



**Nathan Ruybal**  
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**Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting held on February 15th, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners Board Room, 6693 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129**

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**Comm. Jarvies called the meeting to order at 9:00 am**

**Mitchell Jarvies – Chairperson – Present**  
**Carlos Garcia - Vice Chair – Present**  
**Joseph Baroz – Vice Chair – Present**

**Present:** Tressesa Martinez-County Administrator --- Nathan Ruybal-Clerk and Recorder – Connie Ricci – HR Manager –  
**Absent:** Nick Sarmiento – County Attorney

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Comm. Jarvies led everyone on the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Opening Prayer:** Comm. Baroz gave the opening prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Comm. Garcia asks to add Grant Writer update and interviews.
- Comm. Baroz asks to add Behavioral Health transports.
  - Comm. Garcia makes motion to approve agenda as amended.
  - Comm. Baroz seconded that motion.
  - Motion carried 3-0.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- January 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting
  - Comm. Baroz makes a motion to approve minutes as presented.
  - Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.
  - Motion Carries 3-0

**Public Comment:**

- Jeff Hand
  - Mr. Hand is running for CD3 candidate for State Representative.
  - Mr. Hand is from Grand Junction and has five children, is an attorney who worked to represent rural electric cooperatives, he feels rural Colorado is under representative. Mr. Hand runs on the topics of secure southern border, energy independence and protecting Colorado water and agriculture.

## **Administrative Correspondence – Tressesa Martinez:**

- Review of per diem changes.
  - Discussion on possibly adopting the same rate as El Paso County, which is \$69 per day with \$16 for breakfast, \$17 for lunch and \$31 for dinner. The current per diem amount is only \$38 per day.
  - Comm. Garcia moves to adopt new per diem amounts to match El Paso County of \$69 per whole day with only \$51.75 for first and last day. \$16 breakfast, \$17 lunch and \$31 dinner. Mileage will also be increased to \$.59 per mile.
    - Comm. Garcia makes the first motion.
    - Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
    - Motion Carries 3-0
- WSB Engagement Letter for 2023 Audit.
  - WSB has increased their audit rates.
  - Audit not to exceed \$51,270.00.
    - Comm. Baroz makes the first motion to approve as presented.
    - Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.
    - Motion Caries 3-0
- Office Space for Probation Officer.
  - Discussion regarding where the BOCC will allow the Probation Officer to have an office, the BOCC discusses the library as a possibility or the Vault for the Combined Court office. The wall can be knocked down for the door into the vault, which is currently not being used by the combined courts.
  - BOCC is leaning toward the vault, but no decision was made.
- Salary Changes – Executive Session

*Motion to enter Executive Session 24-6-402 Sub Section B Conference with an Attorney to Discuss Legal Counsel for salaries and positions.*

*Comm. Baroz first motion*

*Comm. Garcia second motion*

*Motion Carries 3-0*

*Comm. Jarvies - Let the record show that we are coming out of Executive Session conference with an Attorney, no decisions were made, and it is 10:03am and session was recorded.*

- Salary Changes
  - Comm. Garcia makes motion to table decision on Salary Changes until they get more information after Josh Lowenstein presentation.
  - Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
  - Motion Carries 3-0
- Grant Writer Update.
  - Comm. Garcia can start interviews on Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.
  - Tressesa will send her recommendations and job description prior to the interviews.
- Behavioral Health Transports.
  - Zachary from hospital administration contacted Comm. Baroz for Skyride that does transport for behavioral health.
  - Comm. Jarvies asks the BOCC if it would be better to have Zach or someone for Skyride come into a BOCC meeting to present before the BOCC approves.
  - Tressesa will contact them to come into present to the BOCC.

