

**TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

November 28, 2023

151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

**PRESENT:**

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

Absent: Erik Stromberg, Mat Jackson

Staff: Jeff Coombs, Jamie Zwerin, Brad Gillies, Ericka Jordt, Mary Gallen, Amy Royal

Public: None

<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 Sept.26, 2023, Meeting Minutes (Action Item)  Adopt 2024 Meeting Schedule (Action Item)	Anthony entertained a motion to approve the September 26, 2023 meeting minutes.  The group discussed the proposed schedule and suggested changes.	Christian made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023 meeting minutes, Nando seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion approved.  Nando motioned to approve the proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule but with changing the Wendover meeting to May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Christian seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

<p>Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item)</p>	<p>Linda reported she will attend a meeting next week to plan the next Utah Association of Local Boards of Health Symposium. She encouraged the group to attend next year and will provide more details as she gets them.</p> <p>Jeff has no new information on the opioid lawsuit, Erik Stromberg may have more information at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Health Officer's Report Code Blue</p> <p>Tooele Senior Center Update</p> <p>Review Board Appointments (Information Items)</p> <p>Jeff Coombs</p>	<p>Jeff talked about the new Code Blue rule, the rule is in draft form now. Rule 35A-16-701 can be found here <a href="#">Code Blue</a>. The alert is activated when the National Weather Service reports temperatures of 15 degrees Fahrenheit or lower at a population center at any point of the day or evening. Some things the alert does is allows homeless housing/shelters to exceed their limit by 25% and lift age/gender restrictions, nonprofit and government agencies can open temporary housing without having to go through normal licensing measures. Some zoning enforcement is prohibited during an alert for Health Departments and Law Enforcement agencies. Jamie reported that so far this year the Harris Community Village has been able to accommodate the amount of people they have without needing to exceed their limit. Pam noted that in Salt Lake they offer "all night movie night" to get around the restrictions. Linda asked how this is being communicated to our community. Jamie explained that Switchpoint and Christy with the Homeless Coalition are handling the communication. Pam added that law enforcement, EMT's etc. also share the information. Jeff will discuss this with Gary Dalton at their next meeting.</p> <p>Jeff reported that recent data is showing a trend that nationwide childhood vaccinations and Covid and Influenza vaccination rates are on the decline. Idaho is currently the lowest in the nation on vaccinating for Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR), they are only at 85% and to achieve herd immunity you need to have a 95% vaccination rate. Utah is also on the decline for vaccination rates. Previously the COVID vaccine was offered for free, this is no longer the case and those who do not have insurance and cannot afford to pay may be opting to skip the vaccine. Other factors such as "COVID fatigue" and some states allowing parents to get an exemption from having their child vaccinated may be contributing to lower vaccination rates.</p> <p>Jeff explained to the group that the old dry cleaner business that was located next to the Tooele Senior Center had been pouring their cleaning solvents down the drain over the years. These solvents have contaminated the soil. The building has since been demolished. The EPA tested the property and have determined that vapors from the contaminated soil</p>	

	<p>have spread to the basement of the Tooele Senior Center. Since Tooele County owns the property, it is their responsibility to remediate the contamination. The basement has been closed off and ventilation will be installed. Additional sampling will be done, and other remediation methods will be reviewed. Staff have been made completely aware of the issue and information has been posted informing patrons of the situation.</p> <p>Jeff reported that the roof and HVAC system on the south side of this building was severely damaged due to a hailstorm and additional damage from recent rain and snowstorms. The damage has been reported to the insurance company, but we expect continuous leaks until the roof is replaced sometime in December. The WIC office had to be relocated to another area in the building due to the damage.</p> <p>Linda McBeth, Anthony Howes have both been reappointed to serve an additional term on this board. Erik will also continue to serve as he is representing Tooele County Council.</p>	
<p>Staffing Update (Information Item)</p> <p>Jamie Zwerin</p>	<p>Jamie informed the group of newly hired employees since the last meeting.</p> <p>Kristin Dorman- Public Health Nurse Ariel Lund- Dental Assistant Lisa Fowler- Social Worker Glenn Puckrin- Meals on Wheels Driver</p> <p>Interviews were recently held for a UTA Driver position, an offer has been made to an applicant.</p> <p>Jamie explained the different transportation options for our county. Jamie and Christian agreed to meet to discuss funding options for transportation for dialysis patients in Wendover. Neil said he has a contact with UTA, let him know if you have any suggestions for the program.</p> <p>Jeff noted Tooele County Health &amp; Aging Services has 75 full time employees, 91 total employees. Employees are reported as: Health Dept.- 43.25, Aging Services- 14.25, Prevention Services- 5.5, Transportation- 19.5.</p>	
<p>Financial Update 2024 Budget</p>	<p>Brad presented the Proposed 2024 Budget to the group. He presented the first draft of the budget to the County Council on September 19<sup>th</sup> and again on October 31<sup>st</sup>. It will be presented again for final approval at the Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> County Council meeting. Some</p>	<p>Neil motioned to approve the TCHD Proposed 2024 Budget as presented, Christian seconded the</p>

