

Pima County Board of Health Minutes
January 22, 2020
Abrams Building, Room 1108
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 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

Dr. Kathryn Kohler

Mr. Miguel Rojas

Dr. Gail Smith

Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge

A quorum was established (6)

Non-Board Members:

Dr. Francisco García, Deputy County Administrator, Pima County – Absent

Dr. Bob England, Pima County Health Department Interim Director – Absent

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

Presenters:

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

Lee Itule-Klasen, Pima County Health Department, Program Coordinator

Dr. Don Gates, Pima County Health Department, Budget Manager

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Trowbridge led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopted Board of Health Minutes December 4, 2019.

A motion was made and seconded (Ms. Trowbridge / Mr. Rojas) that the December 4, 2019, minutes be adopted as presented. The motion carried 9-0.

4. **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- Ms. Mandel updated the Board that the Microsoft update issue that was in the news has not affected Pima County. The Health Department computers were updated on January 20, 2020.
- Ms. Mandel shared that there has not been any local Hepatitis A cases over the last two months related to the outbreak. There are conversations at the state level to decide whether the outbreak is over. Once this is confirmed the Board will be notified. Maricopa and Pinal are the only two counties that have reported recent Hepatitis A cases in Arizona. The Health Department will continue a messaging campaign within the community.
- Ms. Mandel shared that the Coronavirus messaging within our community is that Pima County has not had any cases. The Health Department continues to work with our partners at the state level to ensure consistent messaging. The recommended site for new information is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website which will provide the most accurate information.
- Ms. Mandel shared with the Board that there are six applications for the Director's position. Dr. England will be reviewing these applications while out of the Country. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the mid-March.

5. **FUTURE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING - DATE/TIME/LOCATION**

- Dr. Horwitz discussed with the Board the possibility of changing the date, time and/or location of future Board of Health Meetings. In addition, Mr. Bagwell (Supervisor Elias' Chief of Staff) will find out if Mr. Elias would be amenable to participating with the meetings via teleconferencing.

The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Rojas / Dr. Kohler) that the Board of Health meeting date, time, and location remain the same with no changes. Motion carried 9-0.

6. **BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

- Mr. Geoffrion introduced Dr. Gates (Health Department Budget Manager) and thanked him for reviewing the budget process with the subcommittee.

Mr. Geoffrion shared that the Health Department has a sum of money that could be allocated to hire and retain Public Health Nurses. The Health Department is not able to compete with the compensation of local outside employers. Therefore, the Health Department is not able to recruit or retain Public Health Nurses. There continues to be almost a 50 percent vacancy rate. Recently, a salary study was conducted by the Pima County Human Resources Department (HR) where Public Health Nurse Classification was compared to other like municipalities. It was determined to be equitable with other municipalities however is not effective in retaining these employees in this classification. The Health Department did not receive the full report. Ms. Mandel will request the full report.

Dr. Kohler inquired how the Board can advocate for the Health Department. Dr. Gates responded to speak with their Board of Supervisors and request that Mr. Huckelberry revisit and reconsider the salary study that was recently completed by HR and that a compensation increase is appropriate to retain skilled and knowledgeable Public Health Nurses.

Mr. Geoffrion inquired if the loss of Public Health Nurses is negatively impacting the services the Health Department provides to the community. Ms. Mandel responded that yes, that there have been consistent staff shortages where community outreach events have to be cancelled. Additionally, Ms. Mandel has had conversations with Public Health Nurses who say they love working in Public Health but they have opportunities where outside agencies pay up to \$15 more per hour.

Mr. Humphry inquired if there are other positions that are in the same situation. Dr. Gates shared that the Health Department has a high epidemiology and environmental health specialist vacancy rate. Historically, these positions are difficult to retain. For instance, the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality has an environmental health specialist classification which is compensated higher than the Health Department.

Mr. Geoffrion would like staff to provide talking points for the Board to utilize when discussing this issue with the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Mandel indicated that the Department would assist the Board in providing these talking points in a timely fashion.

Mr. Geoffrion shared with the Board other initiatives that need funding and possibly staff resources from the Health Fund:

- The Homeless Assistance Project
- The Public Health Service Center (previous Golden Pin Bowling)
- Capital Investment Projects
- Menstrual products for the women at the Prisons

Mr. Geoffrion scheduled the next BOH Budget Subcommittee meeting for January 30, 2020, at 10:30am and encourages all Board members to attend the Budget Subcommittee Meeting. This is an opportunity for members to share other initiatives that members may want considered.

7. TOBACCO / VAPING UPDATE

- Dr. Horwitz introduced Ms. O'Brien who shared with the Board that there are two new federal tobacco control regulations signed by President Trump: the legal age to purchase tobacco is now 21 years old across the United States, and the Federal Drug Administration has issued a new policy prioritizing enforcement against the production and sale of fruit and mint flavored e-cigarette pods. Companies have 30 days to cease manufacture, distribution, and sale of unauthorized flavored cartridge-based e-cigarettes.
- Ms. O'Brien shared that there may be bills proposed at the state legislature that will discuss enforcement, taxation and funding. The Board will be updated as information becomes available.

8. AGING IN PIMA COUNTY

- Dr. Horwitz introduced Ms. Itule-Klasen who shared with the Board that fall mortality rates in Pima County and across Arizona. Unintentional falls from older adults (65+ years) is the leading cause of injury related death in Arizona. This rate is much higher than the rest of the United States. These falls resulted in 43,898 emergency room visits, and 14,796 inpatient hospitalizations totaling over \$933.6 million for inpatient hospitalizations, and over \$377.4 million for emergency room visits. These figures do not include the cost of loss of independence and quality of life. The number of Arizonans age 65 and older is expected to increase 174 percent, from 883,014 in 2012 to 2,422,186 in

2050. By 2050 the proportion of adults age 65 and older is estimated to be at 21 percent of the entire population. 17 percent of falls for adults 65 and older in Arizona occurred in Pima County. Falls in Pima County resulted in 7,243 emergency room visits and 2,702 inpatient hospitalizations. Preventable falls are costing lives, causing disability and loss of independence. Many falls are predictable and preventable.

- The Southern Chapter of the Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition (SCAFPC) was established in 2015. Local partnership of community organizations mobilized to develop and support strategies that address prevention of falls and fall related injuries. Their mission is to reduce the incidence of falls and fall related injuries among older people 60+ residing in Southern Arizona through community collaboration, education, outreach and advocacy. The SCAFPC developed and adopted the 2018-2021 Action Plan in collaboration with over 35 community organizations to help guide the coalition work. A fall risk self-assessment tool was created and distributed using evidence-based checklist in English and Spanish. A media campaign was developed and implemented for falls prevention titled Falls Free Pima and compiled a fall prevention resource for Southern Arizona.

9. CALL TO AUDIENCE

- There were no speakers from the audience.

10. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS & PROPOSAL OF FUTURE ITEMS

- Dr. Horwitz reminded the Board to email him with items for the agenda.
- Dr. Horwitz reminded the Board that a report on polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) will be discussed at the February 26, 2020 Board of Health Meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2020 at 3:00PM