

Approved 9/24/2020

Silver Thread Public Health District Board of Health Meeting Notes
Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Attendees:

Lyn Lampert
Scott Lamb
Susan Thompson
Jerry Gray
Jody Stroh
Treneal Albright
Tara Hardy
Kristen Hartje – taking notes

Meeting called to order at 2:03pm by Lyn Lampert

Meeting called due to an email received from a Hinsdale County Commissioner expressing concern with lack of visibility in the community by Public Health and the Board of Health during the COVID-19 recovery work.

BOH will take a constructive, proactive stance and response to the concern.

Lyn reviewed the roles of the County Commissioners and BOH to better understand how they work together. BOH is an autonomous board.

Variance was submitted by Hinsdale County Commissioners, as this is their role, and Silver Thread Public Health endorsed the variance, as this is PH role.

Challenges faced in community with regards to the variance and other orders:

- Confusion of the variance/orders, what do they actually say/mean?
- Who answers questions?
- Time devoted to answering questions
- Enforcement – who enforces orders?

What is the role of BOH to elevate the challenges?

Scott explained the process being followed in Mineral County which is working for them at this time. Any complaints/violations are being directed to the County Commissioners and the Commissioners address the complaints directly with the party/establishment. Mineral County Sheriff is not enforcing – which is fine by the Commissioners – as they have decided that the enforcement should come from the elected officials.

Susan stated that the Hinsdale County Commissioners have been to businesses to explain the variance/orders, but some businesses are adamant that they will not comply. Susan does agree that going to the license authority would be helpful in this situation.

Tara let the Board know that Jodi Linsey inquired with other health inspectors as their solutions to enforcing/addressing businesses that are violating orders. Others are sending emails to the business and the County Commissioners with a notice of the complaint. They are not pulling licenses or giving tickets.

Approved 9/24/2020

Suggested possible solutions discussed:

- Convene noncompliant businesses together with PH Director, BOH member(s), Chamber, Sherriff, and whoever else would be appropriate to meet and discuss situation at hand.
- Hire someone whose sole responsibility would be to answer questions about the variance/orders
- Mineral County Administrator has been directing individuals to their Web-site to read the orders.
- Hold a forum (maybe Zoom platform) with the public to ask questions of PH and the BOH. All BOH members agreed that it would be good to have Hinsdale and Mineral BOH members on that meeting. With this, the public will have a chance to actually see the BOH members.
- Providing businesses who are complying with some sort of sticker/poster to place in their business that states they are complying with all orders. The idea is that people will make decisions for themselves as to visit a business that does or does not comply. These signs could be made available to businesses, and they can request one if they would like. This way, it is not coming from PH, but something the business has the opportunity to display if they would like.

Group agreed that the forum would be beneficial and will start working to organize.

Tara notified Board of new State Orders and reviewed. PH Directors were given a little more notice of the change in Orders prior to the release to public which was a little more helpful than in the past.

Orders take effect June 4th. More entities will start opening, i.e. gyms, parks, recreation groups, guiding services. Gathering limits have not changed.

Mineral has submitted a variance to have crowds with larger numbers than what is in the State Orders. Hinsdale is planning to submit a similar variance to increase crowd sizes. The State has indicated that they are reluctant to approve any variance that is requesting larger crowd sizes.

Counties are working on creative ways to hold 4th of July activities. One example is a reversed parade.

Lyn and Tara will talk further on organizing the Forum with the Hinsdale community.

Meeting adjourned 2:53pm.