<p>Update (Action Item)</p> <p>Financial Report (Action Item)</p> <p>Brad Gillies</p>	<p>adjustments have been made since the initial budget was approved by this group at the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. There have been some increases in grants, increasing the total revenue and some increases in the related expenses. There have also been some other minor expense increases. The biggest change to the budget presented at the September meeting related to the COVID PPPHEA Expansion grant. In preparing the budget it was assumed that funding from this grant would expire in July 2024. This meant we were going to need to take money out of our fund balance to keep some of our employees, however, we've been notified that this grant will extend through July 2026, so we won't need to use as much money from the fund balance to keep these employees. The revised 2024 budget now includes an additional \$218,000 in revenue from this grant. This allows us to reduce the amount to be drawn from our fund balance down to \$935, 910. Expenses stayed mostly the same. Neil asked what the category "other" is, Brad explained it is mostly made up of interest income that the county earns and payment from Prevention Services and Aging Services for their part in using the building. Linda asked how the COVID funding will be used, Brad &amp; Jeff explained it is unspent COVID money that has been reallocated to other public health infrastructure areas of which is mostly used to retain the positions of Epidemiologist, Community Health Workers, and health strategy work. Christian asked if COVID funds need to be used directly for COVID, Jeff explained the money was provided by the CDC and was originally designated for COVID but the money was extended and expanded to be used for any communicable disease work, future COVID issues, public health tracking etc., Brad explained previously we had about 15 grants and they have been combined into this one. Jeff confirmed COVID is still around and probably always will be, it will be treated as other respiratory illnesses. He explained how to order free COVID test kits at <a href="http://www.covidtests.gov">www.covidtests.gov</a>. This information is on all of our social media platforms. You can contact Ericka for information on how many hits the website gets.</p> <p>Brad summarized the following Financial Report – Ten Months Ended November 31, 2023 (83% of year) Brad made a correction to the report, noting it should say October not November.</p> <p>REVENUE- Operating revenue was about \$3,000,000 or about 61% of the annual budget. Payments for State contracts and grants were about \$2,000,000 or about 55% of the budget. Reimbursements from the State for some months had not been received as of the end of October but were being processed. Fees for services were about \$1,000,000 or about 78% of</p>	<p>motion, all voted in favor motion passed.</p> <p>Nando motioned to accept the Financial Report as presented, Pam seconded the motion, all voted in favor, there was no discussion, motion passed.</p>
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	<p>the budget. We are just starting to receive payments for fall immunizations and should be near budget at year-end.</p> <p>EXPENSES- Operating expenses were about \$5,400,000 or about 74% of the budget. All departments are operating under or near budget. Major expenditures include the purchase of a backup generator for about \$70,000, an automatic auditorium dividing door for about \$38,000, 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.</p> <p>NET OPERATING- Net operating shortfall for the year was about \$2,400,000. Net for the ten months, including other sources, was a shortfall of just over \$1,600,000. The shortfall will be covered by other budgeted sources including interest income, a County contribution of about \$455,000 which is received monthly and about \$946,000 from the Health tax levy, most of which will be received in December. About \$797,000 has also been budgeted to be used, if necessary, from the Department’s accumulated fund balance.</p> <p>Brad presented a budget adjustment item for 2023, he did not have the information in time to add as an action item to this agenda so for now it is just a discussion item and will be added to the agenda in January 2024 as an action item. The request will be presented to the County Council at the next meeting. A couple of months ago a new COVID booster vaccine was announced but they did not provide any direction on how this would be paid for; all previous COVID vaccines were provided free of charge. We now have to purchase this newest vaccine, but we are able to bill this back to insurance companies. It took a while for the insurance companies to determine too how much they would reimburse us for administering this vaccine. Since we had to purchase this vaccine and it wasn’t in our current year’s budget the budget adjustment is necessary. The amount requested, \$210,000, is an estimate based on the amount purchased so far and any amounts not covered will be covered by other funds we have. Private insurance is required to cover the vaccine, grant money will cover those who are uninsured. The billing process was explained for administering vaccines.</p>	
<p>Community Health Update Respiratory Illness Report</p>	<p>Amy shared 2023 Covid &amp; Flu vaccination numbers compared to 2022 numbers. Total number given year to date for 2023 is 3515, total for 2022 was 5409. Vaccines given at the schools in 2023 was 1644 while 1642 vaccines were given in schools in 2022. 1403 new Covid vaccines were given since July 2023, and 4009 Covid-bivalent booster shots were</p>	

