaccines. Since January 7, 2019, there have been 4,200 individuals released in Pima County which is a significant number. The HD doesn't expect this number to decrease anytime soon. Earlier today the HD had a meeting with the Customs and Border Patrol and health officers from the CDC who wanted to hear what the PCHD have been experiencing and what assistance is needed. Our response was to allow federal public health emergency funds to be reallocated towards our efforts and continue open communication and collaborations between ICE, Border Patrol, Homeland Security, and local HD's. Compared with other counties in Arizona, Pima County is in a better situation due to Faith Based Organizations not reaching capacity. The County Administration office is aware and encourages the HD to keep this collaborative relationship ongoing.
  - Mr. Humphrey inquired why other counties are having difficulty providing housing since it is much larger area. Dr. Flanagan stated that she can't answer for Maricopa County however believes that a larger amount of individuals are being released in Maricopa County and perhaps that is why they have reached capacity. The health officer in Yuma indicated that when asylum seekers enter there they attempt to get them to Phoenix because the families feel safer farther away from the border and Phoenix is the closest metropolis. Pima County have the benefit of the monastery opening their doors. Had this not happened, the county would have the same capacity issue.

- Dr. Flanagan updated the Board that on March 25, 2019, the CDC released a Health Alert Network (HAN) on the nationwide Hepatitis A outbreak. This alert includes individuals experiencing homelessness and illicit drug users. This HAN provides great recommendations on how to address these issue within a community. Dr. Flanagan introduced Paula Mandel to speak on the Hepatitis A outbreak and Pima County's response.
  - Ms. Mandel shared with the Board that since November 1, 2018, there have been 142 confirmed Hepatitis A cases. Of these 142 cases:
    - 130 individuals are homeless and use illicit drugs
    - 78% reported in our hospitals
    - 15% were seen at an emergency room and discharged. Some left the emergency room against medical advise
    - 78% is in the age range of 18-72
    - The top age is 72 years old
    - The median age is 77
    - 34% female
    - 66% male
    - 68% admit to illicit substance use
    - 25% admit to street homelessness
    - 23% admit to both homelessness and illicit substance use
    - 10 cases in the jail. Fewer than 20% of individuals at the jail receive this vaccination when offered.
  - We continue to perform surveillance. Our most recent surveillance will continue to July 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Three cases were reported this week
  - The HD continues with our outreach efforts. Since December 27, 2018, we have engaged with our community partners 79 times
    - The HD has had 2500 encounters:
      - Vaccinated 1300 individuals
      - 854 individuals declined vaccinations for a variety of reasons. The HD tries to share as much information to these individuals to ensure they are making informed decisions. The homeless population seem to be the least receptive
      - 360 individuals already received vaccinations
  - Our most recent outreach included our four major health partners
    - COPE
    - CODAC
    - La Frontera
    - Community Medical Services
  - The HD conducted two walking campaigns within our hot-pocket areas which is along Miracle Mile. 48 individuals were encountered and 20 were vaccinated
  - The HD has engaged with our community food bank and our community meal sites which have not been very successful due to time constraints
  - A Hepatitis A summit was held at the Abrams Bldg on March 13, 2019. 60 individuals attended
- Ms. Mandel shared with the Board that Pima County had our first confirmed Measles case. Our epidemiology team continues to investigate all reports
  - This case traveled to Southeast Asia, under 12 month old, and not vaccinated due to age

- Five cases have been ruled out

**5. PACC UPDATE:**

- Dr. Horwitz introduced Kristen Auerbach, Director of Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) who provided the Board an update on a negative news article that reported PACC adopts out pets with medical issues and that owners are surprised with medical bills. Ms. Auerbach shared that approximately 25% (5,000/year) of animals that arrive at PACC are suffering from critical medical needs. Some of these animals recover in foster care where PACC will continue to provide medical care for the animal. PACC wants to get the animal happy, health, and ready for adoption. PACC receives 17,000 animals annually and cannot see every medical problem. PACC is very clear in the adoption contract that is received with an adoption that provides a free veterinarian visit (within three days) to assess the overall health of their pet. Not all examinations are done by a veterinarian, some of done by a technician. Some medical situations like parasites or surgery complications are unseen at the time of adoption and owners are surprised with these medical bills. Ms. Auerbach explained to this reporter that in three years, and 33,000 adoptions PACC fulfilled nine claims in conjunction with Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department for pet adoptions where the owner felt pet health was not fully disclosed. These claims totaled approximately \$25,000.

