

Local Board of Health Considerations

Board of County Commissioners
September 7, 2021 Work Session

Colorado Public Health Act of 2008

The Colorado Public Health Act of 2008 was intended to improve the performance of the public health system statewide. In general, the Act:

- Restructured the local governmental public health system.
- Defined the duties of a local public health agency.
- Directed the Colorado Board of Health to establish by rule:
 - Minimum qualifications for directors
 - Core public health services
 - Minimum standards for public health services, and
 - A funding formula for allocating moneys public health agencies.
- Defined new roles for the state and local boards of health.
- Established a five-year planning cycle at the state and local levels.

Withdrawal from an Established District

CRS 25-1-506(2)(b) and (c)

In the event of the dissolution of any county or district public health agency, the withdrawal of a county from an established district, or the withdrawal of a municipal corporation that has voluntarily merged its health department or agency with a county or district public health agency, local boards of health shall be reestablished under the provisions of this part 5 and assume the powers and duties conferred upon such local boards.

All county or district boards of health existing within the county or district shall be dissolved upon the organization of a county or district public health agency.

Establishing a County Public Health Agency

CRS 25-1-506

Each county, by resolution of its board of county commissioners, shall establish and maintain a county public health agency or shall participate in a district public health agency.

Appointment of a Board of Health

CRS 25-1-508

Within ninety days after the adoption of a resolution to establish and maintain a county public health agency or to participate in a district public health agency, the respective board of county commissioners shall proceed to organize the agency by the appointment of a county or district board of health.

Terms of a Board of Health

CRS 25-1-508

Each county board of health shall consist of at least five members to be appointed by the board of county commissioners for five-year terms.

The board of county commissioners shall stagger the terms of the initial appointments.

Appointment of a Board of Health

CRS 25-1-508

Each member of the county board of health shall be a resident of the county.

No business or professional group or governmental entity shall constitute a majority of the board.

Powers and Duties of a Board of Health

Administrative

- Elect a president and other officers.
- Hold meetings at least once every three months.
- Adopt bylaws.
- Provide, equip and maintain suitable offices and facilities for the proper administration and provision of Core Public Health Services.
- Follow orders, rules, and standards of the Colorado Board of Health.
- Hold hearings, administer oaths, subpoena witnesses, and take testimony in all matters related to the respective powers and duties of a local board of health.
- Act in an advisory capacity to the public health director on all matters pertaining to public health.

Paraphrased from CRS 25-1-508

Powers and Duties of a Board of Health

Policy Making

- Determine general policies to be followed by the public health director, in administering and enforcing public health laws, orders, and rules.
- Develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community.
- Approve the local public health plan and to submit the local plan to the state board for review.
- Issue orders and adopt rules consistent with the laws, rules and orders of the state and state board, for public or environmental health issues that pose no immediate health threat.

Powers and Duties of a Board of Health

Financial Oversight

- Annually review the costs of maintaining the local public health.
- Submit a budget to the board of county commissioners.
- Assess fees to offset the actual, direct costs of environmental health services.
- Accept and administer all appropriate county general funds, federal and state aid or other property and services or money allocated to an agency for public health functions.
- Certify that claims or demands made against the local public health agency fund were expended only for the duties of the agency.
- In order to qualify for state assistance, each county shall contribute a minimum of one dollar and fifty cents per capita for its local health services.

Paraphrased from CRS 25-1-508 and 512

Powers and Duties of a Board of Health

Selection of a public health director

To select a public health director to serve at the pleasure of the county or district board. The public health director shall possess such minimum qualifications as may be prescribed by the state board.

A public health director may be a physician, physician assistant, public health nurse, or other qualified public health professional...If the public health director is not a physician, the county or district board shall employ or contract with at least one medical officer to advise the public health director on medical decisions.

25-1-508(5)(c)(I)

Qualifications of a Public Health Director

A Physician Director candidate shall:

- Be licensed to practice medicine in the state of Colorado,
- Have graduated from an approved medical school (MD or DO)
 - preferably be certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine or American Board of Osteopathic Preventive Medicine
- Have five years within the past ten years of successful and responsible administrative experience in public health or a closely related field, including at least two years experience in supervising public health professionals.
- A candidate with one year of graduate study in a recognized school of public health is preferred.

Qualifications of a Public Health Director

A Non-Physician Director candidate shall:

- Have a master's degree in a public health discipline such as environmental health, health education, epidemiology, health administration/policy, biostatistics, etc; nursing, public administration, health administration or a closely related discipline;
- Have five years within the past ten years of successful and responsible administrative experience in public health or a closely related field, including at least two years experience in supervising public health professionals.
- A nurse candidate shall be licensed to practice in the state of Colorado within six months of hire.

Medical Officer:

If the public health director is not a licensed physician, a designated medical officer (advisor) shall be employed or contracted by the board of health to advise the public health director on medical decisions and be available at all times to the public health director.

The medical officer must be a graduate from an approved medical school (MD or DO) and licensed to practice medicine in the state of Colorado.

