

ADDENDUM MATERIAL

DATE 2/21/23

ITEM NO. A002

Aliza Barraza

From: Sarah Carter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:22 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Dr Cullen health director agenda

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hi, I am writing the board in my full support of Dr Cullen as PCHD. I am a family nurse practitioner in town and my experience with health department has dramatically improved since she started. Prior to this I had little support to manage patients suffering from infectious diseases, but now I have ongoing communication with the syphilis department, the TB department, rabies, and questions about vaccines for patients who have immigrated.

I also feel grateful that under her leadership our covid cases have remained lower and our vaccine rates are higher.

The department has also started an opiate overdose dashboard that I utilize. They also gave us fentanyl test strips.

I think that Arizona is really missing out that they didn't hire her as state director but I hope this only means that Pima county will be able continue with her leadership.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions

Sarah Carter, MSN, MPH
Pronouns- she/her

Sent from my iPhone

FEB 17 2023 10:06 PM PCC CLK OF ED

Aliza Barraza


From: Leslie Cho-Newman <lesliecn@cityccl.org>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:33 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Theresa Cullen

Categories: Orange Category

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Hello! I'm emailing you to let you know that I support Theresa Cullen's in her role as Pima County's Director of Public Health. Her expertise and work track record qualify her well for the position and I think the move to remove her is unjust and unwarranted.
Thanks for considering my opinion. Hoping you are well. Thanks for all you do.
Most sincerely,
Leslie

Sent from my iPhone

FEB 17 2023 PM 01:06 PC CLK OF ED 

Aliza Barraza

From: Carroll, Mark <Mark.Carroll@azblue.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:53 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Dr. Theresa Cullen_Feb 21st agenda item

Categories: Orange Category

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I am writing to express appreciation for the leadership demonstrated by Dr. Theresa Cullen during the COVID pandemic response. Her public health expertise and experienced leadership have advanced a variety of collaborative efforts during her time as Pima County Health Director, including statewide initiatives in support of health professional workforce wellbeing, timely information-sharing for COVID-related treatments, and educational outreach for primary care clinicians in Arizona. Dr. Cullen has facilitated the participation of the Pima County health department in regular meetings and conversations with the Arizona system Chief Medical Officers (led by Dr. Marjorie Bessel at Banner). She and her team have been invited to share expertise and best practices related to various public health initiatives with workgroups of national organizations (i.e. the Institute for Healthcare Improvement) and implementation teams for the Az Health Improvement Plan. She is widely respected across public health, payer, professional societies, and health care systems as a dedicated health professional of high moral character with an unwavering work ethic, a collaborative spirit, and an authentic and engaging leadership style. Her commitment to public service and the health of all Arizonans is exemplary.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this brief communication.

Mark

Mark F. Carroll, MD (he/him)
Chief Medical Officer/Staff Vice President
Medicaid Plans

Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona
mark.carroll@azblue.com | azblue.com



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FEB 17 23 PM 01:06 POC CLK OF ED

Aliza Barraza

From: scott hamstra <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:54 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Feb 21 Agenda Dr Cullen

Categories: Orange Category

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Pima County Board of Supervisors

Please retain Dr Theresa Cullen as the PCHD.

After I moved to Arizona in 1990, I had the good fortune during my US Public Health Service career to work with Dr Cullen as a fellow US PHS officer.

Dr. Cullen, Rear Admiral (ret) Dr. Cullen has served our country well.

Her leadership and support was greatly appreciated in our daily challenges to meet the health needs of the Native American communities here in Arizona and across the USA.

She manifests character traits that we cherish in our colleagues and leaders.

Her dedication and work ethic are unparalleled.

She is incredibly intelligent and cares deeply about the health of Americans, now focused on Pima County.

We in Pima County have been blessed during these past challenging pandemic years to have her as the Pima County Health Director.

The health challenges of individuals and our Pima County are far broader than COVID and Dr Cullen is well prepared to lead us all to be healthier in 2023 and beyond.

