

**UTAH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

151 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
 PROVO, UTAH 84601

**MINUTES**

*March 26, 2012*

**Members Present:**

Name	
<b>Erin Maughan, PhD</b>	X
<b>Clyde Nielsen, RPh</b>	excused
<b>Dianne C. Carr</b>	X
<b>Henry M. Yeates, M.D.</b>	X
<b>Vernon Henshaw</b>	X

Name	
<b>Viola Ramos, MRC</b>	X
<b>Mayor Jim Dain</b>	X
<b>Doug Witney, Commissioner</b>	X
<b>Diane Lohner</b>	X

**Others present:** Dr. Joseph Miner - Executive Secretary, Ralph Clegg - Deputy Director, Debbi Solen - Board Secretary

Utah County Health Department: Steve Mickelson, Terry Beebe, Andrea Jensen, Sarah Dahl, Toni Carpenter, Maralie Godemann, Lance Madigan, Kari Matheson, Jackie Larson

Others Present: See attached attendance sheets

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Erin Maughan welcomed everyone and Dr. Miner introduced Steve Mickelson, the new Director of Family and Personal Health at the Utah County Health Department. He has replaced Lynn Flinders who retired in January 2012.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the January 23, 2012 meeting

Dianne Carr requested that page numbers be put on the minutes for easier reference. Debbi Solen will do this in the future.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Witney made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Vernon Henshaw and passed by unanimous vote.

3. Presentation of Awards to Tobacco Retailers who haven't sold to underage buyers for the last 5 yrs.

Four times a year in conjunction with local law enforcement, underage buyers go into a store and try to buy tobacco products. There were 38 businesses that refused to sell tobacco to underage youth during unannounced compliance checks for over 5 years. This doesn't happen by accident; owners and managers of these businesses take a lot of time to train their employees. These businesses check the ID and prevent underage youth from purchasing tobacco which is crucial in eliminating youth tobacco use. Utah County has consistently one of the lowest sale rates in the state, we are about 95% compliant. The following six retailers were in attendance and Sarah Dahl presented the following awards to:

Sandy Bliss from Holiday Oil in Lehi  
Brad Jolley from Rite Aid, South State St. in Orem  
Nichole Nelson from Walgreens, North State St. in Orem  
Chris Hardy from Walker's SOS, 1520 South State St. in Orem  
Renee Hall from Walker's, 251 North State St. in Orem  
Gary Davis from Timp Chevron Oil in Provo

Erin Maughan asked about the percentage rates of tobacco use in Utah County. Sarah said our rates are still lower than the state average and declining, but very slowly. Toni Carpenter from Utah County's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program answered that the Bear River Health District rate is lower than us for youth tobacco use, but not by much. Sarah Dahl thought the latest statistic for the youth tobacco use rate was 8.8%. Dr. Miner explained that because our rates are very low it is difficult to improve. In fact we may get a little worse because of the diverse population growth. So if we maintain the rates that we have now we would consider that to be successful.

NOTE: Toni Carpenter corrected what she said at the meeting. Bear River Health District is lower than us for adult cigarette use with their rate at 6.9% and Utah County at 7.3%. However, for youth, Utah County is still the lowest at 2.6% with Bear River Health District at 3.9%.

4. Variance Update, approval for left fork Provo Canyon area

Dr. Miner explained that this was previously discussed at the September 26, 2011 Board of Health meeting when a variance was granted. A failing septic system in the left fork of Provo Canyon needed to be replaced. Normally we would replace this with another holding tank; however, these are extremely expensive not only to replace but to maintain as well. Ben Witt a contractor from Alternative Onsite Solutions, came to give the Board an update.

Ben Witt thanked the Board for the variance and for their cooperation in this matter. Before the old holding tank had a pipe coming out of it and was draining into the north fork of the Provo River. Working with the Health Department they were able to determine that they could meet every state code and put in an alternative septic system and clean the waste water to near drinking water quality, but they were 5 feet closer to the river than the state code allowed. The Board previously decided that it was better to have the system 5 feet closer to the stream than to have the problem with the holding tank. Ben says the alternative system went in about 45' above the river and is working very well. All the tests results are coming back as expected.

There are other homes with this same kind of problem and it is Ben's hope that we can continue to work together to achieve similar solutions. Ben opened the discussion to questions from the Board.

Is this a regular deep trench? No, this is an alternative system. The waste water leaves the septic tank and is pumped through a filter. When it comes out of the filter it is clean water. They are not relying on the ground to remove any contaminants or pathogens to break down the waste. Since the waste water is clean it is now a simple matter of disposal.

