



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270
February 4, 2020

Board Members Present

Shane Gorder – Commissioner
Ray Trumpower
Terry Meldahl
Loren Young- Commissioner
Kari Johnson

Advisory Members Present

Deb Gilbert
Brittney Petersen
Jacquelyn Free-Health Officer
Julie Brodhead
Heidi Moran – Recording Secretary
John Dynneson
Jeff Hintz
Stephanie Ler-Sanitarian

Board Members Absent

Melissa Boyer
Duane Mitchell – Commissioner

Advisory Member Absent

Janet Christoffersen

Guest: Kathy Helmuth, RCHD

2:00 PM Loren Young called the meeting to order.

Reviewed Agenda: The agenda was approved. Terry Meldahl made a motion to approve the agenda and Shane Gorder 2nd the motion.

Minutes: The January minutes were approved. Shane Gorder made a motion to approve the January minutes, Loren Young 2nd the motion.

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn Free had nothing to report.

Health Department Administration Report: Brittney Petersen reviewed the Richland County Health Department (RCHD) Public Health All Hazards Plan and updated the Board of Health on the new information that was added to the plan for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. She also reported on RCHD's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). RCHD reviewed alternative locations and stated the old fire hall is a top choice due to the availability of a generator. The Board discussed whether or not RCHD had considered IT needs and the need for the plan to include operations without IT.

Communicable Disease report for Richland County as of February 4, 2020:

5 Chlamydia
1 Pertussis
2 Hep C
1 LTB
1 Gonorrhea

1 Crypto
1 Malaria
3 Dog Bites (1 person not from our County but dog is)

2020 Richland County INFLUENZA Season: as of 2/3

75 flu cases (4 hospitalization and 1 death), the highest rates are in age groups 0-18yrs old = 41 positives and 25 to 65 year olds = 25 positives. 18 out of the 75 flu cases had the flu shot. There has been 29 people who have been given Tamiflu. 57 are Flu B

For the State: As of January 25, 2020 there are 3,042 cases, 148 hospitalizations, and 1 death in MT.

For the Nation: As of January 25, 2020 there are 19 million cases, 180 hospitalizations, and 10,000 deaths.

2/3/2020 HAN was sent out about the Coronavirus (which was an update on the Jan 13th about the pneumonia of unknown etiology PUE)

Screening concerns currently focus around those that have traveled to mainland China in the last 14 days. Questions such as: Does the person have fever or symptoms of lower respiratory infection, such as cough or shortness of breath? AND • has the patient traveled to mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset? OR • has the patient had close contact¹ with a person confirmed with 2019-nCoV infection?

Coronavirus Worldwide: As of February 4, 2020, there has been 20,000 cases, 427 deaths, 781 have recovered and is at a 2% death rate.

Coronavirus U.S.: As of February 4, 2020 there has been 11 positive cases, 167 negative cases, and 82 tests are pending.

The Richland County Epi Team has been working on a message for the general public and they will be meeting with Sidney Health Center to make sure we are coordinating and sharing the same information should a coronavirus case occur in Richland County. Julie sends HAN alerts to White Drug Pharmacy about the coronavirus and all the pharmacists are aware of what is going on. Kathy visits with them regularly too and we are confident that the corporate office keeps Whit Drug updated. We sent the updated call down list for RCHD to Dispatch on 1/31/2020 for 24/7 after hours contact.

Emergency Preparedness:

Three capability assessments are due in Quarter 3: #10 Medical Surge, #11 Non-pharmaceutical interventions, and #15 Volunteer Management. Julie will seek out partners to assist. These are overall assessments of how well our county does in performing preparedness and response actions. Each completed assessment will be reviewed and RCHD will develop a "work plan" looking at the priority requirements in the capabilities and list out what RCHD needs to address first within our scope. In the near future, a list of the remaining requirements and a plan will be created to work with local entities to improve these areas.

Julie and Brittney will review the communicable disease response plan and policies prior to next BOH meeting and give updates as needed then have the DPHHS required checklist signed off. The COOP plan will be updated with the suggested information today. Julie partook in the LAB Webinar which gives guidance in updating and evaluating the Lab Sample Packaging and Transport Plan; the plan and the checklist need to be reviewed with LEPC and signed off with the health officer next month.

Julie/RCHD will be hosting a Business Continuity Planning training on April 21, for free. She is hoping to get at least 20 to register, information will be sent to everyone again. Please pass on and or register.

Program Report: MCH and Immunizations:

Kathy Helmuth, RN MCH/IZ reported that she spoke with Lennie at Billings Licensers and he is aware of the issue concerning the Childcare facility in Lambert and will be doing a surprise visit there. Kathy reported that through the Maternal Child Health Block Grant (MCH), she learned that other counties were able to get Office of Public Assistance (SNAP and Medicaid) back a few days a week in their communities. She is working with the hospital to get someone here every other week. She also reported that there is still a Shingrix shortage, though Sidney Health Center plans to host quarterly clinics. The first will be February 12th from 9AM to 6PM. They will refer people back to their primary provider. RCHD gave out 139 Shingrix shots in 2019. She said school immunization reports hadn't changed much, and two schools in Richland County have double digit religious exemptions, though we are still lower than the state average exemption rate. Kathy also reported that she still handles FICMR (Fetal, Infant, Child, Mortality Review), where they review deaths in Richland County residents aged 21 and younger.

Sanitarian Report:

Stephanie said the state had released the final school health rules that included lead testing in water systems. She had previously submitted comments on the proposed rules because the testing was not scientifically backed. Stephanie handed out a document that compared the original proposal, her comments, and what finally came out in the new rules. She informed the board that she was working on a junk vehicle compliance case where a neighbor complained about the junk vehicles in the next lot. The letters were passed around. The property owner did meet his first compliance deadline, and now will have to choose how he will mitigate the problem. There were questions about whether the City versus County should be addressing junk vehicle in City limits. Stephanie said she is tasked with the investigation through state law.

County Attorney Report: absent

Old Business: Deb asked if the radon test kits through RCHD are free. Stephanie said yes, they test kits, testing and even postage are paid for.

New Business: Shane asked whether the Board materials needed to be mailed. He was concerned about the cost of postage. He asked that a survey be sent to Board members and advisory members to determine if we needed to send out paper copies.

Public Comment: None

Ray motioned to adjourn at 3:17pm.

Next meeting: March 10, 2020 at 2 PM

Duane Mitchell, Commissioner

Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary