



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

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P.O. Box 1507 / 398 Lewis Street / Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147  
Tel (970) 264-8300

September 7, 2021

Via Email to [LJollon@SBPublicHealth.org](mailto:LJollon@SBPublicHealth.org)

Ms. Liane Jollon  
Executive Director  
San Juan Basin Public Health  
281 Sawyer Drive  
Durango, CO 81303

RE: County Investigative Health Committee

Dear Liane,

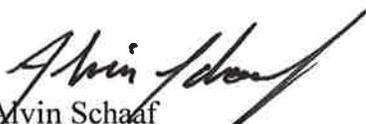
As you're probably aware, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has formed a committee to research the pros and cons of creating its own public health agency. In order for them to provide the BoCC with a comprehensive study, they have asked for information that would need to come from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH). They have also requested a meeting with SJBPH to answer specific questions related to the services provided to the County from SJBPH.

Attached is a copy of the committee's letter and specific questions. We would appreciate it if you and your team could comply with the requests at your earliest convenience. Additionally, please contact Marybeth Snyder directly at (970) 581-3457 to set up the meeting.

This letter has been unanimously approved by all three commissioners.

We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely yours,

  
Alvin Schaaf  
Chairman,  
Board of County Commissioners



## Archuleta County Investigative Health Committee

Commissioner's Meeting Room  
398 Lewis Street Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

August 31, 2021

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners:  
Warren Brown, Ronnie Maez and Alvin Schaaf

Dear Commissioners,

As a result of the IHC meeting on August 24, 2021, the Committee is requesting assistance in obtaining more information from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) in order to continue our research.

1. We would like to request that a meeting be arranged with a representative or representatives from SJBPH to have them provide the information listed in the attached spreadsheet named "Questionnaire related to public health essential requirements" labeled Exhibit D. The spreadsheet has bold headlines listing essential public health services. We are asking that SJBPH provide the specific local services currently being provided in each category. Due to the fact that this is asking for detailed descriptions, we suggest the document Exh D be provided to SJBPH to allow time for the information to be compiled. We agree that a live discussion would be needed so clarifications can be made and discussion ensue as needed. We urge that this meeting be scheduled on September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. as having this data is imperative for this committee to move forward in its investigation.
2. We would also request SJBPH provide the year 2019 and year 2020 budget by line item regarding the AC income and expenses in detail.
3. We would request that SJBPH provide their required reports regarding services rendered to AC.
4. We would request that SJBPH suggest how AC could help bring back discontinued services.
5. From AC records, we would like to be provided with any contracts, agreements, commitments between AC and SJBPH as well as any reports SJBPH has provided to AC from year 2019 to present for our review.

Thank you for your speedy attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marybeth Snyder".

Marybeth Snyder, Secretary  
on behalf of the Archuleta County Investigative Health Committee

**Questionnaire related to essential public health requirements for Archuleta County**

<b>Please respond to the following questions for each of the essential public health services listed below</b>
Describe what you are doing to meet this essential requirement? meeting the needs of the community?
What is your capacity/how many people <b>could you serve</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?
What is your capacity/how many people are <b>you actually serving</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?
How do you outreach the Archuleta community about your service/program?
Do you have a wait-list for Archuleta County for any of your service?
What is the cost of your program/service in Archuleta County?
Who funds your program/service for Archuleta County residents? federal, state, local, grants
<b>Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease</b>
Immunizations
Restaurant inspections
Disease investigation, reporting and evaluation of trends (i.e. hepatitis, tuberculosis, measles, HIV/AIDS, food borne illnesses)
Education and intervention concerning good hygiene and sanitation
Food protection
Describe what you are doing to meet this essential requirement? meeting the needs of the community?
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What is your capacity/how many people are <b>you actually serving</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?
How do you outreach the Archuleta community about your service/program?
Do you have a wait-list for Archuleta County for any of your service?
What is the cost of your program/service in Archuleta County?
Who funds your program/service for Archuleta County residents? federal, state, local, grants
<b>Protecting against environmental hazards</b>
Protection of water and air, proper disposal of sewage and solid waste
Control of toxic emissions
Pollution prevention
Assessment of environmental risks and vulnerable areas
Land-use management to protect environmental resources
Sanitation and hygiene of facilities such as child care centers, long-term care facilities, and hospitals
Describe what you are doing to meet this essential requirement? meeting the needs of the community?
What is your capacity/how many people <b>could you serve</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?
What is your capacity/how many people are <b>you actually serving</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?

