



UTAH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

151 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE
 PROVO, UTAH 84601

MINUTES November 22, 2021

Members Present:			
Jeff Acerson, Chair	Phone	Ryan Schooley	Phone
Ann Anderson, Vice-chair	X	Shane Farnsworth	Phone
Gaye Ray	Phone	Carl Hanson	X
Mark Donaldson	X	Amelia Powers Gardner	X
Jordan Singleton	X		

Others present:

Eric Edwards, MPA, MCHES UCHD Executive Director
 Julie Dey UCHD Secretary
 Number of people in attendance 21, plus youth from the
 OUTRAGE! program

1. Welcome by Ann Anderson
2. Approval of the minutes from September 27, 2021

MOTION: Jordan Singleton made the motion to approve the minutes from September 27, 2021, as written which was seconded by Amelia Powers Gardner and passed by unanimous vote.

3. Executive Staff Planning for 2022

Eric Edwards, Executive Director, UCHD, reported to the board members that Utah County Government, Human Resource office conducted an Employee Engagement Survey. The health department's Executive Staff made up of Division Directors met for a full day to go over the results of the survey. We then came up with actions items to show employees that we truly care and want to make a positive difference in our workforce here. The staff at the health department help us achieve our organizational mission statement to protect and promote public health. We set approximately five goals and things to pay attention to in the coming year.

We will form an employee recognition committee that goes beyond our traditional way of recognizing employees to find unsung heroes in the health department and expand the

opportunity to recognize, thank, congratulate, and reward the outstanding output and public service from our employees. We will report our progress to the Board of Health and the Utah County Commission as part of our performance goal planning.

4. Substance Abuse Prevention Program Presentation

Heather Lewis, Program Manager of Prevention presented the Substance Abuse Prevention Programs at UCHD to the board members. The Prevention team was previously part of Wasatch Mental Health. The Prevention Team was incorporated into the Health Department under the Division of Health Promotion. This has been a phenomenal move. We have many opportunities to collaborate and support each other.

The Prevention team loves advocacy and policy work with state and federal government. We promote what we are doing, and we ask for support (financially and policy-wise) in what we are doing that is in the best interests of the youth on our community.

Heather's PowerPoint presentation is included in the notes.

The goal of our program is to reduce and prevent substance use disorder or prevent the use in the first place. We make positive influences in the in the lives of youth and that they will have the tools they need to make healthy and good choices that lead them down the right ways instead of choosing less savory outcomes for themselves.

Our data shows that our alcohol abuse rates across all school grades have been reduced. There is a science behind the work we do. Prevention is about reducing the risk factors as much as possible and increasing the protective factors.

5. Discuss and consider amendments to Utah County Health Department Regulation 2018 for Tobacco Retailer Permitting

Ben VanNoy, Attorney, Utah County, provided context to the board on the regulation. In 2018, the state legislature required tobacco retailers to get a permit from the local health departments. The whole framework and structure (of the legislation) was put on the local health departments. Since then, there have been more legislative bills than I can count, and that has changed the process in literally every special session, the laws have changed; and so in the past four years a lot has changed since we enacted this regulation. The Utah County regulation was created to fill in some gaps and clarify health department processes and how to implement the permitting process. We have taken a hard look at the regulation, there are a lot of housekeeping items we want to update and a few additional items that we will review to help close-up some loopholes.

Because this is quasi administrative process to pass the regulation, there is a public comment period that we typically leave open after we introduce an amended regulation like this. Generally, it is a two-meeting Board of Health meeting process where we propose an amendment and then there is a public comment period and then at the following Board of Health meeting there would be (an agenda item) where the board would adopt or not adopt the regulation. For the purposes of this meeting, this is an informational meeting and will open the discussion with the board.

The proposed changes are included with the minutes.

Ann Anderson asked Ben, "Before the next Board of Health meeting, could we find out, as a board, what the public comment is?" Ben answered, "Definitely."

Ben explained that this may be a three-step process. The state legislature meets in January and the law may change again. We may change this topic to the March 2022 Board of Health meeting.

Utah County OUTRAGE! Youth group presented to the board members. Coleman Jarvis, a youth leader for OUTRAGE! which is a youth advocacy and prevention group spoke to the board. Colema is also a resident of Utah County. He is currently a junior at Springville High School.

Coleman explained to the board, "Something that has bothered me and my friends in OUTRAGE! has been this issue of tobacco use among youth. Tobacco misuse has gone down significantly, but it remains a big problem. Since 2011, youth vaping rates have increased to over 500%, and 70% of youth who have tried tobacco, have started with vaping. Not only this, the youth at OUTRAGE! have personally seen friends and family members who have been affected further by going into substance misuse especially at young ages. We know that the combination of easy access to tobacco plus the exposure of marketing to youth has made it seem normal to youth that tobacco is okay. These new laws and these considerations that we can implement (updating the regulation) can change that with increased limits and a decrease in exposure to tobacco can really help youth stay away from this. It can make the lives of youths so much better. I know that this can be a positive change in our community in the future."