<p>(Information Item)</p> <p>Amy Royal</p>	<p>given since July 2022. Amy also reported on the number of reported RSV, Flu and Covid cases- though only hospitalized cases get reported to us.</p> <p>RSV- 2 cases reported in last 2 weeks.</p> <p>Flu- 1 hospitalization in May, no cases reported so far this fall season. Some Urgent Care facilities still report flu cases directly to us, though there are no hospitalized cases they did report 7 positive flu tests of which only 2 had been vaccinated.</p> <p>Covid- 6 cases hospitalized between Aug.-October, 1 death (multiple comorbidities). Urgent Care reporting Monday 10 positive cases of which 2 were up to date on Covid vaccine. Amy has received multiple reports from the schools of kids being out sick with Covid.</p> <p>There has been an increase in the number of school aged kids coming in to get vaccinated.</p>	
<p>WIC Update (Information Item)</p> <p>Mary Gallen</p>	<p>Mary explained there was extensive water damage in the Tooele WIC offices, staff has since relocated to another area in the building and are alternating working from home. The state has allowed them to defer some of the processes to get and keep clients receiving WIC benefits. Mary and staff have been also working on remodeling the Wendover office, new desks, paint, etc. with funds from a grant Mary wrote for and received. They are planning an open house type event in April of next year for the public. The office space has been configured so that any of the bureaus can use the space when needed. Mary thanked her staff for their hard work. Their caseloads have increased from 1380 in January to 1430 now. Mary explained that their funding correlates to the number of clients that have food benefits on their cards, in January 79% had food benefits and as of now 91% do, Wendover is at 96%. Tooele WIC is piloting an online portal that clients can use to request appointments, upload documents, two-way texting etc. This program will go live online in September 2024. The advantage to online services means clients will not have to physically come in every 3 months to load their benefits on their cards, this helps those who do not have transportation or face other barriers that make it difficult for them to come in person. Clients, however, are still required to come in twice a year. During COVID they allowed in person waivers, this has been extended through 2026 and may become the way of the future as nutrition assessments can be done online. Christian shared that she has received great feedback about Wendover employee, Christina Quintero.</p>	
<p>Board Member Comments and/or</p>	<p>Pam stated that the state is putting in for a Medicaid waiver for those who are incarcerated so they will not lose their benefits once they are released.</p>	

Concerns	Linda offered her condolences to the family who recently lost their son due to a motorcycle accident in Grantsville. Mike thanked everyone for their work.	
Public Comments and/or Concerns	No comments were given.	
Meeting Adjourn	Anthony entertained a motion to adjourn.	Nando made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm, Neil seconded the motion all were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Attachments: Financial Report Ended October 31, 2023, TCHD Proposed 2024 Budget, Draft 2024 Meeting Schedule