



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, please

January 24, 2023

Contact Ted Holteen, (970) 382-6265

County Commissioners establish new Board of Health, appoint members

The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday created a new La Plata County Board of Health by resolution and announced the names of the new 7-member board. The inaugural members (with terms of service) are:

- Dr. Cecile Fraley, Pediatrician – (term to expire Jan. 1, 2028)
- Douglas McCarthy – MBA/healthcare management specialty – (term to expire Jan. 1, 2027)
- Michael Murphy – MBA/Managing Principal, Durango Health Partners – (term to expire Jan. 1, 2025)
- Dr. Shere Byrd – Professor of Biology/Fort Lewis College, current Board of Health member – (term to expire Jan. 1, 2025)
- Avery Perryman Sheldon – Speech language pathologist – (term to expire Jan. 1, 2027)
- Teresa Wright – RN, Master in Public Health – (term to expire Jan. 1, 2026)
- Wendy Rice – Registered dietician & nutritionist – (term to expire Jan. 1, 2024)

Future terms will be for five years; however, the initial terms are staggered to ensure all terms don't expire the same year.

Under state statute, Colorado counties are required to either have their own public health agency or participate in a multi-county district health agency. For more than 70 years La Plata County and Archuleta County have comprised San Juan Basin Public Health. In 2022, following a recommendation by the SJBPH Board, La Plata County Commissioners voted to withdraw from SJBPH effective Dec. 31, 2023 and establish a new Board of Health within La Plata County.

The Board has now adopted a resolution for purposes of organizing and establishing its public health agency, to be known as La Plata County Public Health (“LPCPH”), which will take over all of the duties of a public health agency for the residents of La Plata County effective on January 1, 2024, and shall operate in an **organizational capacity** prior to January 1, 2024 for the purpose of ensuring that La Plata County’s Public Health is ready to be fully operational on January 1, 2024. SJBPH and its Board of Health shall retain and continue to exercise all of the powers, duties and responsibilities of a district public health agency for the residents of La Plata County through December 31, 2023.

Once meetings are scheduled, Board of Health agenda packets will be uploaded to the County’s meeting portal at <http://laplatacountyco.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>.

For more information, contact Public & Governmental Affairs Manager Ted Holteen at (970) 382-6265 or email ted.holteen@co.laplata.co.us.

###