**DSS Report – Nick Barela:**

- Nick asks for approval for Program and Administration costs for the month of \$392,363.93.
  - Comm. Garcia makes motion to approve as presented.
  - Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
  - Motion Carries 3-0
- Nick asks for approval for Accounts Payable for the month of \$33,754.52.
  - Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve as presented.
  - Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.
  - Motion Carries 3-0
- Case Load Report

**CONEJOS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ONGOING WORKLOAD SUMMARY REPORT**

	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
APS												
Child Care	39	39										
Child Support	378	376										
Child Welfare												
Adult Financial	89	84										
Colorado Works	38	38										
SNAP	883	896										
Medical Assistance	1643	1602										

- Amendment to Medicaid incentive plan
  - FY24/25 Incentive Goals HCPF
- Approval letter for annual child support received.
  - Approval letter for CS plan that was submitted in Dec. 2023
- MOU for Department of Early Childhood.
  - Signed MOU Department of Early Childhood
- Corrective action plan for snap applications.
  - The State of Colorado has put on Corrective Action Plan for SNAP program, primarily surrounding timeliness of new applications.

**Public Health Report – Denise Jiron:**

- Prevention and Population Health
  - All public health agencies are required to develop, implement and evaluate strategies (policies and programs) to enhance and promote healthy living, quality of life and wellbeing while reducing the incidence of preventable (chronic and communicable) diseases, injuries, disabilities and other poor health outcomes across the lifespan.
  - Applying for SAMSA grant to assess / bring prevention to Conejos County schools
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
  - Participation during the month of January 2024:
    - 1. 392 Individuals total participation
    - 2. Home deliveries to the homebound 2 days monthly; 38 people
    - 3. 264 Households (including TFAP)
    - 4. Curbside delivery continues 2 (T/Th) days weekly
    - \* Participation decreased during the month of January

- **New Grant Application**
  - Public Health has partnered with The Schriber Research Group in applying for a SAMHSA grant. It would start in September 2024 and continue through August of 2029. The grant is for \$375,000; allocated accordingly to the 4 collaborating partners including Conejos County Public Health. The goal of this grant is to partner with PH and local schools to assess school and community needs. This information will then be used to create and implement prevention programs in schools.

**Board Health Report – Denise Jiron:**

CONEJOS COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT  
2/15/2024

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**New Harm Reduction Program**



Colorado's first rural comprehensive harm reduction program.

SHARRP is a collaboration between the SLV AHEC, the Alamosa Health Department, Valley-Wide Health Systems, the SLV Behavioral Health Group, Rio Grande County Department of Public Health, and numerous other partners, including Conejos County Public Health. It offers clients who are using injection drugs the ability to prevent the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C through sterile syringes, the safe disposal of syringes in the community, free HIV and Hepatitis C testing once a month, emergency overdose response training and free naloxone for clients, and access to mental health counseling, substance use treatment, primary medical care, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, and case management.

SHARP is slated to make these services available in Conejos County on March 7, 2024. The SHARP program will be based out of SLV Behavioral Health in La Jara initially. In time, the hope is that in time they can expand this weekly service to south Conejos, in the Antonito area.

**West Nile Virus Pilot Program**

CCPH has partnered with Mineral and Costilla counties to pilot a west Nile virus detection program. We are currently applying for grant funding to learn how to collect mosquitoes and test them for WNV. This pilot program will include utilizing a few high school science students, teaching them how to conduct this surveillance. Conejos PH will be the fiscal seat for the funding and purchasing of supplies. CDPHE will provide the funding.

**Update Old Antonito High School**

Report from regional EH attached

**Seeking New Public Health Medical Officer**

- Dr. Vaughn Jackson notified via USPS terming on 2/29/24
- Dr. Clint Sowards will begin as new Medical Officer on 3/1/2024

## Follow up investigation Report Old Antonito High School

Date of report 2/13/24

On 2/13/24 I was requested to complete a site follow up investigation of the old Antonito High School by Conejos County Public Health Director Denise Jiron. She requested my agency do a follow site investigation of the old High School on 620 Pine St in Antonito Colorado. The investigation was to make sure the Environmental Concerns recorded on the previous Inspection were cleaned up and the living conditions inside the School were elevated to required Safe Standards. After walking through the school. The areas with Exposed feces have all been cleaned up to satisfactory level and the issues with food storage and temperature abuse have cleaned up and the food has been disposed of. Also the areas where the Electrical cords were spider webbed across the hallways have been eliminated. All the areas of bacterial exposure are clear and habitable. We found some areas the school still showing signs of minor harborage and some signs of pests not abnormal for and abandoned structure.

