

WCHD BOH Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 3:05 pm

Present: Dr. Sara Simonsen Vice Chair
Jay Eckersley Board Member
Coleen Nielsen Board Member
Kendall Crittenden Board Member
Britt Manning Board Member
Michele Ludlow Board Member

Excused: Dr. Neal Burton Chair

Staff: Jonelle Fitzgerald Health Officer
Brett Woodard Business Manager
Tracy Richardson Environmental Health Director
Sarah Simons Health Education Director

Other: Jon Woodard Wasatch County Assistant Attorney
Dr. Erick Christensen Chief Medical Officer

Opening Remarks/Welcome: Dr. Sara Simonsen

Invocation: Michele Ludlow

Pledge of Allegiance: Britt Manning

<i>Minutes</i>	Minutes from the December 19, 2024 Board of Health meeting were presented. Michele Ludlow motioned that the minutes be approved, Jay Eckersley seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.
<i>Follow Up</i>	No follow-up. No members of the public were in attendance.
<i>Business Item 2</i>	Agenda Items 1) Program Reports (Jonelle) Information/Discussion a) Health Promotion (Sarah) i) Jonelle presented a certificate of appreciation to Sarah Simons from DHHS Top Star Program for her support of the program. ii) Chronic disease education efforts: (1) The DPP classes (diabetes prevention program) had 8 participants last year. This is a year-long program and requires a good deal of commitment from the participants. (2) We offer monthly diabetes management classes with Betty Wade, CDE from IHC as well as Christy Watt, RD and USU Extension office support iii) This year we started a seniors farmers market which provided fresh produce to qualifying seniors.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Joint effort by the Health Department and Utah DHHS.(2) We rely on the seniors to honestly self-report their eligibility.(3) We worked with a Utah Valley farmer to get the produce to the Seniors' Center where the event was held weekly.(4) Over 90 individuals participated last year, so we intend to continue the program.(5) Any unused food is donated to the food bank.
	<p>2) Financial Report- (Jonelle/Brett) Discussion/Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) December 2024 financials were presented<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Net surplus at \$306K, down from \$386K in November due to the incurrence of groundwater well costs in December.ii) We do not have good numbers from the county yet for taxes or interest for 2024. Both are expected to be higher than those estimated in the current financials.iii) Grant and fee revenues are final, as are expenses, so the expectation is that the Health Department surplus will be higher than that currently presented.iv) Note that fee revenue is 19% over budget. The 2025 fee budget was increased to better estimate fee revenue.v) Also note that the equipment actual spend was below budget. The new well came in at a lower than budgeted cost. We will likely recommend that a portion of the current surplus be allocated to the groundwater fund to maintain funding for the monitoring effort.
	<p>3) Director's Report (Jonelle)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Legislative Update<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) The legislative session started this week.ii) HB 294 seeks to eliminate any LHD or State agency authority to constrain groups of people in a health emergency. Orders of restriction to quarantine an individual is still allowed.iii) Another bill calls for an annotation to be added to immunization records if an exemption has been approved. This is intended to remove the necessity of re-applying for the exemption every time an individual moves to a new district.iv) (Jay) Have we informed our senator and representative of our positions on these bills? (Jonelle) We're watching developments and saving political capital until we better know how these develop.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v) (Britt) We need to educate the public about the positive impacts that vaccination and other health efforts have on life expectancy and quality. Could we task UALBOH to champion this? vi) (Michelle) Is there any anti-health department sentiment in the legislature? vii) (Jonelle) We can still carry out our functions at the health department. viii) (Britt) Some think the health departments still have too much power. ix) (Coleen) I know of several instances of parents homeschooling kids to avoid getting them immunized. b) Board members Sara Simonsen and Coleen Neilson are at the end of their Board appointment. Both have agreed to continue on the Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Kendall motioned that the Board recommend to the County that Sara and Coleen continue as Board of Health members. Jay seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
<i>Business Item 3</i>	<p>UALBOH Report (Jay/Jonelle) – Information/Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The symposium is now scheduled for April 8th through 9th at Thanksgiving Point. 2) (Jonelle) We will register all Board members that are interested in attending.
<i>Business Item 4</i>	<p>Minimum Performance Standards Audit Approval (Jonelle/Dr Burton) – Discussion/Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Minimum performance requirements are to be audited annually. 2) Jonelle reported that she and Dr. Burton have been over the requirements. 3) Jonelle presented an overview of the minimum performance requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Health Department intends to be more intentional in its community health assessment this year. 4) Jay motioned that the Board approve the minimum performance audit. Coleen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
<i>Business Item 5</i>	<p>Medical Director Coordination Report – (Jonelle/Dr. Erick Christensen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Board was formally introduced to Dr. Erick Christensen who has been the Health Department CMO for about 3 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Dr. Christensen has a strong background and interest in the public health sector. 2) (Jonelle) Presented the infectious disease report.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) STDs, with the exception of syphilis, are up this year.b) COVID hospitalizations and deaths are down.c) Flu immunizations are down.d) (Michelle) I would be interested in seeing a study of the correlation between immunizations and the incidence of infectious diseases. (Jonelle) No discernable uptick yet in infectious diseases even with the lower vaccination rates.e) (Britt) How can we educate the public about the benefits of public health?f) (Dr. Christensen) A lot of the task is creating trust. One-on-one encounters are a good way to do this.g) (Jay) We want the Health Department to have a positive public image.<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Doctors and nurses have a positive image and can use their positions to help the Health Department image.
<i>Business Item 6</i>	Closed Session: Jay motioned that the Board go into closed session to discuss possible litigation. Michelle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Board went into closed session.
<i>Business Item 7</i>	<p>The Board returned to public session.</p> <p>1) Kendall motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>Next meeting 3:00 P.M. February 27, 2025.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Dr. Sara Simonsen, Chairperson