BOARD OF HEALTHS PROCEEDINGS

State of Colorado  )
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County of Rio Grande  )

The Rio Grande County Board of Health conducted the regular session on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gene Glover at 2:06 PM. A prayer was led by Commissioner Scott Deacon, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present were County Commissioner Scott Deacon, County Commissioner Gene Glover, County Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff, County Administrator William Schoen, Public Health Department Director, Dr. Kolawole Bankole, Ida White, Public Health Response Program Coordinator, Dolores Atencio and Roberta Marquez, Health Equity Program Specialists.

Adoption of the Agenda

At 2:07 pm, Dr. Bankole requested a motion to approve the agenda and the approval of the September 6, 2023 minutes. Motion was moved by Commissioner Glover and seconded by Commissioner Deacon. The motion was carried.

Public Comment

At 2:07 PM: There were no comments.

Actions as the Board of Health (BOH)

Directors Report - Action Needed - Region 8 Opioid SLV Regional Health Connector: Professional Services Agreements (PSA) FY23. UC Funding and Scope of Work-$58,285

Region 8 Opioid SLV Regional Health Connector (RHC): At 2:08 PM: Dr. Bankole presented the Region 8 Opioid Regional Health Connector Coordinator and PSA. The Colorado State legislature passed HB23-1244, Regional Health Connector Program, with the aim of sustaining and expanding the important work of the Regional Health Connectors by providing more state funding and formal oversight from the state government. For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, the Practice Innovation Program at the University of Colorado will administer the funding for the Regional Health Connector program. It was stated that yes, the bill has passed and the governor has signed the bill into law. Regional Health Connectors (RHCs) are a crucial point of connection between primary care practices, other health care providers, public health, and community resources and are tasked to accomplish the aims of this bill. RGC Public Health is the HOST Agency for the entire San Luis Valley. The Regional Health Connector Coordinator position is an independent contractor position. The position was advertised and Melissa Taylor, who was the Rio Grande County Deputy Administrator/Human Resource, accepted to be the next RHC. There has been a series of meetings, interviews during the recruitment period. Dr. Bankole presented the whole package, which involves the Professional Service Agreement
(PSA), the job description, and the deliverable expectations. Dr. Bankole asked the board to move and approve the PSA. Commissioner Deacon motioned to approve the PSA for the year 2023 Regional Health Connector Coordinator, Commissioner Ratzlaff seconded the motion and the motion was carried and approved.

RGC PHD Health Equity Initiative (HEI): CDPHE Healthy Communities Grant’s Scope of Work and Budget-$247,965

Health Equity Initiative (HEI): Dr. Bankole presented the board with the grant funding that was approved for the Health Equity Program in the amount of $247,965. We have been doing weekly meetings with the state regarding the scope of work (SOW) and the deliverables. The state has had multiple turnovers and that is why this has been delayed. Rio Grande County Public Health received the grant award back in June 2023. Right now, the SOW has gone into contracting, so we should be expecting the final copy from the state soon. Dr. Bankole presented this again, due to the delay from the state and wanted to bring it to the board’s attention. The board has previously approved the HEI grant.

ELC 2.1 Grant: This is an extension of the ELC 2.0 Grant. We have had the ELC 1 and ELC 2.0 grants from the state. Dr. Bankole requested an extension with the state CDPHE, so that the remaining funds from ELC 2 (that ended in July 2023) would not be returned to the state. The funding total amount of $120,060. Threw SOW and the budget has been approved by the State and Board of Health approved after a motion was moved and seconded.

Directors Report - Informational/ Discussions- RGC PH/CDPHE Disease Investigation Metrics Report Covering January-June 2023. There were six (6) cases fully investigated and completed;

At 2:10 PM: Dr. Bankole presented a report of the communicable disease cases that were reported from January to June 2023, within the county, the region and the state. Similarly, presented the last quarter case reports. There is a new Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator as well as new Field Epidemiology; and Dr. Bankole has been requesting some Metrics reports from the State. There is a potential rise in STIs, chlamydia, and HIV in the state and in our county. For Rio Grande County, there have been six diseases that were investigated and reported upon. It is the task and responsibility of Public Health to investigate disease outbreaks of communicable diseases within the jurisdiction. From January to June 2023, there were six reported diseases, and in comparison, with Colorado, RGC Public Health Department was able to complete their investigations within 24 to 48 hours for each report. Ida White is the Response Coordinator and deals with communicable diseases. Between 2018 and 2022 RGC had 46 Chlamydia cases; the whole SLV had 209. The prevalence rate is 22% compared to the region. For same period, there were three cases of Syphilis in RGC and eight in the SLV. There have not been any new cases of HIV in RGC. There are only two (2) HIV cases reported in the SLV. In the last three months, there were more women with syphilis. As of now, Rio Grande County is in the yellow level and we are watching the cases and doing public health precautionary measure education and outreach. We are in green status for HIV.

