

SALT LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
April 1, 2021 7:30 AM
County Government Center, S2-600
AGENDA

Due to the ongoing Public Health Emergency related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Response, the Salt Lake County Health Department cannot provide physical space or facilities for board members or members of the public to attend in-person. The meeting will be held through WebEx (toll free in the U.S.):

**Call: 1-415-655-0003
Access Code: 187 561 7344
Meeting Password: 0421**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Dorothea Verbrugge, Chair	Kalina Duncan
Councilmember Arlyn Bradshaw	Roderic Land
Scott Brown	Leticia Medina
Michele Corigliano	Mollie Nordgren
Dr. William Cosgrove	Mimi Shen
Rylee Curtis	Dr. Ruedi Tillmann
Mayor Robert Dahle	

EXCUSED/ABSENT:

Lavanya Mahate

GUESTS/STAFF:

Gary Edwards, Exec. Director	Dorothy Adams, Deputy Director
Dagmar Vitek, Deputy Director	Audrey Stevenson, FH Director
Jeff Smart, CH Director	Ron Lund, EH Director
Zachary Stovall, Fiscal Manager	Nicholas Rupp, PIO
Gabriel Moreno, PIO	Karen Crompton, HS Director
Stacia Sidlow, Deputy Dist. Atty.	Heather Edwards, Admin.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:32 AM by Dr. Dorothea Verbrugge, Chair, of the Salt Lake County Board of Health.

MINUTES:

Dr. Dorothea Verbrugge, Chair, asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2021, Board of Health meeting. *The motion was made by Councilmember Bradshaw, seconded by Roderic Land, to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2021, Board of Health meeting.* The motion passed unanimously, showing that all Board members present voted "Aye." Board members Rylee Curtis, Mayor Dahle, and Dr. Ruedi Tillmann were not present for the vote.

CITIZEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comments are limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Salt Lake County Board of Health. No public comment received.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Health Department Executive Director Recruitment

Dr. Verbrugge informed Board members that she will be providing an update regarding the recruitment for the Executive Director later in the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Applus Technology Emission Software Update

Gary informed Board members that Applus Technologies, who provide the vehicle emission testing software, is currently experiencing some technical difficulties and emission stations are not able to perform emission tests. The company reported the issue to local media and are working to resolve the issue.

Tobacco Funding Update

Gary informed Board members that it has been reported the revenue related to the e-cigarette tax that went into effect July 1 is lower than anticipated and the state will be imposing a one-time cut in the allocated program funds. The department is seeing about \$1,000,000 in budget cuts due to this tax shortfall and has prepared revisions to the budget based on anticipated under expend.

HB365, State Agency Realignment Update

Gary informed Board members that with the passing of HB365, *State Agency Realignment*, he is participating on a committee with the state health department to review what the realignment means and the potential concerns for public health. This is the bill that combines the Utah Department of Health and the Utah Department of Human Services into one agency. The committee will be reporting to the legislative interim committees over the next several months to prepare the new agency, which will begin July 1, 2022.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Gary distributed and reviewed a list of legislative bills/titles of interest to the department. Bills included:

- H.B. 12, *Deceased Voter Amendments*; Rep. Winder
- H.B. 13, *School and Child Care Center Water Testing Requirements*, Rep. Handy
- H.B. 93, *Youth Suicide Prevention Program Amendments*, Rep. King
- H.B. 94, *Microenterprise Home Kitchen Amendments*, Rep. Watkins
- H.B.117, *Vaccine Reporting Requirements*, Rep. Ward
- H.B. 126, *Licensing Amendments*, Rep. Brammer
- H.B. 132, *Sanitation Amendments*, Rep. Ballard
- H.B. 148, *Alcohol Education Amendments*, Rep. Stenquist
- H.B. 149, *Health Care Amendments*, Rep. Ward
- H.B. 194, *Diabetes Prevention Program*, Rep. Harrison
- H.B. 233, *Education Immunization Modifications*, Rep. Strong
- H.B. 266, *Cosmetology Amendments*, Rep. Pierucci
- H.B. 294, *Pandemic Emergency Health Coordinating Council*, Rep. Ray
- H.B. 365, *State Agency Realignment*, Rep. Welton
- S.B. 93, *Emissions Test Amendments*, Sen. Mayne