6 CCR 1014-6

National Association of Local Boards of Health

Recommendations for Expertise

- Public Health
- Environmental Health
- Medicine/Nursing
- Health Promotion/Health Education
- Mental Health/Social Work
- Education
- Community Advocacy
- Media Relations
- Business

Boulder County Board of Health

Structure:

Five members selected by the County Commissioners



Current Composition:

- Three medical community representatives
 - Two doctors (MD, PhD)
 - Health insurance administrator
- One public and environmental health representative
 - Denver Public Health environmental quality division director
- One non-medical representative
 - Foundation executive director

Denver Board of Health

Structure:

Eight members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.



Current Composition:

- Three medical community representatives
 - One health center administrator
 - Health sciences education administrator
 - Counsel for a medical transp. provider
- Three public and environmental health representatives
 - Former TCHD director
 - Jeffco Environmental Health Div. director
 - Environmental consultant
- Two non-medical representatives
 - Community Foundation Director
 - Restaurant Association Director

El Paso County Board of Health

Structure:

Nine members selected by the County Commissioners



Current Composition:

- Five medical community representatives
 - Two administrators
 - Two doctors, one also MPH
 - Retired fire chief, EMT, and paramedic

- Two commissioners
 - Cancer center administrator
 - Retired Air Force

- Two city council members
 - Retired firefighter
 - Physician Assistant

Jefferson County Board of Health

Structure:

Five members selected by the County Commissioners



Current Composition:

- Two medical community representatives
 - Mental health administrator, Ph.D.
 - Health care administrator, RN
- Two public or environmental health representatives
 - COGCC staff/supervisor
 - Boulder County Public Health staff
- One non-medical representative
 - Former state legislator

Larimer County Board of Health

Structure:

Five members selected by the Board of County Commissioners from applications reviewed in conjunction with the Public Health Director.



Current Composition:

- Two medical community representatives
 - Two doctors
- Two public and environmental health representatives
 - Instructor, CSU MPH program
 - Instructor, program director in natural resources at FRCC
- One non-medical representative
 - Former state legislator and business owner

Mesa County Board of Health

Structure:

Five members selected by the Board of County Commissioners from applications reviewed in conjunction with the Public Health Director.



Current Composition:

- Four medical community representatives
 - Two hospital administrators
 - Rural health care clinic administrator
 - Mental health administrator

- One non-medical representative
 - University vice president

Pueblo City-County Board of Health

Structure:

Five members

- Two selected by the County
- Two selected by the City
- One jointly selected



Current Composition:

- Three medical community representatives
 - Hospital CEO
 - Doctor
 - Registered Nurse
- Two political representatives
 - County commissioner
 - City council member

Weld County Board of Health

Structure:

Nine members, appointed by the BCC to three-year terms

- Six appointments by district
- Three at-large appointments



Current Composition:

- Two medical community representatives
 - One medical IT CEO
 - Mental health clinic director
- Two environmental/industry representatives
 - Environmental operator
 - Oil field services company owner
- Five non-medical representative
 - Rancher
 - Attorney
 - Mortgage broker
 - Real estate broker
 - Farmer

Duties of a County Public Health Agency

- An agency 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 as determined by the County Board of Health or the Board of County Commissioners
- As set out in the statewide public health improvement plan and the county public health plan.

CRS 25-1-506

Duties of a County Public Health Agency

- An agency shall have the following duties (as necessary to protect public health and the environment):
 - Complete a community health assessment and create the county public health plan at least every five years
 - Advise the county on public policy issues
 - Provide or arrange for the provision of quality core public health services deemed essential by the state board
 - Administer and enforce the laws pertaining to public health, air pollution, solid and hazardous waste, water quality, and vital statistics
 - Investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases
 - Establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine as necessary
 - Close schools and public places and to prohibit gatherings of people when necessary

CRS 25-1-506

Duties of a County Public Health Agency

- An agency shall have the following duties (as necessary to protect public health and the environment):
 - Investigate and abate nuisances when necessary to eliminate sources of epidemic or communicable diseases
 - Establish or make available laboratories to conduct investigations when necessary
 - Purchase and distribute to licensed physicians and veterinarians, approved biological or therapeutic products
 - Initiate and carry out health programs consistent with state law when necessary
 - Collect, compile, and tabulate marriage, birth, death, and morbidity records
 - To make necessary sanitation and health investigations and inspections
 - Collaborate with relevant state agencies regarding public health, water quality, air pollution, and solid and hazardous waste
 - Establish a local or regional child fatality prevention review team

CRS 25-1-506

Current Public Health Directors

Non-Physician Directors

- Camille Rodriguez, Boulder
- Bob McDonald, Denver
- Susan Wheelan, El Paso
- Dawn Comstock, Jefferson
- Tom Gonzales, Larimer
- Mark Lawley, Weld
- Randy Evetts, Pueblo
- Jeff Kuhr, Mesa

Physician Director

- John Douglas Jr., MD, TCHD