



Teller County Public Health & Environment

11115 US Highway 24 Unit 2C
Divide, CO 80814
Phone (719) 687-6416 Fax (719) 687-6501

April 15, 2025 Teller County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Mr. Williams called the Teller County Board of Health meeting to order at 9:35 AM, April 15, 2025, at the Tamarac Bldg, 800 Research Drive Suite 230, Woodland Park, CO.

Present: Bob Campbell, Dan Williams, Michelle Wolff, Ross Herzog, Dr. Laura Boschert

Staff: Mary Higgins, Kim Newcom, Keri Ptak, Austin May, Melissa Orme

Review and Approval of Minutes

January 7, 2025, minutes were reviewed. Motion by Mr. Campbell and 2nd by Mr. Stone to approve as presented. Minutes approved as presented.

Immunization/Measles presentation by Kim Newcom, Immunization Coordinator:

- **Goals of the program**
 - Ensure access to vaccines for all Teller County community members
 - Increase vaccination rates, especially in children and at-risk adults
 - Educate Teller County residents on the benefits of Immunization
- **Who we serve**
 - All ages (oldest client is 96)
 - Insured
 - Medicaid
 - Uninsured
 - Under-Insured
- **Vaccines for Children (VFC) program**
 - Vaccines for Children is a federally funded program that's administered by the CDC. It covers children 18 and under, who are on Medicaid, under-insured, American Indian or Alaskan Native. Vaccines are free of charge (small admin fee). TCPHE and Peak Vista in Divide are the only providers in Teller County.
- **317 & State Funded Vaccine Program**
 - A federally funded program with state funded vaccines, they're interchangeable. This is a stock of vaccines that's for our clients that are 19 and over who are uninsured or underinsured. So that would be our seniors. The vaccines include RSV, shingles, and pneumonia. Typically flu, pneumonia, and COVID are usually paid for by Medicare. The vaccines, just like the other program, the vaccines themselves are free, but there is an administration fee based upon the household size and income.



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- **VaxCare**
 - Is our company that we use for our private vaccines. They are a private company where they provide us the vaccine, then they in turn bill insurance for those vaccines, and then they pay us the administration fee.
- **Measles:** the World Health Organization estimates that 139,000 people worldwide have died of measles in the last year. Measles was considered eradicated from the United States in 2020. There's no effective treatment for measles
 - Incubation 7-21 Days
 - Lasts 2-3 Weeks
 - Contagious 4 days prior to rash and after rash appears
 - MMR vaccine is currently the only way we administer measles vaccine
 - Prevention is the key
- **Update on Measles and Colorado cases**
 - Most reliable immunization data we can pull from kindergartners that was reported in the 23-24 school year from the CDPHE's website
 - Colorado's average rate for kindergartners is 88.3% and the exemption rate average is 4%.
 - Columbine 92%, Summit 80%, Gateway 81%, Cripple Creek Victor 100%, Merit Academy 68.6%
- **Measle prevention in Teller County**
 - Collaborate with Teller County EMS providers and first responders to do a clinic
 - Healthcare professionals, if they haven't had a second dose, it's recommended to
 - Collaborate with the local school districts to get kids up to date
 - Partnering with our kids that are migrants or families that have come into the community that are international
 - Attend sports physical night to speak to parents of what's recommended.
 - Talk about the HPV vaccine
 - No vaccines given, but appointments made
 - Plan for an outbreak situation here in Teller County
 - Pod type situation
 - What other public health measures we would do
 - Teller County is at risk because of the lack of uptake of the measles vaccine, and as a result of vaccine hesitancy or vaccine refusal
 - Desire to do an article with Pat Hill to educate the community
- There was a question about the blood drive



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- We've been in conversations and one of the one of the issues or concerns was us giving blood and then not being able to get blood back and so we were trying to be team players in that and set up blood drives. We had set up to have the Red Cross come up and do a blood drive for our health care and then they backed out

Director's Discussion with Michelle Wolff

- **Child Fatality Prevention System.**

- We haven't had to do a review since February of last year for any fatalities.
- No evaluations although some deaths have occurred; would have been a natural cause of death.
- Hopefully the legislative report will be coming out around September 1, and we'll present on that at our October Board of Health meeting
- Funding for the Child Fatality Prevention System; we get about \$4,200
 - Purchased medication lock boxes, gun lock boxes that were given out during the Suicide Awareness Symposium.
 - Looking at maybe buying some bicycle helmets

- **Suicide Awareness Symposium**

- Looking to collaborate with the extension office to bring Mike Hayes or Steve Hayes, to one of our 4-H camps to talk to the kids related to behavioral health, suicides or overdose

- **Community Health Assessment and Planning**

- Second youth resilience symposium has been postponed; new date not set
- 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Symposium – 7 Mar 2025; over 100 attendees
- Partner meeting for the Teller County Mental Health Alliance and Park County Mental Health Alliance
 - Wanting to form a suicide prevention task force; more to come on that
 - Alan Katzen, from UC Health did provide some QPR training to the Golden Nugget back in February, looking at expanding that training to other community partners, particularly casinos
 - Senior Expo, which we've combined with our health fair; from 10 to 2, Saturday, April 26th, at Woodland Park Community Church.
 - 4-H curriculum called Health Rocks that I've been wanting to bring to the county. It focuses on mostly substance use, but they've kind of recreated and wanting to push more health habits; wellness, nutrition, positive relationships, and then of course reducing those risky behaviors