PACC can move through approximately 1,200 animals a month (300/week) during busy times. All owners who have adopted pets and realize they cannot care for this particular pet the owner is encouraged to bring the pet back to PACC. This does not negatively impact the pet owner. PACC will find a pet that is more suitable to their needs. Dr. Smith shared that she has been witness to several adoptions where the new owner is so excited with their new pet that they don't always listen to what staff are instructing.

Mr. Geoffrion inquired if there is a process to locate the hotspots within our community and begin lowering the number PACC receives annually. Ms. Auerbach stated that PACC is working with the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) office to determine where an animal comes. PACC started with the Flowing Wells and South Tucson areas and identified that 55% of intakes came from seven of our 67 zip codes. This information is then drilled down to the street level to identify what resources if any, may be needed in these areas. PACC collaborates with the HD when a pet owner is found to be in need of behavioral health, food, medical care, etc.

In Reno, Nevada, their PACC began using microchips as licenses. Within a couple of years the rate of return to owners went from 10% to a 43%. A large majority of these pets are well cared for yet something breaks the bond which is usually a resource problem, for instance, evictions and/or misconceptions of the pit-bull breed.

Dr. Garcia shared that PACC staff is working on proposing a new set of animal care ordinances that focuses on the licensing/microchip concept. Additionally, adding language to ordinance that provide variances on the number of animals allowed to be owned will aware staff of possible over breeding or owners that are unable to adequately care for their pets.

**6. OZONE STANDARDS:**

- Dr. Horwitz introduced Ursula Nelson, Director of Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDQ), who provided an update on the status of the ozone air pollution in Pima County. Ozone and particulate matter are the most at risk air pollutants in our area. Currently our air quality is very good for all our other pollutants with the exception of ozone.

Ozone is the one pollutant that is not directly emitted. It is a chemical reaction that is formed in the presence of sunlight with oxides (vehicle exhaust) and volatile organic compounds (charcoal lighter fluid, paint, gas, trees). It is a challenging pollutant to track and measure where it comes from.

Trees do emit volatile organic compounds (VOC). We encourage the planting of trees however the Maricopa County developed an Urban Tree Selection Guide that is available on the Pima DEQ website that provides information on various characteristics of trees including VOC emissions.

PDQ recently performed an inventory or calculation of ozone emissions and found the source that contributes the most to Nitrogen Oxide Emissions (NOx) are motor vehicles. The source that contributes the most for VOC's are plants.

The ozone standard is set to protect public health because ozone is a lung irritant that causes throat irritation, coughing, difficulty breathing, chest pain, airway and lung inflammation, lung tissue damage, reduced lung function, lungs susceptible to infection and worsen asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis.

The ozone level at Saguaro Park East has been recorded for approximately 20 years because this area emits more ozone. Due to prevailing winds it is a hotspot. A report indicates that the ozone level has trended down but the EPA standard has also decreased. In 1997 the standard was 0.080 ppm and in 2015 it was 0.070 ppm.

In 2018, the EPA determined that PC was in attainment (meets the standard), which is based on monitoring data and will remain in effect until the EPA takes further action. A non-attainment would result in program review and 1.1:1 offset for new and existing sources that want to expand. In addition, various agencies would need to collaborate to develop a State Implementation Plan to bring the area back into compliance.

Ways to keep air healthy is drive/idle less, properly inflate tires, maintain vehicle, refuel after 6pm during summer months, conserve electricity, plant low VOC emitting trees, and avoid use of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.

**7. TOBACCO 21 SUMMARY FINDINGS:**

- Dr. Garcia introduced Rebecca O'Brien who updated the Board on the proposed changes to the PC Ordinance Chapter 8.5 – Smoking.

Ms. O'Brien shared a summary of the 12 community stakeholder meetings in each of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) districts between February 8, 2019 and March 4, 2019. Meeting invitations were sent to attendees of the City of Tucson community forums, representatives of the vaping industry, retail organizations, non-profits, City of Tucson

staff and BOS staff. Public awareness was posted on the HD Facebook page, Healthy Pima Event Calendar, TV and radio. In total 89 people attended these meetings.

