

Rio Grande County Board of Health

Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

The meeting of the Rio Grande County Board of Health was called to order at 9:06 AM.

Members present were Chairman Gene Glover, Commissioner John Noffske, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Dr. Kolawole Bankole, Rio Grande County Public Health Department Director, Rio Grande County Attorney Nancy Lake, and Clerk of the Board Aubrey Pargin.

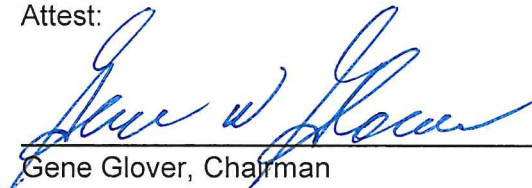
Actions as the Board of Health

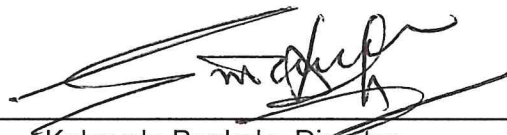
Dr. Bankole was present to give a Public Health Department update. Dr. Bankole stated that there is a rise in cases of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley and that he was informed by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) that there are possibly two new COVID-19 variants. He also stated that there were four new cases that spread from the Idaho Pacific Potato Warehouse. Easter gatherings, no social distancing, people not wearing masks are factors that he believes have contributed to the rise in cases in the San Luis Valley. He stated that the new variants seem to be affecting younger age groups. Dr. Bankole would like to step up the vaccination rates in youth, especially in youth 16 to 17 years old. Rio Grande Hospital is working with the schools to try to vaccinate this age group of students in the schools. The dial of our county is still green, but Dr. Bankole expects it to move to blue or yellow by this Friday. Commissioner Glover said many counties in the state are dial green and are wide open with no shut-downs; he wants to know what they are doing. Dr. Bankole stated that he believes the numbers tell a story. If masks are taken away the statistics show that there is a 4% increase in transmission. Dr. Bankole also believes that 80% of the County's population needs to be vaccinated to move our County towards herd immunity.

At 9:30 AM Dr. Bankole requested the approval of the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Health Care Coalition (HCC) COVID-19 Part 2 mini-grant application and selection outcomes from the mini-grant management process for awards to eligible applicants. He received a bundling of applications that separated into seven applications for the HPP grant and eight applications for the part 2 COVID-19 grant. There was discussion on grants being used for radios and Commissioner Noffske stated concern on compatibility of radios purchased. Commissioner Deacon stated that Digicom is the company, and that they are good company. They work between agencies, and he thinks they wouldn't sell radios that weren't compatible. Ms. Lake stated that the agreement looks good and she reviewed it. She stated that it says the money has to be used for what they say it will be used for. Ms. Lake also recommended that the Board give Dr. Bankole the power to sign the mini grant documents. Rio Grande County Board of Health is the fiscal agent in these grants. At 9:53 AM Commissioner Noffske made the motion to give the Public Health Director, Dr. Bankole, power to sign for HPP and HCC COVID-19 part 2 mini-grant application documents. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Ms. Lake also stated that there is language in the agreement that the agencies are liable for the goods they receive.

At 9:56 AM the Board adjourned as the Board of Health and resumed as the Board of County Commissioners.

Attest:


Gene Glover, Chairman
Chairman of the Board


Kolawole Bankole, Director
Public Health Department


Aubrey Pargin
Clerk of the Board

Date