How many gallons will a filter process before it needs to be changed? The filter is made of synthetic material and needs to be cleaned once every 10-15 years. The filter should last indefinitely. The more bacteria growth that is on the filter the more pathogens are eaten up. So in this case the dirtier the filter the better the treatment quality. The only thing the filter is cleaning is the overflow waste water from the septic tank. The septic tank still has sludge and solids that need to be pumped periodically.

Is this acceptable, something the Board approved or was this an experiment? This is an approved waste water treatment system. The Board gave a variance because it needed to be installed 5 feet closer to the river than the state code allowed. Most of the homes in the canyon were built before this technology was in existence and the homes in this location have holding tanks in places that trucks can't even access for maintenance. Typically, because of the expense to maintain holding tanks, people will just poke holes in them and let them drain into the ground or water that is nearby. Now holding tanks are for temporary use only and are never approved as a permanent solution. When the Board gave a variance last September, DEQ was made aware of the situation and agreed with the Board's decision.

Is there a fine for something like this? The local health department does not have any fines for this problem, however the State could assess a fine.

Has there been further inquiry from other homeowners about putting in an alternative system on their property? This situation came up because of a sale of the home. This needed to be fixed before a mortgage loan would be given. The Health Department doesn't have any regular inspection process for the homes in the area. If the Health Department comes across a situation in the process of inspecting an adjacent property then they are able to address it. When a homeowner discovers that waste water is draining improperly they typically don't want to talk to the health department. They don't want anyone to know about it.

So is it still a better format to have the homeowner come to the health department for an exception on a case by case basis than for the Board to be too aggressive inspecting private homes? Yes, it is much better for the homeowner to work with the health department. Homeowners always assume the worst, but their home will not be condemned and they won't lose it. The good news is that the Board is willing to work with the homeowner and that there are alternative systems available. The more of these that get fixed the better for everyone.

## 5. CASPER Assessment Results and Acknowledgment of CASPER Volunteer Surveyors

CASPER was created by the CDC.

C = Community, A = Assessment for, P = Public Health, E = Emergency, R = Response

Toni Carpenter worked with three other Master of Public Health students, Nichole Shepard, Jerry Nelson, and Anji Petrizzo. Toni expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Witney for his suggestion to contact each city and inform them of the survey. This was very helpful to the police and dispatch to be made aware that we were conducting this survey. They discovered that Springville City required that they conduct a background check on each person doing the survey. Utah County also did a background check for each of the 55 volunteers that participated with the survey. Each volunteer spent about 10 hours working on the survey.

The surveys were done March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> of this year. This is a preliminary report. Thirty random households were chosen by the CDC out of our 85 census blocks in Utah County and the goal was to get 210 surveys. We've received 168 completed surveys so far. Three of the surveys were in Spanish and the other 165 were in English. There were about 40% male respondents and a little less than 60% female. The 2.4% unknown gender is because on these surveys the gender question was not marked. Most of the surveys were completed in person. For the homes that no one was there a letter was left for them to call back and complete the survey over the phone.

CDC randomly picked the 30 census blocks and the goal was to interview 7 households in each block. It didn't happen in every block but they came close. There were four sections that the survey covered and the highlights to the following questions are listed below.

Community Health was presented by Anji Petrizzo.

How would you rate the general health of people in Utah County? The vast majority felt that we were healthy.

Which public health issue in Utah County do you think deserves the most attention? Obesity and alcohol and substance abuse were two of the responses they received the most often. Other categories turned out to be diet and nutrition, mental health, immunizations, dental care, and children's health as issues that cause the most concern.

They were also asked what their main method of getting information from authorities in a disaster or emergency would be? Radio was the #1 response at 30%, with the internet being the second at 23%. Television was given by 22% and from the neighbors at 14%.

Personal Health was presented by Toni Carpenter.

During the past 12 months have you had a seasonal flu shot? Surprisingly only about 54% had.

Do you have a working carbon monoxide detector? About 40% said they did not.

Do you have another source of heat if the power goes out? Nearly half said no. This could be problematic in an emergency situation as we never know what the weather will be like.

Access and Quality of Care was presented by Nichole Shepard.

Have you ever used the Utah County Health Department website? 58% said they had.

Out of the 58% that had used the website were they able to find the information they were looking for? 99% said yes.

Was there anytime when you needed medical care but were not able to get it? Six percent said yes.

