

Rio Grande County Board of Health
Thursday, September 20, 2018

Rio Grande County: Suzanne Bothell
Gene Glover
Karla Shirver
Del Norte: Marty Asplin
Monte Vista: Carol Schroeder
South Fork:

Also present: Emily Brown (secretary)
Charlottle Ledonne
Della Vieira

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Schroeder moved/Bothell seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Updates from Director

Rio Grande County has hired a nurse for the Jail. Public Health is looking at ways with can partner and support this position. One project we are looking at is exploring need and procedures for Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and treatment through temporary funding from CDPHE. There is the possibility this could establish a relationship for future funding discussions with CDPHE for jail nursing and/or STI health.

The Director presented some concerns about support for a needle drop-box that have come up. The program was discussed, and the Board agreed with Director that this could be put on hold for the moment.

We will review OWTS fees in December. Current fees and other county comparison information was shared. Director with check with the state to see if these have been updated since October 2017, or what other counties may have in place that weren't listed.

Colorado Public Health System Transformation was introduced. Director provided an August 2018 Brief from CALPHO and CDPHE on what the is occurring with this project and what will be next steps for better communicating the importance of Colorado's public health system, as well as securing better funding.

Flu clinic dates were shared: 10/3, 9am-noon, Monte Vista at Tri County Senior Center; 10/9, 3-6pm, Del Norte at County Annex; 10/25, 3-6pm, Sargent Elementary School Gym. Due to staff capacity, we are still deciding whether we will do shots at South Fork's health fair.

RGCPH is working with Rio Grande Hospital to get health assessment feedback. Director presented several data reports and asked for feedback on "what do you love about your community" and "what challenges or opportunities for improvement" could be noted for the future. Positives included environment, weather, and recreation access, small town benefits such as walkability and low crime rate, and community

relationships. Challenges included economic limitations, poverty, lack of large industries, and no opportunity for growth.

Discussion of SHARRP/Harm Reduction Program

SHARRP is a needle exchange, a safe disposal program and a collaboration with VWHS (3 or 4 Wednesdays a month) to do blood pressures, abscess reviews, sign up for Suboxone, health insurance enrollment. A SLV BHG staff is there to enroll in services. A PH nurse sends a nurse to help and bring needle supplies. Once a month HIV testing is offered by Children's Hospital. Those that test positive get a confirmatory test then information to follow up for treatment. Clients are returning needles and utilizing services.

Demographic and client survey data was shared. After Alamosa County residents, residents from Rio Grande County are the next highest number. We would hope to utilize these people to promote in our county. Word of mouth is the best tool for promoting the service.

About 16 volunteers were initial trained: PH nurses, AHEC staff, about 6 BH staff. A membership card is given to participants to authorize carrying of supplies.

If Rio Grande County wanted to bring in this service, there are several required steps. Prior to bringing proposal to BOH, we need to have 3 community meetings. We aren't sure if this would be needed for RGC since the program was already started in Alamosa. DELLA and EMILY will look at statute. Either way this is good to get feedback, educate, and identify supporters.

The needs for a new location are: big parking space for VWHS van, reception area to greet clients, waiting area, 2 private areas (testing/counseling & get supplies). Ideally it would be great to keep a few supplies in a small storage closet. A mobile unit was discussed. We would need funding to acquire and maintain a vehicle. Even with a mobile unit it would still be nice to work with a facility to allow parking space and a possible waiting room. Currently the SLV BHG MV clinic is not an option. Possibly look at food bank connection or other SLV BHG connections.

A Colorado Health Network grant has provided funding for the first 3 years. SLV AHEC would look at asking for more funding; next funding cycle July of 2020—if counties are interested. It would be great to start that discussion to put the pieces together (syringes & all supplies; all staff time is donated/in-kind; a little coverage for Charlotte's time; Alamosa covers disposal fee; small coverage for this).

Board discussed liability. There would be no liability to municipalities or the county since they aren't running the program. This also is a supportive program versus a program that would put people at risk. This may also be the only medical contact these individuals may be receiving—these are also not the people who are accessing services elsewhere, so this is a really big step for making a positive change. There was also discussion about ensuring clients don't move between sites, but maybe that would mean we are getting a wider reach.

Next steps: community input session for education and to build support;

Next steps: outline a strategy plan for outreach; EMILY will draft and work with Charlotte; CHARLOTTE would talk to Colorado Health Network about expanded funding. EMILY will talk to Arlene about how this fits in to CHNA strategy. EMILY will talk to Ely Walker re: his support and ideas. DELLA offered Alamosa BOCC as a resource for input about how their approval process went.

Updates from Municipalities, County

Del Norte – approvals are through and are just waiting for USDA approval on loans
Monte Vista –

South Fork –
County –

Other business

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the RGC BoCC room

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20. (Schroeder/Shriver moved)

Submitted by

Emily Brown, Secretary