Thank you in advance for supporting Dr Cullen and doing what is best for all of us who live in Pima County

Scott Hamstra, MD
Pediatrics
Pediatric Infectious Disease
Immunizations
Medical Informatics
Captain O6 (ret) US Public Health Service
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Aliza Barraza

From: Susan Hausser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:56 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: In support of Theresa Cullen as Pima County Health Director

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To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the public has an opportunity to submit comments regarding the choice to have Dr. Theresa Cullen resume her position as the Director of the Pima County Health Department. As a long time physician in Tucson I would be thrilled to see her back in this position. During the years she has served in this position she has been a tremendous resource to the community in a number of areas, not the least of which has been in her role in offering intelligent guidance during the COVID pandemic. She took the tidal wave of information coming out each week and month during the height of the pandemic and made sense of it for clinicians on the front lines. Her discerning guidance regarding new data and revised recommendations was crucial as we constantly struggled to adjust our practices to provide the best care for our patients. In addition, the rapid mobilization of personnel, volunteers and resources throughout the county under her direction undoubtedly saved lives. There were very few counties in the country where access to testing and vaccinations were so readily available, where the system was so user friendly, and where cost was not a barrier to individual residents. Friends and colleagues from around the country envied how responsive, well organized and supportive our county health department was. This comprehensive approach to an urgent problem also informed her later response to the monkeypox outbreak with rapid deployment of messaging and resources to provide scarce treatment to those in need and encourage vaccinations for those most vulnerable.

While her response to pandemics and outbreaks has been remarkable, her accomplishments don't end there. She has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to simultaneously seek solutions to other more chronic health concerns in the community. To name just a few, she has engaged with community partners in an effort to decrease homelessness and find creative solutions to STI prevention and treatment. She has attracted staff with extensive expertise in managing tuberculosis to limit its impact in our community. Finally, she has been successful in winning grants to fund future projects she has envisioned to further improve the lives of the residents of Pima County. I certainly hope Dr. Cullen will have the opportunity to see these through and under her leadership maintain the Pima County Health Department's reputation as a forerunner in the country to the benefit of us all.

Susan Hausser, MD

FEB 17 2023 12:56 PM

Aliza Barraza

From: RICK CHAMPANY [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 1:33 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Agenda Item for February 21 - Dr. Terry Cullen

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CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Please accept this letter in support of Dr. Terry Cullen, who is a candidate for the Pima County Health Department's Director. Her application will be reviewed at the Board Meeting on February 21, 2023. As a retired public health professional with over 37 years of experience in the field of public health, I believe Dr. Cullen is very experienced and has the expertise to move the Health Department forward. I worked with the Navajo Nation in the early days of the Covid pandemic and assisted federal dental programs across the nation in determining their response to that pandemic. I understand how difficult those early days of the Covid were and the difficulty in identifying what needed to be done.

When my wife and I retired, we wanted to move to a warmer climate. But with us both in our 70's and with medical issues, one significant factor was how the chosen area dealt with the Covid epidemic. I believe that the county response to the epidemic is a good sign of how the county feels towards health in general. We found that Pima County had significantly higher marks to this end, then any other in Arizona, California or Texas. As a result, we purchased a home to be our full time residence in Sun City Oro Valley in November, 2022. Some of those higher marks include the number of deaths, the number of hospitalizations requiring ventilators, the percent of the population who received a full regimen of vaccine, and the total number of people who tested positive for covid. Each of these factors was better in a health sense than other Arizona counties. As I continued to review both the state and local data as well as the public health orders in response to the epidemic, I was quite impressed with the leadership of Dr. Cullen. Pima County should be proud of her work and that of the entire county Health Department.

Dr. Cullen used the best science available at the time to recommend school closures, mask mandates, and the identification of businesses and other organizations which did not comply. Again, as an elderly retiree, I would like to know which organizations are safe to enter. Many of these recommendations came under fire. But, Dr. Cullen and the Health Department used the best practices known at that time. As the science emerged, and new knowledge was obtained, Dr. Cullen modified the recommendations in response. That is exactly what a public health professional should and must do with a new disease.

Dr. Cullen will be a fine asset for the people of Pima County.

Richard A. Champany, DDS, MPH
14270 N. Silkwind Way
Oro Valley, AZ 85755

Aliza Barraza

From: Linza Bethea [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 1:50 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Dr. Theresa Cullen

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To the Pima County Supervisors:

I write in support of Dr. Theresa Cullen as the Director of the Pima County Health Department. I have known Dr. Cullen for close to twenty-five years and worked with her at the Indian Health Service (IHS) Office of Information Technology for much of that time. To me, it goes without saying that Pima County is lucky to have her. The Supervisors already know about her distinguished public health career at the IHS and the Veterans Health Administration. She left a rewarding and effective career where she was well-known and respected both nationally and internationally to pursue the Health Department position because she was concerned about the rumors coming out of China about what we now call covid; her previous experience in Africa during Ebola suggested that a major public health event was imminent.

I have never known Dr. Cullen to be political; her only concerns have been to improve health conditions for us all, and in particular for underserved populations. As an older woman living with an immuno-compromised spouse during these past years, I have been grateful for the county's guidance, supporting common sense and the science.