TB cases from January to June 2023, there have been 29 reported cases. For Rio Grande County there have been 0 case, 29 total cases in Colorado. Dr. Bankole will be trying to get STI quarterly report on our county cases based on what the state can provide and sharing same
with the Board of Health. This will be a change from the past. Commissioner Glover asked if 29 cases were high for the state and Dr. Bankole answered not sure as we do not have the comparison to make such objective response at the meeting. Meanwhile, any TB case is not favorable and related to folks coming from endemic countries and people with low immune status. There are latent TB prominent around that has to be treated by providers/physicians.

Directors Report - Informational/ Discussions Required- PH Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

At 2:30 PM: Dr. Bankole explained that there is a requirement by the state for all Public Health Agencies in Colorado to conduct Community Health Need Assessments (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) every five (5) years. The last CHNA was conducted in 2018 and we are now due for another CHNA implementation. We are working in partnership with the Colorado Health Institute to conduct the series-based community health needs assessment and also, a county-specific community health assessment. Dr. Bankole explained that we are at the final stage, phase 3, which involves hosting a larger community meeting on October 6, 2023 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM, at the RGC Courthouse Annex, to allow the community members to contribute to CHNA. All the information gathered will not only meet the CDPHE’s requirement but also contribute to the first/inaugural Health of Rio Grande County report that is forthcoming.

Community Health Fair: The Community Health Fair is being held in partnership with the Rio Grande Hospital on September 30, 2023 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at 955 French Street (old High School Gym), Del Norte, CO. There have been 40 vendors confirmed to attend the Health Fair. There will be fun, families’ activities for everyone. So also, there will be vaccinations. Blood draws will be performed ahead of time at Rio Grande Hospital by appointments.

National Fitness Campaign (NFC) updates:

At 2:35 PM: Dr. Bankole provided an update on the National Fitness Campaign (NFC). The plan is to go full studio as approved by the Board, thus there is a need for more funds. Hence, Dr. Bankole presented to the Board of Rio Grande Hospital in regards to more funding being needed and the additional funding request was not granted. The Hospital will stay with its already committed amount of $25,000. Dr. Bankole will be meeting today September 13, 2023 with the Del Norte Town Council to see if they are willing and able to help with more funds for the fitness center. The committee has reached out to RFP’s and RFP for the slab and RFP for the concrete. The NFC full funding will need to be sourced and committed by September 22, 2023 for the project and PO needs to be executed.

Public Health Officers Report- Dolores Atencio and Roberta Marquez Health Equity Program.

At 2:40 PM: Ida White, Public Health Response Coordinator introduced Dolores Atencio and Roberta Marquez, Health Equity Specialists. The Health Equity Specialists have built better partnerships with different agencies. Roberta has been working closely with the migrant population and low income, while Dolores has been working more with the schools, senior housing, nursing homes, and the hospital. Dolores and Roberta then showed the board a 1.5 minutes video of when they participated in the organization and conduct of the H2A Picnic for migrant workers. Commissioner Glover asked how many were in the camp, Dolores responded with 300 to 350 participants.
There were two different picnics at two different camps. Both Dolores and Roberta had made and delivered public health resource bags for each of the workers.

Dolores Atencio presented how she has helped a client and has been working with her for the last few months. Dolores has worked hard to help get this patient to be able to maintain her independence at home, such as physical therapy to regain her strength and other in-home support services, like preparing meals and doing some light house cleaning. One main issue this patient was having was that, she was in a wheelchair and had no ramp to get into her home, we were able to purchase and have a ramp installed for her. It was delivered and installed in July 2023. Dolores also shared how they work with different agencies like Ric Grande Hospital and Department of Social Services to provide resources and connect patients to different care and services.

Roberta Marquez presented her going out into the community to help translate and interpret with different occasions. She also talked about the translation of different forms including COVID-19 and Flu, etc. Roberta also presented with going into the schools and working with the schools with Life Skills Training (LST). Roberta talked about the work that she does in the Spanish community and helping out with different resources. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been taken to several of the different warehouses throughout the San Luis Valley, as well as hand sanitizers, gowns to protect them, gloves, Lysol disinfecting wipes, COVID-19 At-Home test kits, and many other safety and health products.

Dr. Bankole finished with presenting the creation of the Health Helpline that the community can call directly if in need of Public Health issues. Public Health will track the traffic on the health helpline and also investigate cases and complete both in English and in Spanish.

Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

N/A

At 3:05 PM, County Commissioner Glover made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

[Signature]
Gene Glover
Chairman
Board of Health | Board of County Commissioners

[Signature]
Dr. Kolawole Bankole
Health Department Director

4