

Archuleta County Investigative Health Committee Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, August 31st, 2021

Start – 6:00 PM

Roll Call:

1. Mike LeRoux, Mozhdeh Bruss, Marybeth Snyder, Leslie Davis, Adam Talamante and LaVonda Bass were present in person. Susan Kleckner was a few minutes late. Jamie Jones managed Zoom.

Approval and Adjustments to the Agenda:

Marybeth made a motion to approve the Agenda, Adam seconded the motion, all "aye" and the Agenda was approved. Susie was not present for the vote.

Disclosures and/or conflicts of interest with item on the Agenda:

All agreed there were none. Susie was not present at this time.

Meeting Minutes:

Leslie made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 24, 2021; Adam seconded the motion, all "aye" and the minutes were approved. Susie was not present for the vote.

New Business:

- A. Marybeth read the contents of the letter created to send to the BOCC requesting a meeting with SJBPH. The title of the questionnaire spreadsheet (Exhibit D) was inserted and was named "Questionnaire related to public health essential requirements for Archuleta County". Because the sources of funding have been obtained, item 3 in the letter should be deleted, and item 2 should have the word "including" replaced by the word "regarding". It was agreed the letter would be placed on ACPHIV letterhead signed by Marybeth as Secretary on behalf of this committee. Since the annual reports from SJBPH do not break down service provided to AC specifically, more information is needed.
- B. Mozhdeh presented the questionnaire spreadsheet Exhibit D and it was agreed to title it "Questionnaire related to public health essential requirements for Archuleta County". The document was reviewed and the title was added.
- C. Leslie reported she attended the SJBPH public meeting in person on 08/26/2021, Susie attended via Zoom. Leslie reported that AC pays only a small portion of the SJBPH budget. SJBPH has received \$2 million in Covid funding that was not budgeted. They have a Dec. 10, 2021 budget deadline for 2022 budget. There is a September 15, 2021 public forum for funding. There is an increase in hospitalizations of Covid patients and there is concern about the pediatric side. All hospitals in both counties have a shortage of nurses due to burn-out and other reasons. There are many public health programs provided in La Plata county that are not provided in AC. SJBPH uses our number to obtain funding. Administration costs are high in La Plata county. Services offered in 2009 have been reduced. Staff hours are reduced to 37.5 hours and a proposal to increase staff salaries by 3% is being considered since there have been no raises for 2 years. The discussion continued about the need for this committee to obtain more information from both pre- and post-Covid time frames . There is no minimum standard definition for public health. The vaccination tents around town are well-staffed with no public attendance.

- D. The Emergency Response from SJBPH during Covid could have been better with more in-person support rather than on-line support. Communication and involvement from management was needed. It was mentioned that the Covid mandates were disproportionate to AC's needs. There were not SJBPH management persons here to communicate with AC residents as the mandates came down.
- E. The question was put on the floor for each committee member to respond: what are your expectations of a public health entity? Responses included: businesses need to be represented; clear communication with businesses; transparency; clear communication; acknowledgment of the differences between counties; more in-person communication, less electronic communication; **trust**; a relationship with the residents; local representation; health education and disease prevention education such as immune health and disease treatment; teaching; care for ALL age groups; timely and responsive access to services; access to staff and personnel; mental health services. It was mentioned that pre-2009, there was a relationship between public health entity and the residents and families who used the services. There was success in pregnancy prevention, a rapport was established with families, the home bound were tended to.
- F. The septic permitting process needs to be simplified. Regulations on septic permitting could be streamlined by area and soil conditions. The price of a permit went from \$300 to \$1045 in one jump, the maximum allowed. Public input would be useful.
- G. Susie provided a list of services that were offered between 1990 and 2012 when she was a public health nurse for the AC public health entity. She reviewed her personnel records to verify the data. It is entered as Exhibit E in our records. The services offered then included a long list of services offered weekly including walk-in services and the entity was community-centered back then.
- H. The 2018 and 2019 SJBPH Annual Reports were placed on the screen and reviewed by all.
- I. After discussion *Leslie made a motion to approve the letter to the Commissioners as presented with the following changes. 1) add the title ""Questionnaire related to public health essential requirements for Archuleta County" (Exh D) to the blank line; 2) on item 2 remove the word "including" and replace with the word "regarding"; 3) Item 3 to be deleted; 4) place the letter on the PHIC letterhead from the agenda template; 4) Marybeth to sign the letter on behalf of the Committee. The motion was seconded by Adam, all "aye" and the motion was approved. The letter shall be corrected and sent to the BOCC , Mary Helminski and Scott Wall with a request to place this on the agenda of the upcoming BOCC work session on Tuesday, Sept 7, 2021. The "Questionnaire will also be attached.*
- J. Corrections were made to the Questionnaire Exh. D. *Leslie made a motion to approve the Questionnaire, Adam seconded the motion, all "aye" and the motion was approved.*

Old Business:

- A. N/A

Member Tasks:

- A. Mozhdeh to correct and share the Questionnaire for submission.
- B. Marybeth submit the letter and questionnaire to list of contacts.
- C. Committee members are to review the 2018, 2019 and 2020 SJBPH Annual Reports.

- D. Add to the next agenda to develop a list of questions committee members can use to perform public outreach within their circles and contacts to gather information from the public regarding public health services.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 21 at 6:00 PM

Adjourn Meeting: 7:57 PM