- S.B 134, *Tobacco Regulation Amendments*, Sen. Bramble
- S.B. 146, *Emissions Testing Amendments*, Sen. Bramble
- S.B. 187, *Local Education Agency Policies Amendments*, Sen. Winterton
- S.B. 189, *Tobacco Retailer Amendments*, Sen. Vickers
- S.B. 195, *Emergency Response Amendments*, Sen. Vickers
- S.B. 212, *Health Departments Review Task Force*, Sen. Anderegg
- H.C.R 6, *Concurrent Resolution Recognizing COVID-19 Efforts*; Rep. Ward

Gary informed the Board that with the passage of H.B. 294, the state legislature outlined three thresholds that need to be met for all COVID mitigation efforts to end; 14-day case rate is less than 191 per 100,00 people; 7-day average COVID-19 ICU utilization is less than 15%; and 1.6 million doses of COVID-10 vaccine have been allocated to the state. Currently the state has met two of the three thresholds. The legislation also outlines that on April 10, 2021, the state mask mandate will no longer be in effect and it will be left up to local government to enact a mask mandate individually. Gary informed board members that the department continues to monitor the number of cases and hospitalization rates in Salt Lake County and is focusing on increasing vaccination efforts. Councilmember Bradshaw stated that the County Council needs to approve any public health orders moving forward and have a hold for a special meeting on April 9, if there is a need to enact a mask mandate for the county.

For more detailed information, please see a hardcopy of the handout included in the Board of Health meeting folder.

UPDATE ON SEARCH FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dr. Verbrugge, Chair, reviewed where the Board committee is in the search for an Executive Director to replace Gary when he retires in July, and stated that the Board is responsible for recommending a candidate and the County Mayor is responsible for ratifying the nomination. The Board interview committee was selected and included Dr. Verbrugge, Kalina Duncan, Scott Brown, Karen Crompton, Human Services Director, Erin Litvack and Mayor Wilson, Mayor's Office, and six candidates were selected for first interviews that were completed the week of March 14. This committee has selected the top three candidates that will participate in a second interview with Dr. Verbrugge, Councilmember Bradshaw, Dr. William Cosgrove, Erin Litvack, and Mayor Wilson the week of April 5. Once these interviews are done the Board committee will bring the three candidates to the full Board for a special meeting to be held on April 13, 2021. Dr. Verbrugge will be sending out candidate information, including resumes, prior to the special meeting, and each Board member will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to receiving the candidate information.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Dr. Dagmar Vitek, Deputy Director, informed Board members that nationally cases are increasing by 10% over the past seven days as variant strains move from the east to the west coast. She stated that the department is seeing cases decrease from 19% to 9% over the past week. Dr. Vitek stated that the department is watching virus indicators closely related to the state transmission index, HB294 thresholds, and CDC indicators, and the department continues to investigate variant cases that are in the population, with several cases being investigated in the county. She stated that 81% of the population 70 years of age and older have received their first dose of COVID vaccine, with 70% of that population being fully vaccinated.

Audrey informed the Board that the department is currently vaccinating over 30,000 residents each week at the three mass vaccination clinics located at the Maverik Center, Mountain America Expo Center, and the Salt Palace Convention Center. She stated that the vaccination branch is working with community-based organizations to provide outreach vaccination clinics in the community, is planning for pop-up clinics to begin in April at various locations throughout the County where it is difficult for individuals to schedule at the larger mass sites, and has begun planning on how best to provide vaccinations at schools for the 16–18 year-old students prior to the end of the school year.

Gary thanked the department staff for their continued work over the past year as COVID response efforts have continued. Staff have been working in vaccination efforts and some are moving back to their regular public health work with the temporary work force being used to support mass vaccination efforts in the County. He informed the Board that discussions have begun on when mass vaccination sites would be scaled back to expand vaccine outreach efforts, as well as demobilizing the Quarantine and Isolation facility.

Dr. Verbrugge adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:50 AM.