

**Moffat County Board of County Commissioners  
221 W Victory Way Suite 130 Craig, CO 81625**

**April 8, 2019**

**In attendance:** Don Cook, Chair; Ray Beck, Board Member; Donald Broom, Board Member; Erin Miller, Moffat County Deputy Clerk & Recorder; Rebecca Tyree; Mindy Curtis

**Call to Order  
County Board of Health Meeting**

**10:30 am**

Cook called the Board of Health meeting to order.

The Board considered a letter of intent to terminate the Memo of Understanding with Northwest Colorado Health for Public Health Administration. This MOU was originally signed in 2009 with the VNA; it is outdated and inaccurate. The amount of funding mentioned in the original Memo of Understanding was \$35,000, and it hasn't been indexed for inflation. CDPHE notified the County (and NW CO Health) in November that they were not operating under state statutes. The Public Health Director should be under the County Board of Health, and was not, due to being housed in NW CO Health. The Public Health Director was not master of the budget and could not make the decisions that are required under the State statutes.

In November 2018, the County Board of Health and the NW CO Health received training from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), followed by a letter from CDPHE that they were not operating under the statutes, which direct each county to have a Public Health Director in place and that Public Health Director should be in charge of developing and overseeing a budget and directing resources for public health, including overseeing any grant monies for Public Health purposes. NW CO Health had the opportunity to make the necessary changes after that meeting in November, but has not done so. The County should have pushed the point more, but did not, until now.

At the last Board of Health meeting (March 18, 2019), Commissioners Cook & Broom asked some serious questions regarding this situation. Stephanie Einfeld said they could form a committee and choose a new Public Health Director, because Kari Ladrow had resigned. Cook said no, they could not operate under those guides, that the County, operating as the Board of Health, would make that decision. The funding that is at risk is a grant of (approximately) \$46,000 from the State/Federal level and \$165,000 from the County. Moffat County has helped fund the VNA since 1994, at \$100,000 a year, and that money was not necessarily for Public Health services alone.

Stephanie Einfeld sent a letter with a breakdown of distribution of these monies, none of which was for public health services. In the beginning, VNA was the only supplier for these types of services. Now, however, Memorial Regional Health might be doing the same type of services. Cook stated that he feels that as a County, it's not right for us to give a stipend to one entity, if it's a competitive business, and not to any of the others. They should be applying for their own grants. The County has asked Einfeld for a specific breakdown of the monies that we give them, but has yet to receive anything.

There was discussion about the distinctions of "Public Health" grants and "competitive" grants. Tyree commented that NW Co Health is not letting the Public Health Director do what she needs to do. Cook said the Board of Health does not want to harm NW Co Health, just see that things are done correctly and that they follow the statutes, so the County would not be liable for paying back any grant monies that might violate the terms of the Public Health grants. Routt County is also speaking about this same topic this morning, deciding

what they are going to do. Routt County would like to be the one to hire the next Public Health Director. If we went with that solution, another Memo of Understanding would be drawn up for a regional Public Health Director, and Moffat County would still provide the funding for our portion of the Public Health services. Tyree read the portion of the statute that refers to allocation of Public Health funding vs. local health needs funding. About half of the funding (out of the \$165,000) given to NW CO Health goes to hospice and home health care, which according to the state does not fall under Public Healthcare. Curtis stated that in the past, the County has acted as a "pass through" entity for the grants, and not seeing where or how the money was being distributed. Curtis discussed how the Finance Department gets a quarterly grant payment that they deposit in the account for NW Colorado Health. At this time, this money is still sitting in the Treasurer's account; Tyree and Curtis will be drafting a letter (and a budget request) to go out this week that will explain that we need more accountability on disbursement of these funds before the money can be released. Beck wanted to emphasize that the financial burden of proof/responsibility is definitely on NW CO Health.

Curtis stated that after the meeting that the County had with CO Department of Public Health & Environment (April 3), the State understands that they are partially at fault, too, in considering NW CO Health to be the Public Health Agency. In going forward, now that everyone is on board, how are we going to get the appropriate grants funneled back the way they are supposed to be, and whoever would be providing these services, financial accountability would definitely be a requirement. Tyree stated that it will make a big difference, once there is a director in place that can follow the statutes. The director picks the programs, does the plan, and gets the money; this was not happening earlier.

Cook also commented on the fact that another thing we don't have is a Public Health Medical Officer. The state had given the County some names of some retirees that might be interested in serving. Tyree had written to Dr. Leary, a local doctor, who wondered how much it paid. Dr. Harrington in Routt County does it on a voluntary basis.

Beck made a motion to sign and send the letter of Notice of Termination (within six months) of Memo of Understanding for Public Health Administration to NW CO Health, which will give us time to write a new Memo of Understanding, in conjunction with Routt County; Broom seconded. Motion carried 3-0. There was some more discussion about possibly hiring an interim director, and the timeliness of applying for new grants.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

### Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Erin Miller, Deputy County Clerk and Recorder

Approved by:

Don Beck

Samuel Broom

Ray Beck

Approved on:

April 16, 2019

Attest by:

Erin Miller