**Questionnaire related to essential public health requirements for Archuleta County**

How do you outreach the Archuleta community about your service/program?
Do you have a wait-list for Archuleta County for any of your service?
What is the cost of your program/service in Archuleta County?
Who funds your program/service for Archuleta County residents? federal, state, local, grants
<b>Providing assessment and evaluation of community health status</b>
Data collection and evaluation including vital records (birth and death), disease incidence, demographics, programs evaluation, personal and environmental health indicators necessary to support and evaluate public health interventions
Public health nursing programs such as Women, Infants, Children (WIC); women's health; and well child.
Epidemiology and data evaluation
Early Periodic Screening Detection and Treatment (EPSDT)
Chronic disease programs
Health assessment and planning
Describe what you are doing to meet this essential requirement? meeting the needs of the community?
What is your capacity/how many people <b>could you serve</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?
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<b>Preventing illness and injury</b>
Consumer protection programs
Child Health
Workplace safety and health/industrial hygiene
Bicycle and motorcycle safety
Prevention programs
Dental health programs
Describe what you are doing to meet this essential requirement? meeting the needs of the community?
What is your capacity/how many people <b>could you serve</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?
What is your capacity/how many people are <b>you actually serving</b> based on your schedule for Archuleta County?
How do you outreach the Archuleta community about your service/program?
Do you have a wait-list for Archuleta County for any of your service?

**Questionnaire related to essential public health requirements for Archuleta County**

What is the cost of your program/service in Archuleta County?
Who funds your program/service for Archuleta County residents? federal, state, local, grants
<b>Promoting healthy behavior</b>
Health education and prevention
Public health nursing
Diabetes program
Child, adolescent and school health
Community nutrition
Heart disease prevention program
Describe what you are doing to meet this essential requirement? meeting the needs of the community?
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<b>Responding to disasters</b>
Emergency medical services
Toxic emissions control and management
Risk assessment
Risk communication
Disease investigation and control
Personal health care services
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Who funds your program/service for Archuleta County residents? federal, state, local, grants

**Questionnaire related to essential public health requirements for Archuleta County**

<b>Assuring the quality and accessibility of health services</b>
Health facilities
Children with special needs
Rural health
Migrant health
Partnerships with HMOs and other medical care providers
Care for Medicaid clients
(Source: The Tri-County Health Department: Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties.)
<b>Child Fatality Prevention Teams</b>
Subject to available appropriations, County Public Health Agencies are required to establish or designate a local child fatality prevention team by January 1, 2015. The local review teams are required to review fatalities of children up to the age of 17 and to operate under the supervision of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. County Public Health Agencies may partner with each other to form regional review teams or work in partnership with community providers to meet this requirement.

September 17, 2021

Archuleta County Commissioner Alvin Schaaf  
Via email only to: [aschaaf@archuletacounty.org](mailto:aschaaf@archuletacounty.org)

Dear Chairman Schaaf,

Thank you for your letter and attachment of September 7, 2021 (“Letter”), and for your ongoing participation on the San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) Board of Health. SJBPH is aware that the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners is exploring how to continue meeting constituent needs and statutory obligations in public and environmental health. For more than 7 decades, SJBPH has proudly and transparently served residents across the health district, which has grown to include more than 70,000 people in Archuleta and La Plata counties.

Over the course of an historic pandemic responding to COVID-19, and for decades prior, SJBPH has delivered on its mission to improve public and environmental health in Southwest Colorado. SJBPH’s multitude of programs, from maternal and child health, behavioral and preventative health, environmental health, COVID-19 response, and more, are all designed and implemented to meet the needs of the jurisdiction as a whole.