Out of the 6% what was the main reason they didn't get care? No insurance or the care was not covered by insurance was stated 46% of the time. They could not afford to get medical care was the response 27%

of the time. This could mean they either don't have insurance coverage or that they have a large deductible or copay to meet.

If needed, do you have access to a mental health provider? No, was stated 14%. This might be a good topic for a focus group. Commissioner Witney mentioned that the County Commission is the Wasatch Mental Health Board and there are quite a few providers so the results are not clear on why they don't have access to a mental health provider. Perhaps they don't have insurance, or it is a social stigma, or do they just not know how to access a mental health provider? Most people are not aware that mental health is available for many issues, not just for substance abuse or dealing with a death. This is definitely something that needs to be listed on the County website. Very few people surveyed said access to a medical doctor or to a dentist was problem.

This is a preliminary report and the open ended questions and comments made have not been compiled yet. Maralie Godemann is the new County Assessment Program Coordinator and will be compiling the data. They are gathering more information as more surveys are completed. The main comment seems to be that people are not aware of the services available at the Health Department or that these services are even available to people who have insurance coverage.

Demographics was presented by Jerry Nelson.

Anytime you conduct a survey you want to make sure it is representative of the overall population. The average age was 43. The demographic data from the survey is very close to the Utah County census stats. For comparison the 2010 census was used. Those with a Bachelor's Degree or higher was 38.5% and the census was 35.5%. Those with a high school degree was 96.4% with the census at 93.3%. The household incomes were represented by 25% from each income level. Some of the other things that were compared were 58% of those surveyed were female with the census at 49.9%, 91.6% were Caucasian with the census at 89.4%, 9.1% were Hispanic with the census at 10.8%, and home ownership was 65.7% with the census at 69.4%.

So we feel the data collected from the survey is an accurate portrayal of the citizens of Utah County. CASPER was initially designed to be an emergency and disaster survey so the information gathered is not weighted to the general population. When all of the information is compiled, Dr. Miner will be making recommendations to the County of things they can do to improve not only the Utah County Health Department but what they and their Public Health partners can do together.

Erin Maughan asked if there was going to be anything done to reach the pockets of vulnerable populations, mainly the ethnic and race minorities, as many of their needs are quite different from the general population? A couple of the options available to reach these people are through block grants or a Photo Voice project. This is when people take their camera and capture or record what they feel is a problem in their area. Focus groups are also an option that is being looked at.

The volunteers who conducted the survey were recognized for their 445 hours of hard work. They traveled 1,191 miles going to their census blocks. Most of the volunteers earned credit for their participation.

## 6. 2012 Legislature Summary Report by Dr. Miner

House Bill 94 by Representative J. Anderson. This was a very broad and far reaching bill that restricted virtually any government activity that might compete with private enterprise. The County theoretically would be unable to rent out the County Courthouse for a reception because the group could rent a reception center. Or we would be unable to give vaccines because you could get them at a doctor's office. The bill failed.

House Bill 55 by Representative Draxler. The Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMC) of the Federal government already require healthcare facilities to report healthcare associated infections. This bill puts in State statute what is already required by the Federal laws. This bill passed.

House Bill 152 by Representative Dougall. This bill would restrict what motor vehicle emissions could test for. This would have interfered with the federally required State plan as to how to address air pollutants. This also would have capped the inspection fees charged by private stations. Normally the legislature avoids capping fees as this interferes with private enterprise and competition. This bill failed.

House Bill 245 by Representative Last. This bill amends the definition of smoking to include e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products, like the hookah pipe. This allows existing hookah bars to continue operating but does not allow any other bars. E-cigarettes and hookah tobacco smoke create nicotine fumes that are harmful to others. This bill passed.

House Bill 247 by Representative Ray. This bill would have required people who use tobacco products that apply to State Medicaid to pay a larger copay. This bill failed. In regards to the health care bill that has already passed and will be taking effect over the next few years, the State has already applied to the Federal government for several waivers to Medicaid that would require those who smoke to pay a higher copay. These have all been denied at the federal level.

Senate Bill 21 by Senator Dayton. This revises the makeup of the Department of Environmental Quality Boards. In the past there has always been a Local Health Officer/Director on the Board, but this position has been eliminated. There will be an elected official position. The Board size has decreased from 12 members to 8 members. There is concern that this will increase representation of industry and decrease representation of environmental activist groups. This bill passed.

Senate Bill 41 by Senator Jones. This bill restricts underage children from tanning businesses. Children under age 18 must be accompanied by their parent or guardian. Tanning is a major risk factor of skin cancer, especially Melanoma. The rates of Melanoma in this country are skyrocketing. This is a big concern because the influence of ultra violet light on the skin of children is much more intense than on adults. This bill passed.