The meeting agendas included an overview of the proposed changes which is to:

- raise the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18-21 years old
- create a retail permit system for tobacco retailers in unincorporated Pima County
- amend language to the current smoking ordinance to include electronic nicotine delivery systems.

The agenda also included stakeholder feedback which took the majority of time. Many of the same stakeholders attended the meetings. Vaping stores were the most represented. Online feedback was accepted via the HD website or through email.

The HD received 41 responses with 21 in favor of the changes and 20 not in favor.

Comments opposed to changes include:

- Vaping is not harmful and helps people quit using combustible tobacco
- Proposed changes won't solve the problem
- Proposed changes are negative for business
- Enforce the laws already in place
- Should be done at state level rather than be each jurisdiction
- Consider a grandfather clause for those already 18

Representative of vape shops collected 1,368 signatures in opposition of the ordinance.

Comments in favor of changes include:

- Nicotine/tobacco use is harmful
- Raising the age to 21 is good for the health of the youth and brain development

General comments/questions received include:

- What effects will this have on store revenues
- The purchaser of these products should be fined
- Need to educate on the effects of JUULS, nicotine, and vaping
- Vape products should be taxed like tobacco products
- No oversight of vape shops

Letters of support for this initiative include:

- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Lung Association
- American Heart Association
- Americans for Nonsmoker's Rights
- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.
- Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona

Mr. Geoffrion indicated that the negative effects of nicotine on the young is a strong counter point to those in opposition. However if a grandfathering clause for those who are 18 will allow this initiative to get approved easier than he is in favor.

**8. HEALTH DEPARTMENT CURRENT AND FY 19-20 BUDGET UPDATE:**

- Dr. Don Gates updated the Board on the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) Budget and provided a background indicating:
  - All financial transactions are managed in AMS
  - PCHD Business Operations generates summary and detail reports for review
  - Focus is on the Health Fund expenditures and revenues
  - The county fiscal year begins July 1 through June 30. The HD is in FY 2019.
- PCHD Budget Performance - Expenditures:
  - Actual year to date expenses to date is \$9,251,184.
  - Projections are \$13,808,745.
  - Budget is \$15,409,118.
  - Currently the HD is operating at \$1,600,373 under budget.
- PCHD Budget Performance - Revenues:
  - HD actual year to date revenues is \$3,184,457
  - HD projections are \$4,783,238
  - HD budget \$4,741,960
  - Surplus \$41,278
- Expenditure savings are captured by:
  - Significant personnel savings (vacancies)
  - Pharmaceutical and medical supplies. With the Hepatitis-A outbreak this may change.
  - Modest services savings such as radiology and laboratory services
- Receipt Revenue Surplus are captured by:
  - Consumer Health exceeding expectations
  - Vital Registration within 10% (above) of target
  - Clinical Services are well below budget
- Budget comparison of FY2019 and FY 2020
  - Health Expenditures:
    - 2019 \$15,409,118
    - 2020 \$16,303,750
      - Mostly due to personnel
  - Health Revenues
    - 2019 \$4,741,960
    - 2020 \$4,744,585
      - Mostly due to Consumer Health and Food Safety fees and increased inspections
  - Health General Fund Subsidy
    - 2019 \$10,225,223
    - 2020 \$10,696,664
      - Due to expected increases to our central services, and receiving funding for some of our full time employees
      - PCHD revenue is split into client service receipts and subsidy from county general fund
      - Subsidy from general fund is approximately 70% of HD total revenues
      - Driven by personnel increases and self-insurance reserve

- Health Grant Expenditures
  - 2019 \$10,925,051
  - 2020 \$12,335,353
    - Due to anticipated grants received in the course of the year
- Grant Revenues
  - 2019 \$8,294,196
  - 2020 \$10,370,935
- Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Topics
  - 13.5% increase in personnel expenses
  - 2.3% decrease in supplies and services expenses
  - 25% decrease in clinical revenue
  - 5% increase in Consumer Health revenue

9. **CALL TO AUDIENCE:**

There were no speakers from the audience.

10. **SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:**

Dr. Horwitz reminded the Board to email him with items for the agenda.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 P.M.