With respect to the information requested in the Letter, we generally respond that most of the information is available to all constituents on the SJBPH website and, in addition, has been routinely made available to the SJBPH Board of Health, as well as Archuleta and La Plata Boards of County Commissioners. Further, with respect to your request for a meeting, a meeting would need to be with the entire Board of Health which requires both coordination with the seven members of the Board of Health and public notice. With that in mind, as the executive committee of the Board of Health, we respond to you as follows:

1. As you likely recall from all the program approvals conducted by the Board of Health at Board meetings, SJBPH hires staff and operates its programs to meet the needs of the health district as a whole. With that, the agency budget is based on programmatic budgets which are not split by county. While there are occasional exceptions, by and large, the revenues received by SJBPH are designated to programming within the health district at-large. In representing a health district, SJBPH is not situated to produce expenditures by county per your request.
2. As you know from being on the SJBPH Board for the past two years, the Board approves the budget every year and the budget is prepared *by program* for the District – not by each county in the District.
  - a. 2021 budget is located on the SJBPH website under Board of Directors, December 2020 meeting <https://towncloud.io/go/sjbph-co>; and
  - b. 2020 budget is located on the SJBPH website under Board of Directors, December 2019 meeting <https://towncloud.io/go/sjbph-co>.
3. Program approvals are made by the Board of Health and contained in each Board packet. In addition, each year on September 1, SJBPH staff has provided the commissioners of

Archuleta County and La Plata County with a Proportional Budget Request that contains a report of services.

- a. Board packets for the past 3 years are located at the SJBPH website under Board of Directors <https://towncloud.io/go/sjbph-co>
  - b. Proportional Budget Requests submitted by SJBPH for fiscal year 2022 and 2021 are available at a dropbox file (the file is too large to email): <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ix3yxwswgrqzv3v/ArchuletaCountyLetter.zip?dl=0>
4. SJBPH provides services in accordance with the statutory requirements and at the direction/approval/disapproval of the SJBPH Board. Any discontinuation of services was decided by the SJBPH Board (current or prior Board). As of this date, no Board member has requested the evaluation of, or budgeting for, a specific discontinued program.
5. As we believe all SJBPH Board members are aware, the public health district was formed in 2009 pursuant to statutes, not by contract, which is affirmed in Joint Resolutions by and between Archuleta and La Plata Counties. With respect to reports, the Archuleta County Commissioner on the SJBPH Board receives every board packet which includes detailed reports on finances and operations as well as decision items and, on an annual basis, the budget. Further, as noted above, each year on September 1, the commissioners receive a report of SJBPH services. The specific resolutions are as follows and are located at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ix3yxwswgrqzv3v/ArchuletaCountyLetter.zip?dl=0>
- a. Joint Resolution Establishing a District Health Agency LPC 2009-14 and AC 2009-22; and
  - b. Joint Resolution Concerning the Board of Health LPS 2009-22 and AC 2009-39.
  - c. AC Resolution Re Name of the District: 2017-17.

SJBPH's Board of Health's duties include fiduciary responsibilities; adopting the community health assessment and subsequent public health improvement plan; organizational strategy; setting agency goals and objectives; and overseeing programs and activities. The independent Board of Health includes Commissioners from both Archuleta and La Plata counties by statute and design, giving these elected representatives the opportunity to gather information from, collaborate with, and influence the direction of SJBPH on behalf of their constituents. To this end, the Board of Health meets six to eight times per year and provides opportunity for public comment.

In addition, specific to the COVID-19 pandemic response, SJBPH has held policy meetings one to three times per week depending on response needs. These policy meetings include Archuleta County Commissioners and other Archuleta County stakeholders to provide consistent opportunities for high-level strategic policy guidance and resource prioritization and allocation, cooperative multi-agency decisions, and collaborative decision-making among elected and appointed officials with whom SJBPH is managing the pandemic response. SJBPH staff also meets regularly with other Archuleta County stakeholders in order to assist these organization's consequence management efforts related to the ongoing response efforts.

Of note, the SJBPH staff recognizes the importance of communicating to all constituents in the district and sends a monthly newsletter update which highlights the news, programs, and events from the public and environmental health agency for Archuleta and La Plata counties.

Lastly, on November 25, 2020, SJBPH sent a legal memo to you in response to Archuleta County Resolution 2020-227. This memo invited you to request a joint work session between the Board of Health and the Archuleta County Commissioners to review service delivery and collaborate toward shared goals as it related to septic systems. On behalf of the Board of Health, this invitation still stands for the Board of Health to meet with the Archuleta County Commissioners.

Please let us know if you have additional questions, as SJBPH is available to provide technical support and guidance as you continue your exploration.

Sincerely,

*Karin Daniels and Ann Bruzzese*

Board of Health Vice-President and President, San Juan Basin Public Health