Terry Beebe, Director of Environmental Health, says there are about 40 tanning businesses in the County and each place has multiple beds. The Board of Health is going to have to address the Utah County regulations regarding the changes with this new ruling.

House Bill 363 was the sex education bill for schools. One of the reasons this bill passed was because of what was purported about Utah County. It was stated as fact that Utah County schools teach abstinence only

education and that Utah County has no teen pregnancy and no sexually transmitted diseases. No one contacted Dr. Miner regarding this. Utah County actually does have teen pregnancy, about 7% of our 15 - 17 year olds. Our chlamydia rates are rising significantly every year even though we are still the third lowest of the 12 local health departments. Utah County has a grant to help Nebo School District teach the abstinence only classes. Sex education is taught in our schools and per the current law parents can choose to opt their children out of these classes but less than 1% do. Governor Herbert vetoed this bill because this is a matter for parents to decide.

#### 7. 2011 Program Cost Information Handout - Ralph Clegg

There are over hundred different programs at the Health Department and this describes each of them. There is also an Expenditure and Revenue Report that helps us to see where the public health dollars are going, which programs are funded by contracts or by fees. And we can review each program and see if we are really getting the benefits for the cost. This is a good tool for the health department to do a budget comparison from year to year. This data is used in determining our fees.

#### 8. Report of UALBOH Steering Committee Meeting - Erin Maughan

The annual symposium will be held at Daniel's Summit like last year, the actual date in September will be announced later. This year's topic of concern is Obesity. Maralie Godemann will get the results from CASPER tabulated regarding obesity, nutrition, and physical activity to Erin so she can take these to the meeting. At the symposium they are going to create a fact sheet with all of the activities that are going on in the communities to combat obesity. Schools, parks and recs, nutritionists, cities, etc. are all working on this national problem. Utah is working on a state plan that should be out soon. There is a \$5,000.00 grant called PANO (Physical Activity Nutrition and Obesity) that Utah County just received.

#### 9. Board Member Feedback from Constituents - Erin Maughan

Erin will be re-sending the Board self evaluation out by email. Please take the time to complete this and send them back to Erin.

#### 10. New Employees

Dr. Miner reviewed the list of employees hired and those who left. Katie Call is our new CHEC coordinator. The CHEC program is for children on Medicaid and she contacts each family to remind them to take their children to their doctor for preventative care. Many people still think that Medicaid is only for emergencies which isn't very cost effective.

#### 11. Other Business:

Public Health Week is April 1st - 7<sup>th</sup>. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Board of Health and Utah County will be recognizing our "Friends of Public Health" at commission meeting.

"Outrage" event is tonight at the Courthouse from 6pm-8 pm. Outrage is a youth group opposing tobacco use. Tonight they will call attention to relatives who have died as a result of using tobacco products. Commissioner Witney will be speaking at this. There will be a memorial wall for those who have died.

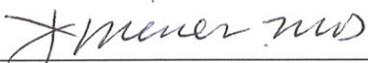
Commissioner Witney mentioned that he had quite a few calls regarding the "Festival of Colors" that was held at the Krishna Temple in Spanish Fork. Last year it was estimated that there were about 15 - 20,000 people who attended, but this year it has been reported that there were close to 60 - 80,000. This is a 2 day event. Every year they apply for a mass gathering permit, but this year they were not prepared for such an increase in attendance. The food was not prepared properly and there was garbage everywhere. There was not enough parking or bathroom facilities available. Property owners and business owners nearby have complained of damage. There have been health concerns about the colored cornstarch powder that is inhaled when it is tossed in the air and some safety issues as well.

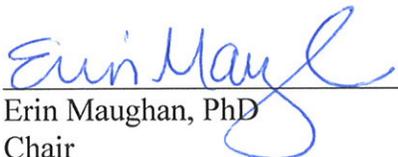
These issues need to be addressed before next year's event. Perhaps, advance ticket sales would help in knowing how many people to plan for. Perhaps there could be parking at the fairgrounds and buses could be going back and forth to the temple. It is an enjoyable event for many people, some coming from other states. It has grown over the years and advance planning needs to be done to ensure that it continues to be successful.

12. Next meeting - May 21, 2012 in the H&J Building, Suite 2500

**MOTION:** Mayor Jim Dain made the motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Superintendent Henshaw and passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

  
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Joseph. Miner, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Utah County Health Department

  
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Erin Maughan, PhD  
Chair  
Utah County Board of Health