

Rio Grande County Board of Health
Thursday, December 14, 2017

Rio Grande County: Karla Shriver (chair)
Suzanne Bothell

Del Norte: Marty Asplin
Monte Vista: Carol Schroeder
South Fork:

Also present: Emily Brown (secretary)

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Asplin moved/Bothell seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried. Asplin moved/Schroeder seconded to approve September minutes. Motion carried.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Board of Health's role in emergencies

The Director took some time to talk to the Board of Health about their role in several different emergency and/or response situations, as well as how communication would occur and what might be expected of the BoH.

Quarantine & Isolation: A public health role per Colorado Revised Statutes, as related to epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions (i.e. Ebola, anthrax, etc.). Public Health has the responsibility and authority to protect the public, if needed, by asking or requiring individuals to isolate from the public. A gap in this process is if there is non-compliance and enforcement is needed.

EMILY will follow up on Q&I suggestions: Look into an agreement with Rio Grande Hospital for our Medical Officer, and a back-up medical officer; with the SLV Public Health Partnership or the SLV Healthcare Coalition, look into option for developing a list of contacts (i.e. past public health staff) who can be involved in these situations

Public Health Cache: Per Colorado Board of Health rules, local public health agencies are required to keep a 3-day supply of antibiotics effective against category A bacterial agents for all response staff who will be involved in procuring emergency supplies. The purpose of this is to make sure individuals in charge of ordering, receiving, and distributing supplies to first responders and the general public are actually able to accomplish this task. Rio Grande County Public Health plans to procure antibiotics for all six full-time staff and their household family members.

EMILY will follow up on cache suggestions: look into keeping cache at a pharmacy to allow for rotation of medication before expiration; finalize cache with Dr. Helgeson

ESF #8 Lead: Emergency Support Functions (ESF) provide structure for coordinating interagency support for a response to any incident. There are 15 ESFs, and ESF #8 is "Public Health and Medical Services". Public Health, and the Public Health Director, will be the initial ESF lead for health related emergencies. Lower

level responses will be supported by affected agencies, the regional Emergency Operations Center, and the Healthcare Coalition. BoH will likely be involved and be asked to provide support and advice in these types of scenarios, as well as possible funding if incident grows.

EMILY will follow up on response suggestion: Look for someone to act as a back-up county-wide PIO, possibly the hospital PIO or other agencies that have a position in place already; include the coroner on list for BoH meetings and minutes so he can be in the loop, especially around response

Emily made sure she had phone and email contacts for all BoH members. Most communication during an emergency will occur by group email. Time-sensitive communication, or request of an emergency BoH meeting will occur by phone. EMILY will incorporate BoH contact information into communication plans and occasional drills.

EMILY will schedule a regular time (maybe at June meetings) to get BoH approval on the department's emergency preparedness plans.

Updates from Director

Action Item Review

- EMILY & DAN Valley attended the October 9th Masonic Park meeting to share info about septic system updates; Both showed up, along with Weaver's Level Best, but there was no meeting
- EMILY continues to keep an eye out for funding sources to refer the Masonic Park to, especially programs that might be like insurance for replacement systems
- EMILY & RANDY will continue to write up more details of variance process and processes for moving quicker if there is a failed system
- RANDY will add to OWTS permits that effluent screens are "strongly recommended"
- EMILY will talk with regional epidemiologist about timeframe for a regional rabies MOU. This was signed by the BoH, but a regional MOU with all signatures on one document was requested.
- EMILY will update the website: information about rabies vaccination and quarantine procedures; high lead levels and treating for lead, medication disposal.
- EMILY will keep BoH updated on needle disposal, including finding spots for a disposal container.
- EMILY will look into offering lead testing for the public and promote this service
- EMILY will see if Rio Grande Hospital would be interested in appointing a representative to serve on our board.
- EMILY will continue to talk with RGH about aligning assessment processes

Other updates

Update on OWTS process – Emily confirmed with CDPHE that the general interpretation of the OWTS regulations are that non-allowed septic features in the regulations (i.e. new pit privies) can be approved through a normal variance process. The BoH is in agreement that this is how they want to interpret the regulations to allow flexibility as needed, through BoH approval. EMILY will share this update with Steve Graham, per his request at the July 26 meeting.

EMILY submitted the regulations to CDPHE and received a letter of no objections on November 17, 2017.

RANDY and EMILY will post notifications for a public hearing at the March 8th BoH meeting. Regulations would go in to effect 4 5 days after that meeting, if approved.

Harm Reduction Program – SLV AHEC and Alamosa County Public Health have been working hard over the last 1+years to get a Harm Reduction program started in the San Luis Valley. They are almost ready to start this and should be open at the first of the year. They are working on finalizing a location in Alamosa for a once a week time. The goal is to have this be a 'traveling' program that is available in multiple towns throughout the Valley. For Rio Grande County to have this service locally, the BoH would need to approve SLV AHEC to coordinate this

service, and a location(s) would need to be found. One location that was suggested by the BoH was the Monte Vista Crossroads Turning Points location.

Health Care Coalition update – Rio Grande County is the fiscal agent for the SLV Healthcare Coalition. (Federal funds through CDPHE.) We have Cynthia Ford on board as the coalition coordinator, and she is doing a great job getting on board with meeting planning, membership organization, and grant deliverables.

Rio Grande Prevention Partners (RGPP) update – A workgroup has been looking at a range of data to help identify top risk & protective factors. Top factors were presented to the Key Leader board for feedback, and will be voted on by the coalition in January. A big thank you to the Monte Vista recreation department. They have been strong partners with the coalition to plan youth activities and support coalition work.

AIM XL – Sargent and Monte Vista schools both have funding this year to go through a comprehensive health and wellness planning process. Emily is a member of both teams, which will be valuable for sharing resources as well as aligning with public health's priority areas. Hopefully Del Norte will have this opportunity in the next year.

Budget review – Emily will bring information on the 2018 Public Health budget to the March BoH meeting.

Updates

Del Norte – This spring the septic system lift station will get built, then the rest of the sewage project will continue. Hospital construction is moving forward and working fast to get back on track. This is being done to increase security in the ER, expand space for some services like physical therapy and wound care, update the clinic, and expand administrative space and conference room.

Monte Vista –Carol is resigning from Town Council. The BoH discussed if they would appoint a new BoH member, or if she would be interested as serving as the Monte Vista liaison still.

South Fork – A permanent medication disposal box is in place at the South Fork Police Office. KARLA will be contacted South Fork and Monte Vista mayors to talk about BoH representation.

County – Center Schools are looking at building trails/sidewalks from the south side of town to the school. This is being coordinated with Patrick Sullivan as Rio Grande County will be involved on their side of the town. City of Monte Vista & Rio Grande County are working together on an RFP for the Wastewater Treatment Plant update – hope to approve a vendor for the feasibility study (due March)

Other business

Next Meeting

Set meeting dates for 2018. All will start at 3:30 p.m. at the RGC BoCC room

- March 8
- June 14
- September 13
- December 13

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00. (Bothell/Schroeder moved)

Submitted by
Emily Brown, Secretary