

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 19, 2021



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Town Council directed staff to research public health departments, with specific consideration of forming a municipal health agency – the following information reflects an update of information provided in July 2020

Douglas County Health Department Update:

As the Douglas County Commission reviews the issue of a Douglas County Health Department in the coming weeks, County staff informs Town staff that the current direction to establish a separate Douglas County health department will proceed, with likely full implementation targeted for January 1, 2023. Existing agreements for funding in 2021 and 2022 cannot be removed, there are significant transitions for State and Federal funding for health departments that must occur and it is functionally and statutorily necessary to have this transition for establishing a new Board of Health, staffing, facilities and related items.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The following discussion includes:

- Statutory overview and responsibilities of public health agencies
- Colorado health department history, overview of TCHD (including programs) and other County efforts
- Estimated budget impact
- Next steps/considerations

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STATUTORY OVERVIEW

FORMATION

CRS Title 25 establishes the State Department of Public Health and Environment (CRS §25-1-102) and requires formation of County or district public health agencies (CRS §25-1-506)

JOINING/WITHDRAWING

Contiguous counties may merge to form a public health district (CRS §25-1-513, CRS §25-1-506)

Counties may withdraw from health agencies with one-year's written notice (CRS §25-1-513 (2), CRS §25-1-513 (3))

Municipalities can also withdraw, but notice requirements are not specifically stated in statute

PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

Must be comprised of at least five members serving five year terms

Members must reside in the county they represent and are appointed by county commissioners

“no business or professional group or governmental entity shall constitute a majority of the district board” (CRS §25-1-108(3)(b))

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STATUTORY OVERVIEW

PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES (CRS §25-1-108(5))

- Develop and promote public policies necessary for a health community
- Approve local public health plan
- Administer health agency including selecting director, provide/equip facilities, establish policies, etc.
- Issue orders consistent with public health laws/orders of the State
- Advise public health director on public health matters
- Provide environmental health services and assess fees to offset the cost of services
- Accept federal and state aid and/or other moneys for public health functions; and utilize funds for designated purposes
- Consult with appropriate stakeholders prior to considering clean syringe exchange program approval

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STATUTORY OVERVIEW

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

While subject to available appropriations, public health agencies “shall provide or arrange for the provisions of services necessary to carry out the public health laws and rules of the state board, the water quality control commission, the air quality control commission, and the solid and hazardous waste commission according to the specific needs and resources available within the community.”

(CRS §25-1-506(3)(a))

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STATUTORY OVERVIEW

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES (CRS §25-1-506(3))

- Prepare community health assessment every five years with community input
- Advise health board on public policy issues
- Provide core health services deemed essential by the state board and state public health plan
- Administer and enforce laws related to public health, air pollution, solid and hazardous waste, water quality; vital statistics; orders/rules/standards of the state board
- Investigate/control causes of epidemic or communicable diseases
- Establish, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine for the purpose of protecting public health
- Close schools and public places to prohibit gatherings when necessary to protect public health
- Investigate and abate nuisances when necessary to eliminate sources of diseases and conditions affecting public health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STATUTORY OVERVIEW

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES (CRS §25-1-506(3))

- Make available laboratories to conduct necessary investigations
- Purchase and distribute to licensed physicians and veterinarians approved biological or therapeutic products necessary to protect public health
- Initiate and carry out health programs consistent with state law
- Make necessary sanitation and health investigations and inspections
- Collect, compile and tabulate reports of marriages, dissolutions of marriage, and declarations of invalidity of marriage, births, deaths and morbidity
- Collaborate with State agencies (CDPHE, water quality commission, air quality commission, solid and hazardous waste commission) in all matters pertaining to public health
- Establish, subject to available appropriations, a child fatality prevention review team

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COLORADO PUBLIC HEALTH HISTORY

- Colorado's State Board of Health established in 1877
- Dr. Florence Sabin appointed to health subcommittee in 1945 when Colorado exceeded the national average in 13 of 20 major causes of death at the time
- The "Sabin Bills" were passed in 1947 resulting in formation of the State Health Department, fair appointment process for the advisory board and secured funding for public health facilities and services
- Renamed to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) in 1994
- Roles and makeup of public health agencies formalized in the 2008 Public Health Act