I was not surprised to see that Supervisor (and election denier) Steve Christy had called for a "discussion" of Dr. Theresa Cullen as the Director of the county Health Department, just as I was not surprised, but quite embarrassed, by the Republican state Senators' performance earlier this week. It's rather difficult to explain to those of my friends and acquaintances who live outside the state. I feel that Mr. Christy's request is only politically motivated and he has no real concern for the health of the community.

Pima County should consider the state Senators', and Mr. Christy's, response to Dr. Cullen's nomination as a badge of honor that the County is on the right track from a public health perspective by affirming her continuation as Director of the Pima County Health Department.

Thank you for your attention.

Linza S Bethea
5601 N Northern Hills Drive
Tucson, AZ 85704

Aliza Barraza

From: Eileen Newman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 1:50 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: For Feb 21, 2023, Board of Supervisors Agenda Item--Terry Cullen

Categories: Orange Category

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Board of Supervisors:

This is in support of Terry Cullen, MD, for the position of Pima County Health Director to be discussed at the February 21, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting.

I have known Dr. Cullen for about 10 years when she served as a consultant to the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. I was the Associate Director of the program and given her extensive experience in developing electronic health records (EHRs) for the Indian Health Service, she led the development of a NKDEP care plan for chronic kidney disease (CKD) for use in EHRs nationally, which was not previously available. Her medical experience, electronic health record expertise and refined interpersonal skills enabled her to work with nephrologists and public health professionals nationally, instructing on the key information and documentation needed on numerous conference calls and in-person multi-day conferences. This led to a collaboratively developed product and the success of the project.

After I retired from NIH, I moved to Tucson in 2018, just before the COVID-19 pandemic. I watched as Dr. Cullen became the director of the Pima County Health Department in 2020, and contributed to the county's response to the pandemic from her position. I read the newspaper, listened to many recorded news conferences, and attended community forums. She always spoke with clarity and medical expertise that the general public could understand. She made scientifically sound decisions based on national efforts, information available and following sound public health principles. As a resident, I was very impressed with the ease of my experience getting vaccinated, boosted and tested by the public health department and seeing the efforts to reach all citizens in every corner of the county. Coming from a national public health career, I was truly impressed with the how the pandemic efforts in Tucson were planned and implemented using a science-based public health model. (5)

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Board of Supervisors to appoint Dr. Cullen as Health Director of Pima County.

Sincerely,

02/17/23 01:52 PM COB_MAIL

Eileen P Newman, MS, RD
Associate Director-Retired
National Kidney Disease Education Program National Institutes of Health

2423 E Hawthorne Street
Tucson, AZ 85719



Aliza Barraza

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 2:41 PM
To: COB_mail
Cc: ward6@tucsonaz.gov
Subject: 2/21/2023 agenda item - Dr. Theresa Cullen reinstatement as Pima county Health Director

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Dear Board of Supervisors,

I have noticed that your agenda for the Board meeting of 2/21/2023 will include discussions about Dr. Theresa Cullen resuming her role as Pima County Health Director.

We all know that the Covid pandemic was a nearly unprecedented event that had a negative impact on so many of us. To make it all the more difficult, it was politicized, painful, and divisive for the people of our County, and our Country. I'm close with people who strongly stand on opposing sides of that argument, and have no desire to politicize this letter I am now writing you.

However, having learned a great deal about Dr. Cullen's decades of public health service, experience, and national recognition of her achievements, it is very clear that it was politics, and not lack of qualification that was the force behind the Arizona Senate Nomination Committee hearing, and the votes that split exactly by party line. With Dr. Cullen's resume, and with the support she has from the local medical community, it's just astonishing to me that the divisive State level environment was such that Dr. Cullen withdrew her application before it went to the full Senate, and if the news is to be believed, against the requests of the Governor, and in spite of the encouragement of those who really know what performing that role takes.

So now, Pima County has the opportunity to have Dr. Cullen remain in the role of Health Director, and that decision is in your hands. As I understand it, the County has just secured a sizable grant to fight the opioid crisis, there are medical care inequities to be addressed and a list of priorities that the pandemic forced to the back burner. You'd be very hard-pressed to find anyone as qualified as Dr. Cullen, or anyone who has developed such effective working relationships and the ability to get things done that she has. The State's loss is Pima County's gain.

Please vote to reinstall Dr. Cullen as our county's Health Director. Let's move our County forward with the strongest, most experienced leadership possible. Let skill, experience, knowledge, and dedication - and not politics - lead your votes.

Kind Regards,

Patricia McCarthy Howard
2421 E. 7th Street
Tucson, AZ
[REDACTED]



FEB 17 2023 02:49:30 CLK OF 80