Rio Grande County Board of Health

Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

The meeting of the Rio Grande County Board of Health was called to order at 10:53 AM.

Members present were Chairman Gene Glover, Commissioner John Noffsner, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Dr. Kolawole Bankole, Rio Grande County Public Health Department Director, Juan Maravilla CTC Facilitator, Jody Kern, Director of Department of Social Services, County Administrator Leslie Kluismire, Former Interim County Administrator Judy Egbert, County Interim Attorney Nancy Lake, Former Clerk of the Board DeAnn Jacobs, and Clerk of the Board Aubrey Pargin.

Actions as the Board of Health

The BOH considered approval of agreements with All Clear Emergency Management Group LLC. Dr. Bankole stated that he had a Health Care Coalition (HCC) workshop last Wednesday on different grants for the SLV region under HCC. He also stated that the state had deliverables piling up because the former HCC coordinator had not turned in paperwork. Dr. Bankole said that All Clear Emergency Management is meant for coordinating communication, improving capacity in emergency situations, coordinating resources and coordinating awareness across the system. One of the SLV HCC grants (National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program) increased from $95,000 to $109,315. Jody Kern stated that it is so important to have a plan with deliverables. She stated that in the past when there were fires in this area a plan in place would have been beneficial. Commissioner Noffsner stated that he was concerned with Denver telling this county how to handle emergencies located here. Ms. Kern stated that she recommends using All Clear Emergency Management at this time to bridge the gap and, in the future, try to make plans locally. Commissioner Glover stated he also has concerns about the state dictating what to do, and what will work here in Rio Grande County. Commissioner Noffsner asked how the $20,000 will be dispersed. Dr. Bankole said they are providing resources to help everyone work together in a county emergency or crisis. There was discussion on hiring an HCC Coordinator by July 1st to help with future deadlines for the grants. Ms. Kluismire voiced concerns on the cost of the time it was taking everyone to work on these grants, and asked if Alamosa County could be the fiscal agent for these grants. Ms. Kern stated that the County is getting better at handling grants and being the fiscal agent for some of the grants. Commissioner Glover stated the Board hasn’t asked for the funding, so that needs to be done. County Interim Attorney Nancy Lake stated that the County doesn’t need to give up control, but needs to put some procedures in place. Commissioner Noffsner expressed concerns over grants overlapping and having duplicate goals. Dr. Bankole stated that there is $45,000 left over from the previous year and that this grant was already previously approved. Ms. Kern said that there is $10,000 deliverable money and Dr. Bankole can negotiate line items with the state. Line items might need to be moved, but signing this contract is to accept the funds on the grants, not how they are spent. Ms. Kluismire recommended that Dr. Bankole check with Ms. Phillips on how much money is in the HCC fund.

At 11:58 AM Commissioner Noffsner made a motion to approve the SLV Regional HCC (National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness) contract which increased from $95,000 to $109,315 and that the BOCC will be provided with a budget in the future. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Dr. Bankole stated that he would talk to Chief Financial Officer Debbie Phillips and see if there were HCC funds available to hire an HCC Coordinator.

The meeting was adjourned for a lunch break.

At 1:00 PM the BOCC reconvened as the Board of Health.

Dr. Bankole stated that $9,000 is needed to have total funds available to hire HCC coordinator position. He also stated that he can move funds easily to reach the budget to hire the coordinator. Ms. Lake stated that the state shouldn’t care as long as deliverables are delivered. Commissioner Noffsner made a motion to approve the request to sign two contracts for deliverables from the state (HCC). Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

(Mountain Plains Regional Disaster Health Response System grant for $20,000 was not approved or signed).
At 1:10 PM the meeting was adjourned to the work session.

Attest:

Gene Glover
Chairman of the Board

Kolawole Bankole, Director
Public Health Department

Aubrey Pargin
Clerk of the Board

Board of Health
Board Meeting
January 27, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 9:08 AM.

Present were Commissioner Gene Glover, Commissioner John Noffsner, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Rio Grande County Administrator Leslie Klusmire, Former Interim County Administrator Judy Egbert, Dr. Kolawole Bankole, Director of Public Health, Interim County Attorney Nancy Lake, and Clerk of the Board Aubrey Pargin.

Dr. Bankole asked BOCC to sign a request to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to change our county’s COVID-19 dial status (move from orange to yellow). The county Infection Rate has gone down to 1.1%, with the number of new cases going down also. Dr. Bankole reminded everyone present to get vaccinated.

Commissioner Noffsner made a motion to sign the request to CDPHE to change COVID-19 status in Rio Grande County. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 9:13 AM the Board adjourned as the Board of Health, and reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

Attest:

Gene Glover
Chairman of the Board

Kolawole Bankole, Director
Public Health Department

Aubrey Pargin
Clerk of the Board

Date