Gary Bruder,  
Regional Environmental Health Program Manager  
San Luis valley Public Health Partnership

Alamosa County Public Health Dept  
8900 B Independence way  
Alamosa Co 81101

719-587-5206 Ext 1278

### **Narcans Campaign Presentation – Austin Chavez:**

- All town halls and post offices have Narcans dosages and posters.
- Mr. Edgar and the North Conejos Schools will have training next week and teachers will have dosages inside the classroom.
- Three lives have been saved due to administering dosage to person who was overdosing.
- Austin asks for letters of support from BOCC, School Superintendents, Sheriff Crowther, Denise Jiron and Dr. Clint Sowards.

Land Use Report – Linda DeHerrera:

CONEJOS COUNTY LAND USE  
CASE SUMMARY- REPORT

CASE NO: CCLU-2023-0150

REQUEST: Division of Land

APPLICANT: Barbara J. Lucero

ZONING: Rural      SURVEY BY: Tony Martin, Russell Surveyors & Associates

BACKGROUND: An application was filed with the Land Use office on July 10, 2023, for a Division of Land (DOL.) The owner is Barbara J. Lucero. The property is zoned Rural and is approximately 7.26 acres± located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 31, Township 33 North, Range 8 East, New Mexico Principal Meridian, Conejos County Colorado. The commonly known area is 6925 County Road E.5, La Mecitas.

The proposed survey reflects a division of 7.26 ac± to create the following:

Tract 1 contains 2.01 acres ± rural zone with 1 dwelling.  
Tract 2 contains 5.25 acres ± rural vacant with proposal for residential development. No roadway for dedication. State Hwy 17 is on the north side. County Rd E.5 is on the east side and there is a deeded easement from County Rd E.5 to the subject property.

Applicable Land Use Codes: Article 10 - Subdivision, Division 10.7 Subdivision Exemptions, Section 10.7 (1.) Division of Land

Purpose of Division: The applicant is requesting a division of land to separate the 5.25 acres to convey to a family member - the proposal is for residential development.

LU Administrator approval: 02/15/2024

County Surveyor review/approval: 02/14/2024 - Reviewed and approved by Toby Crowther.

Board of County Commissioners review/approval: 02/15/2024

Approval: Motion/Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded date: \_\_\_\_\_ Reception # \_\_\_\_\_ -resolution  
Reception # \_\_\_\_\_ -plat

- Comm. Garcia makes motion to approve Lucero Division of Land as presented.
- Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
- Motion Carries 3-0
- Resolution #4-24

**National Conservation Area Presentation – Josh Lowenstein:**

- Mr. Lowenstein presentation covers his concern with the National Conservation Area (NCA) in Conejos County.
- SLV Ecosystem Council from Crestone
- Three meetings have been held, two in Antonito and one in Manassa, the presenters have given to explanation on how this NCA would benefit Conejos County, other than bringing in tourist dollars into the county and that biodiversity would be protected.
- Mr. Lowenstein is against the purposed NCA and National Monument designation because so far agencies behind this have not provided specific details on how this will affect grazing permits, recreational and hunting enthusiasts. No explanation on this NCA would limit access to the area or how this NCA might benefit Conejos County and the citizens that use the area.
- Comm. Garcia has attended two of the meetings and no ranchers have spoken in favor of the NCA.
- Mr. Lowenstein only wants to protect recreational use of public lands.

**Salary Discussion – continued:**

- Comm. Garcia makes a motion to increase DSS Accountant with a 10% increase due to extra general fund duties. DSS Director will increase 5% due to extra general fund duties and HR director will increase 5% due to extra general fund duties retroactive 02/01/2024.
- Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
- Motion Carries 3-0

Meeting Adjourned 11:16am

ATTEST:

  
Nathan Ruybal  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mitchell Jarvies  
Chair of BOCC

