

Silver Thread Public Health District Board of Health Meeting Notes
Thursday, July 23, 2020

Attendees:

Lyn Lampert
Scott Lamb
Susan Thompson
Jerry Gray
Jody Stroh
Jim Loud
Tara Hardy

Audience: Joni Adelman; Bill Philbern

Meeting called to order at 10:05am by Lyn Lampert

Community Communications – none

COVID Update

- Tara gave situational updates for counties
- Outbreak in Creede will be considered a closed outbreak once there are no more active cases and there are no new cases tied to the outbreak.
- Current Variance Impact: back to 'Safer at Home' – capacity in restaurants and places of worship is 50% or no more than 50; 100 max indoors; 175 outdoors if space allows. Variance could be reinstated if #s remains under control or if meet requirements of 'Protect Your Neighbor'.
- Schools have been doing a lot of work on re-opening plans and doing good to meet CDPHE and CDE guidelines. Being small helps.

COVID Messaging

- Staff video well received by Board. Distributed on FB, social media, personal messaging. Will try to get it uploaded to STPHD website; lobby of CRT; lobby of LCAMC. There has been a lot of positive comments and likes on Creede Happenings re: video and mask posts.
- Press release was submitted to papers – language was updated w/recent orders
- Ad for papers needs to be submitted – new guidelines, masks, social distancing, information on quarantine and isolation, etc.
- Jim and Jodi working on economic impact information/article
 - Tara is checking on the use of Mesa County publication, but hasn't heard back
 - Have figures from CRT and checking with other businesses
 - Joni presented costs to employees – too difficult to narrow down to cost per person; Joni's numbers do not include medical costs
 - Trickle down of economics is substantial
 - Need to be careful of not focusing on lost wages, as that might encourage people not to quarantine. Need to focus on taking precautions – masks, social distancing
- Sales tax – 2nd quarter #'s are up 5% from last year
- Idea of more outside seating in Creede. Need to collaborate with town/county to provide more outside seating. Ideally should be led by restaurants. If there is a cost, there will be resistance.

Jody can do survey to find out who might be interested, then draft a letter to town/county. She will talk to all business because of parking impact.

- Sign boards in place on county boarders. Most read “Masks required in public”. There is no message on the board before the bridge at South Fork – Scott will follow up.

PH Infrastructure

- Building capacity and putting together the incoming funding
- Job description for Deputy Director completed
- Shifted Janet to COVID funding
- Need to fill Janet’s position and have job description that will be advertised
- Have a lead in Creede for someone who might be able to do contact tracing and other work to relieve the staff a little
- Was able to work with Mineral County to use county car and continue to look for volunteers for transportation service to courier.
- No stress on finances for these positions. Being creative with COVID money on timing due to timing of funding.

Testing results are still very slow to come in. The state has added a 3rd shift, so hopefully that will speed up timing. SLV doing testing with quick turn-around, but very expensive.

Coronameter update

- Tara, Joni, Shawna, Dr Carr working on coronameter
- SLV looking at regional application for Protect Your Neighbor
- West Central – all counties on their own, but have regional support.
- 3 areas of focus with Protect Your Neighbor – working with Colorado Health Institute on key differences and they will help over the next month
 - Treatment: Hinsdale is using criteria from Gunnison since that is where any hospital treatment will likely take place and using regional information for min
 - Transmission: Working on thresholds; relevant per county
 - Test and Trace: need to plug in local indicators
- Testing supply line from state – only testing individuals who are symptomatic/direct exposure b/c supply chain is low. 143 tests in Hinsdale; 50 tests in Mineral
- How will levels be communicated to public? Each color means certain restrictions.
 - PH Order with information for public notification
 - Is there a way to change to 3 colors – stop light colors? Our colors and levels are in alignment with Protect Your Neighbor (state). This helps with consistency between counties.
- Timeframe to implement? SLV will be soon; West is behind, no specific time at the moment.

Mineral County community member Bill Philbern

Mr Philbern came to Board with 2 concerns

- His business was not directly notified on COVID Lodging Restrictions in May
Responses/resolutions from Board and PH Director
 - Tara: Social media was one outlet that the lodging recommendations were distributed; PH always tries to out to other outlets (phone calls, emails, poster, etc.) as we recognize that not everyone is on social media; apologize in the lack of getting it out in timely manner

- Lyn: Lesson learned. This has been a time of crisis and things do not always run smooth.
- Was discovered that Mr. Philbern did receive the email, he did not realize.
- He has concerns with the 'Why Pronouns Matter' link on email signature of PH employees
 - Tara: PH is definitely not trying to offend anyone with the link. It is meant to be more inclusive and is part of building equity in our communities, as making sure no one is marginalized is a big part of PH. Pronouns link is used by PH employees around the state, not just in Silver Thread. It has been requested by community members and is intended to create a sense of welcoming.
 - Lyn: Board needs to discuss further and learn more about structure, policy, and what the link is about; Board needs time to look at and discuss.
 - Another community member asked how to donate to the Food Bank, as she did not want to donate to PH due to stance on 'Why Pronouns Matter'. Joni gave the individual ideas of how to donate directly to the Mineral County food bank.
 - It was discovered through the conversation that the link is on email signature, not on the STPH website.
 - Pronoun discussion to continue at next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 30th at 10am.

Gratitude expressed to PH staff, Board, and Commissioners for all their continued work on COVID.

Meeting adjourned