- **CHAPS: Substance Use**

- CDC reports that in all 50 states the overdose rates have dropped



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- Fentanyl deaths are down
- Funding through the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (\$500,000) award has been pushed till June
 - If awarded the funding, we plan on starting our community health assessment process a year early
- **Regional Opioid updates**
 - Potentially who could be receiving funding for MAT/MOUD Apps
 - Youth applicants will present at the next two meetings on status
 - Website created that can be viewed now
- **Communicable Disease**
 - 2024 year in summary for a pulse on what's been going on in Teller County, we're less than 1% of all
 - 1st Qtr 2025 numbers for COVID-43, Influenza w/hospitalization-25, Varicella (Chicken Pox)-7, GI-5
 - Outbreaks: RSV 2; Influenza 1; Norovirus 1.
 - Animal Bites: Dog 12; Cat 1
 - Lead/Mercury Poisoning 4
- Going back to the long-term care facilities for COVID, originally LPHAs were supposed to take over if they hadn't already taken over outbreak cases in long term care facilities, we are already doing it.
- Mr. Stone states that there was \$1.3 billion short just focus on Colorado, we're \$1.3 billion short. So there's a lot of things that we're already hearing you guys talk about people canceling things. Please let us know when you start seeing things dry up.
- Readiness Response Survey sent out to allow other community partners to participate
 - Mary did call our local pharmacies just to get an idea of where they are at with vaccines. City Market was the only one that doesn't carry the MMR vaccine so
- Mr. Herzog asked if the elementary schools fixed their lead? Because I got an email like a year ago, the 14 of their 51 fixtures failed. They have closed them off and replaced them whatever they needed to do.
- As of April 4th, 2025, the US has 607 confirmed cases of the measles; 2024 there were only 285 cases, as of April 7, 2025, Colorado has 3.
- **Community Events:**
 - Department flyer created for presentations and county web page
 - Working on the application process for rentals and those special event permits.
 - For age, advertising more opportunities to the youth to include other counties so that we can come together and partner on some of these and not be siloed
 - We've created a very general calendar that's on the extension website



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- We have the senior expo
 - We initially thought we would have the vaccine van. That is no longer, they said, sorry, because we lost money
 - The hospital will come and do balance testing and questions about oxygen at home
 - A physical therapist that comes and shows them some exercises they can do to help their balance
 - Free Lunch
 - There's a QR code there to make it easy for them to RSVP for it
 - We have 17 vendor tables
 - Ben from El Paso Teller 911 will be there to promote Everbridge
 - The Golden Bridge Network was paying for the lunch.
- **Our county picnic will be on July 18th.**
 - The location is secured
 - The live DJ is secured
 - The porta potties are secured
- **Teller County Fair is planned for July 25th to August 3rd. The fair event starts on the 26th**
 - The royalty events the night before, I have received their permit request
- **4-H Foundation**
 - We realigned the 4-H foundations in each county to what the state is requesting
 - Our foundation helps provide funds to attend camps and conferences
 - They also provide funds for youth project scholarships
- **Health Rocks**
 - The grant that we received was advertised as \$2,000, but we received \$3,350 because we can meet more of that curriculum and many individuals
 - Camp Eagle will cost \$33 for the kids to attend for the weekend, then another \$33 from their clubs, and then \$34 from the foundation and then that's that Health Rocks grant is taking care of the lodging portion of that camp
- **El Pomar – CSU applied**
- **Teller County Guide**
 - We used grant funding to help pay for advertising for our services in the county
 - This is out for a year and then it's also online, but we made sure to put the Colorado crisis on the bottom and then peak alerts, they can scan that QR code and get access to the average alerts
- **Emergency preparedness**



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- Austin and I attended a tabletop exercise for a wildland fire in Park County on March 5th
- Melissa and I attended the hazmat livestock workshop
- We will continue to give out go bags and then some first aid kits and then the preparedness booklets at our upcoming events, health fair, farmers market
- We did a MRC tabletop exercise, a flooding incident
- **IPPW**
 - We're working with Michelle Bully on the IPP or the Inner Preparedness Plan
 - Working on a date for partners to participate in an all-county kind of IPP workshop
 - We will attend the one at NETCO on May 13th
 - We will have our first ever IPP submitted to the state on June 15th, 2025
- **Regional Recovery Symposium**
 - Scheduled for the 15th of May, which is important for any department heads, leads of ESF-8s, and then elected officials
 - I'm also coordinating with Colorado Springs Utilities.
 - They're going to be bringing back the beaver dams to help with fire mitigation
 - In June we're going to have some COOP training, working ICS forms
- **Radio Training**
 - We're going to do a radio drill with Derek
 - We did radio training about two or three weeks ago, efficiency, ethics, and then etiquette on the radio
- **Oxygen Task Force updates.**
 - We met with Adapt Health on February 27th at UPRAD, we invited five oxygen companies, they were the only ones to show up. They have Emergency backup tanks at Pikes Peak Regional Hospital
 - They're going to be working with the provider from UCHealth up in Cripple Creek to make sure other Tanks are available
 - They have this oxygen concentrator, it's a home fill, they provide this to all of their users and recommend that they use, they're not going to run out of oxygen if they have this unit available (We had one donated by Mike Theimer)
 - Austin is looking at finding out what that will cost us to get that back-up to have at the shelter
 - Backup batteries are charged and ready to deploy if needed.
 - EMS will partner up with search and rescue because they do weigh about 99 lbs.
 - EMS is working out logistics for taking the deposits.
- **Budget Review**
 - The only thing on there is we updated the COVID numbers



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- Reviewing of the budget was deferred by exception

Meeting was adjourned at 1229

Michelle Wolff 07/08/2025