OUTRAGE! is a youth advocacy and prevention group. We have been around since 2007. Community is important to OUTRAGE! We take youth from different communities in Utah County and through advocacy and prevention, we educate youth ages 12-18 in Utah County. Our mission is to empower youth to fight back against big tobacco, nicotine, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug misuse by using effective prevention strategies and advocacy.

6. Resolution appointing a member(s) to the Utah County Board of Health

MOTION: Mark Donaldson made the motion to strike the resolution from the agenda which was seconded by Jordan Singleton and passed unanimously.

7. COVID-19 Update

Curtis Jones, Bureau Director, Epidemiology at UCHD, reported to the board the current COVID case count 7-day average is about 315 cases a day in Utah County. The majority of cases are among the unvaccinated. Our hospital ICU's have been full for several weeks now. Pediatric ICU's are full, but they are not full of COVID patients; they are full of RSV patients as far as we can tell.

Mark Donaldson brought to the discussion the topic of Monoclonal Antibodies for high-risk Covid positive patients. The Monoclonal Antibodies are dispensed/issued once the Covid patient has answered questions regarding their risk factors and an algorithm decides if they are a candidate

for the antibodies. “The problem is that an algorithm decides who receives the Monoclonal Antibodies rather than a physician. The algorithm limits the accessibility of the Monoclonal Antibodies for patients who could benefit from them. A physician should be able to order the antibodies when the situation warrants it. We need a personalized approach rather than the public approach.”

Eric Edwards reported that he had heard that the state is working on simplifying the qualification process for receiving Monoclonal Antibodies with the hope of more instant access from patients to therapy.

Jordan Singleton agreed with Mark Donaldson that any patient who wants the antibody should be able to get it.

Eric Edwards suggested an action item for the Board of Health would be to write a letter to decision makers at the state level (Utah Department of Health and state legislature) on behalf of the Utah County Board of Health easing the requirements for Covid patients to receive monoclonal antibodies.

The letter was written by Dr. Jordan Singleton on behalf of the Board of Health members. It was then signed by Eric Edwards on behalf of the board, and then sent to Dr. Michelle Hofman at Utah.gov on November 23, 2021. A copy is attached to the minutes.

8. Employee Changes

Eric Edwards reviewed the employee changes with the board members. There is some employee turnover with the temporary Covid positions. Some of the temporary Covid workers have found permanent employment in the Health Department in other positions. The other employee changes are normal turn over.

9. Other Business

Amelia Powers Gardner suggested that the board take an in-depth look at the Health Department budget. Amelia said, “We need to start looking at multi-year cycles for the Health Department and Utah County Government. Currently there is a surplus in our account, and as we move forward, the surplus will be growing. We need to discuss needs for our county and for population growth as it starts to move away from our urban centers of Provo and Orem. We need to look at expanding more services out toward the Saratoga Springs, Eagle Mountain area; and what about the Spanish Fork to Goshen area. If so, does that take a capital investment? We need to look at the trends in population growth. Public health, like criminal justice, doesn’t grow at a linear rate as your population grows; it tends to grow in a more exponential rate. As we start getting closer to one million people in Utah County are we going to start needing more services? And as we do, we need to start planning for it. This could be a possibility to supplement out of the general fund. How and what ways are we going to serve the population; and what are we going to do with our budget for the next 2-10 years? If our populations are expected to double, then we need to be able to expand services. The population will not be doubling in Provo/Orem, it will happen in Santaquin, Goshen, Genola, Elberta, and in the Cedar Valley.

Lori Barber, Division Director, Family & Personal Health at UCHD, spoke to the board regarding growth within the Health Department. “The Health & Justice Building has been outgrown by the Health Department. Our American Fork rental building is embarrassing for a health department to be in a building that is so run down, unkempt, and small. The Payson building is nice and new. We do need more buildings and more space.”

Shane Farnsworth commented that Alpine School District will be presenting their five-year projections for growth and the public can weigh in. Shane said that the five-year projections can be shared with the board members and that he would share the electronic version with the board.

Ann Anderson suggested that we get the five-year projections for growth from Provo City School District and Nebo School District as well.

Eric concluded that looking at the budget would be a great way to proactively prepare for the future rather than knee jerk reaction trying to respond with growth.

MOTION: Amelia Powers Gardner made the motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mark Donaldson and passed unanimously.

Eric Edwards, MPA, MCHES
Executive Director / Local Health Officer
Utah County Health Department

Chair
Utah County Board of Health