Resources:

www.calpho.org

<https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/dr-florence-rena-sabin>

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COLORADO HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

- There are no municipally operated health agencies in Colorado, excepting city/county entities such as Broomfield
- Tri-County Health Department (TCHD), formed in 1948, currently serves Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties – more than 1.5 million people
- The TCHD Board is made up of nine members – three from each County; appointed by County Commissioners
- Douglas County contributes \$7.10/person to TCHD (no change from 2020 to 2021)

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TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNDING

Douglas County, for 2021, will contribute \$2.55 million to TCHD for public health services – up 2.6% from 2020 due to population increase (no specific mill levy to pay TCHD for public health)

~20 percent of total funding is from County per capita revenue

Other revenue sources include vital records revenue and other fees, state contracts, federal funds, grants and more

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVICES

The TCHD public health improvement plan includes four priorities including Access to Mental and Physical Health Care Services; Mental Health; Health and Food; Health and Housing

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TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVICES

- Provision of vital records including issuance of birth and death certificates
- Health inspection services for restaurants, mobile food (food trucks/push carts), temporary food events (festivals, etc.), swimming pools, childcare centers and body art/tattoo facilities
- On-site wastewater treatment (septic) system approvals and permitting for installation, repair and use
- Consultations on environmental exposures
- Land use consultation
- Methamphetamine laboratory clean-up consultation
- Syringe disposal services, overdose prevention, wound care education and kits, referrals to mental health and addiction services
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Disease outbreak identification and management
- Analysis of community health data
- Tobacco prevention, youth vaping prevention, marijuana resources and opioid abuse resources
- Injury prevention

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TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVICES (CONTINUED)

- Sexual health including birth control services, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, testing/treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and health exams
- Immunizations including flu shots, routine and travel vaccinations
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services including breastfeeding support, healthcare programs for children with special healthcare needs, pregnancy related depression support and nursing support
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program that provides free nutritious food and nutrition education to participating families plus breastfeeding support and referrals to other programs as needed (such as dental care or SNAP)
- Household chemical roundup events
- Nutrition education
- Public communication
- Providing numerous resources to the public on a variety of other topics including mental health, worksite health and wellbeing, chronic disease prevention, sun safety and more

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WELD COUNTY

Weld County currently operating health department

Nine board of health members appointed by County Commissioners

Weld County has chosen to not enforce State public health orders, but the final legal outcome is uncertain

AGENCY AUTHORITY

Local health agencies can generally be more restrictive, not more lenient, than State orders

All health agencies, including within home-rule entities, are subject to State oversight

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Originally indicated withdrawal from TCHD in 2020

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BUDGET IMPACT

BROOMFIELD SUMMARY

Broomfield's population was 73,761 as of November 2020, making it a reasonable comparison for a Castle Rock health agency

Broomfield Public Health 2021 Adopted Budget: \$3,727,924 (per capita cost of \$50.54)

- Includes 25.82 FTEs and 4.5 part-time employees
- Supported in part by a Public Health mill levy of 1.230 that results in \$1,869,777 of revenue

CASTLE ROCK SUMMARY

No existing facility space to house health department – estimated cost to construct up to \$5 million

An additional revenue source, equating to 4 – 5 mills, would be required to fund operations and capital needs (including a facility and necessary equipment) for a municipal health department

A new tax assessment requires voter approval and would be subject to TABOR, unless “de-Bruced” as part of the election

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NEXT STEPS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider a resolution encouraging Douglas County to expedite their withdrawal from TCHD and seek a Town role in County health department governance.
- OR -
- Remain within Tri-County Health Department jurisdiction.
- OR -
- Seek legal requirements that any public health order impacting the Town of Castle Rock only occur with the majority concurrence of Castle Rock Town Council. Any changes to provide Town authority would also require State statutory changes.
- OR -
- Pursue formation of a municipal health agency for possible 2023 implementation. Note the deadline for Council consideration for first reading on an ordinance for a mill levy is the only Council meeting in August – August 17.
- OR -
- Other options as directed by Town Council



QUESTIONS?