

**TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

January 23, 2024

151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

**PRESENT:**

Board: Neil Critchlow, Nando Meli, Pam Bennett (virtual), Christian Pantelakis, Anthony Howes, Linda McBeth, Mike Wells

Absent: Erik Stromberg, Mat Jackson

Staff: Jeff Coombs, Jamie Zwerin, Brad Gillies, Ericka Jordt, Bryan Slade, Amy Hoftiezer, Kevin Neff

Public: None

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84199837461?pwd=W7C7oW6Uxlshzc8oECDfaJbSQj9XSr.1>

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS</b>
Welcome- Chair	Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken. Board members and staff introduced themselves.	
Approve Nov. 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes (Action Item)  Appoint Chair and Vice Chair Positions (Action Item)	Anthony entertained a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 meeting minutes.  Anthony opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair positions.	Neil made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 meeting minutes, Nando seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion approved.  Neil motioned to appoint Anthony as Chair, Nando seconded the motion, Neil nominated Matt to Vice Chair, Christian seconded the motion, all voted in favor, no other discussion, or nominations were voiced.

Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item)	No reports were given.	
<p>Health Officer's Report Childhood Vaccination Exemptions</p> <p>Respiratory Seasonal Vaccinations Report (Information Items)</p> <p>Jeff Coombs</p>	<p>Jeff asked the board if they wanted to consider changing the day of the month that these meetings are held. Several members have not been able to attend or have to come late due to other meetings, work or other obligations. The group discussed changing the meeting schedule to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. The group agreed to leave the meeting time at 6:30pm and to leave the Wendover meeting date as is.</p> <p>Jeff shared a report showing the 2023 Immunization Coverage Report for School Exemptions. The report showed rates for Tooele County Schools, the overall rate of exemption rates is increasing. Jeff noted that we are seeing an increase in measles outbreaks across the country and seeing some areas dip below the herd immunity threshold of 95%. Tooele County is doing better than most jurisdictions in the state. Jeff and staff met with Mat Jackson from the school district to come up with a plan to address this issue. The school district is going to do some more research to verify if Ibapah Schools exemption rate of 67% is accurate. Jeff explained that legislation was passed several years ago allowing immunization exemptions for any reason; before this legislation was passed exemptions were only given for medical or religious reasons. Also, before this legislation was passed in order to get an immunization exemption you would have to come to the health department and meet with a nurse for education on immunizations, now an exemption can be issued after just registering online without any type of education. A student must provide their immunization record within 30 days of starting school so sometimes parents may feel it is more convenient to just go online and get the exemption instead of bringing their children to a health care provider to get immunized. The group discussed their thoughts on why exemptions are increasing, and immunizations are decreasing. Jeff added that both flu and Covid vaccine rates have declined as well. Jeff stated the health department is willing to do home visits to provide vaccinations if that will help increase our vaccination rates.</p> <p>Jeff shared the Respiratory Illness Report. The report shows COVID, Influenza and RSV for the state and for Tooele County. January showed the start of a peak and though we are</p>	<p>Neil motioned to change the 2024 Meeting Schedule to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, leaving the meeting time at 6:30 and leaving the Wendover meeting date as is, Mike seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>

	<p>currently seeing a decline a second peak could happen. The report shows the number of hospitalizations for all three illnesses. Most respiratory fatalities are a result of COVID. Wastewater surveillance is still being tracked and results match hospitalization rates. Hopefully in the future we can use wastewater surveillance to track other things such as measles outbreaks.</p>	
<p>Staffing Update (Information Item)</p> <p>Jamie Zwerin</p>	<p>Jamie gave a staffing update since the last meeting. No new employees have been hired since the last meeting. Amy Larsen went from a half-time Activity Specialist to three-quarter time; this leaves a half-time position open. Interviews were held for a UTA Driver. An additional position has been approved for a Meals on Wheels Driver.</p> <p>Amy shared the requirements to receive home delivered meals; must be over 60 years old and homebound, an assessment is done by a social worker, there are no income requirements. If they can drive, they are encouraged to come to the senior center for a meal. This program is funded by the Older Americans Act. Alternative meals are available for those living in rural areas like Vernon, Wendover etc.</p>	
<p>Financial Update</p> <p>Financial Report (Action Item)</p> <p>Budget Adjustment (Action Item)</p> <p>Brad Gillies</p>	<p>Brad summarized the following Financial Report – Year Ended December 31, 2023 (preliminary). He noted that the Auditors’ Office will have several adjustments yet to come and a final report will be presented at the March meeting. The roof on the south side of the building has been replaced and now repairs on the inside of the building will begin due to water damage. Partial payment from the insurance company has been received. We are still waiting to close out our December services before we can bill for reimbursement.</p> <p>REVENUE- Operating revenue was just over \$4,000,000 or about 77% of the annual budget. Payments received for State contracts and grants through December were about \$2,600,000 or about 71% of the budget. Reimbursements from the State for the months of October, November, and December had not been received as of the end of December. October and November have been billed and should be about \$450,000. December is still being processed and should be about \$250,000. Fees for services were just over \$1,400,000 or about 91% of the budget.</p> <p>EXPENSES- Operating expenses were about \$7,000,000 or about 93% of the budget. All</p>	<p>Nando motioned to approve the TCHD Proposed 2024 Budget as presented, Christian seconded the motion, all voted in favor motion passed.</p>

	<p>departments are operating under or near budget. Major expenditures include the purchase of a backup generator for about \$70,000, an auditorium dividing door for about \$45,000, meeting room tables for about \$16,000 and an audio/visual upgrade for the two meeting rooms for about \$145,000. All these expenditures were included in the budget. Also included in the expenses is the net paid to date for the roof repairs. As of December, \$92,000 had been paid out and \$45,000 had been received in insurance claims.</p> <p>NET OPERATING- Net operating shortfall for the year was about \$2,900,000. Net for the year, including other sources, has a shortfall of just over \$1,400,000. The operating shortfall is covered by other budgeted sources including interest income of about \$191,000, a County contribution of about \$455,000 and about \$1,200,000 from the Health tax levy, of which about \$832,000 had been recorded through December. About \$797,000 has also been budgeted to be used from the Department’s accumulated fund balance, if needed. It is anticipated that about \$300,000 will be used from the fund balance.</p> <p>Brad presented a budget adjustment request to increase the Immunizations expense line of the 2023 budget by \$210,000 to facilitate the purchase of the fall and winter COVID booster vaccines. He also requests to increase the Immunizations revenue line by \$210,000 as patients will be charged for the vaccine personally or through their insurance providers. This was discussed at the last meeting.</p> <p>The adjustment was needed because all previous COVID vaccines were provided free of charge by the government but since this is no longer the case, we now have to purchase the vaccine upfront and then bill what we charge back to insurance companies for reimbursement.</p>	<p>Nando motioned to accept the Financial Report as presented, Neil seconded the motion, all voted in favor, there was no discussion, motion passed.</p>
<p>Environmental Health Update</p> <p>Proposed changes to Food Regulation (Action Item)</p> <p>Proposed changes to Swimming</p>	<p>Bryan presented the proposed changes to the Food Sanitation Regulation. The changes are necessary due to legislative changes that were passed. The changes include some new definitions and changes to some wording that mostly applies to mobile food type businesses. Neil and his staff reviewed all of the proposed changes. Bryan explained what a commissary is and when a business is required to have one. He also explained that depending on the type of business, the foods they serve and how they process the food determines what tier level they need for a permit.</p> <p>Bryan proposed to increase the plan review fee for swimming pools &amp; spas from \$100 to \$350. Bryan and staff have seen an increase in the number of new pools and spas being built</p>	<p>Christian made a motion to hold a public hearing and comment period for the proposed changes and appoint Bryan as the hearing officer, Neil seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p> <p>Neil motioned to increase the plan review fee for swimming pools</p>

<p>Pool/Spa Fees (Action Item)</p> <p>Bryan Slade</p>	<p>in the county; plan reviews take about 6-10 hours each. After reviewing what other counties in the state charge Bryan felt that we are not charging enough to cover the time spent reviewing the plans. Jeff recommended charging \$85 per hour to cover costs.</p>	<p>and spas from \$100 to \$500, Linda seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.</p>
<p>Public Health Strategies Report (Information Item)</p> <p>Kevin Neff</p>	<p>Kevin shared a presentation with the group on Public Health Strategies. The group discussed the definition of equality and equity. Kevin explained what data we look for and the sources we use to get the data to determine health disparities in our community. He shared some health statistics for those experiencing disparities. Internal and external strategies were shared and upcoming plans including Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, data dashboard, accessibility design changes, quality improvement for services and processes. Christian recognized Kevin, Deeanna and their coworkers for making an impact in the Wendover community. Christian shared that about 450 attended the New Years Eve lantern release event. She also shared some upcoming events. Neil commended Lane Koyle for his work in the Grantsville community.</p>	
<p>Board Member Comments and/or Concerns</p>	<p>Linda shared information on the upcoming symposium, Ericka has emailed the group the information and will register whoever would like to attend. Linda asked Bryan to review all Environmental Health fees to see if there are others that need to be increased. She commended Amy Hoftiezer for her work with the senior centers and her employees. Mike offered to help with vaccine information and education through his work with the Tooele Rotary.</p> <p>Christian announced she will not run again for a seat on the Wendover City Council, she wondered if she would still be able to serve on this board- Jeff explained that Wendover City appoints someone to serve on this board.</p> <p>Pam spoke of a bill that could affect diversity, equity, inclusion. She mentioned the flyers that Ericka had previously sent to the group. She noted there are other bills stacked up waiting to see what happens with the DEI bill.</p> <p>Neil noted that the July and November new meeting dates will conflict with the 24<sup>th</sup> of July and Thanksgiving holidays; Jeff will suggest changing the new schedule at the next meeting in March.</p> <p>Anthony mentioned that the EPA has lowered lead standard in residential soils. Clean up decisions on properties will be made, don't expect quick changes, Bryan expects some areas in Pine Canyon to be affected.</p>	

Public Comments and/or Concerns	No comments were given.	
Meeting Adjourn	Anthony entertained a motion to adjourn.	Neil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm, Nando seconded the motion all were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Attachments: Financial Report Year Ended December 31,2023, Budget Adjustment January 23, 2024, 2024 Meeting Schedule, Proposed Changes to Health Regulation# 4 Food Sanitation, Proposed Changes to Environmental Health Fee Schedule, TCHD Respiratory Illness Report BOH, 2023 Immunization Coverage Report for School Exemptions. Comparing 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exemptions for Local Health Departments, Draft Meeting Minutes Nov. 28, 2023, Health Equity Report Jan. 2022-June 2023