



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270  
April 14, 2020

Advisory Members Present

Brittney Petersen  
\* Deb Gilbert  
Julie Brodhead  
\* Jeff Hintz  
Stephanie Ler-Santarian  
Heidi Moran – Recording Secretary  
\* Janet Christoffersen  
\* Jacquelyn Free-Health Officer  
\* John Dynneson

Advisory Member Absent

Board Members Present

\* Duane Mitchell – Commissioner  
\* Shane Gorder – Commissioner  
\* Ray Trumpower  
\* Malissa Boyer  
\* Loren Young-Commissioner  
\* Kari Johnson

Board Members Absent

Terry Meldahl

Guest: Jacklyn Damm, RCHD

\* indicates who was present by phone

2:00 PM Duane Mitchell called the meeting to order.

Reviewed Agenda: The agenda was approved. Shane Gorder made a motion to approve the agenda and Loren Young 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved as read. Ray Trumpower made a motion to approve the March minutes, Shane Gorder 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn reported that she is still actively testing for COVID-19 and Richland County has 3 positive cases. She advises people to stay at home and only go out when you need essential services and to wear a mask. Jacquelyn was wondering where you could get masks and Melissa said that the Foundation for Community Care was just a place people could drop off masks for the hospital. It was mentioned to look on Facebook to see who was making masks and Brittney mentioned the AmeriCorps members where making masks.

Program Report: Chronic Disease:

Jacklyn Damm reported for chronic disease. She mentioned that the Governors Vape Ban of emergency administrative rules that temporarily restricted the sale of flavored vape products.

Began December 18, 2019, for a 120 day period, ending April 15, 2020. This includes all the flavors including menthol, for self-loading vapes and prefilled cartridges. The FDA Vape Ban enforcement will not take effect until 30 days from the publication notice of their guidance in the Federal register. That date is February 6, 2020. This ban does not include menthol flavor and is only for cartridges. As of April 14, 2020 there was no update.

Jacklyn also reported on the Tobacco 21 the new federal law that raised the minimum age of sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21 years of age on December 20, 2019. The delays the age of initiation to prevent a lifetime of addiction: 1) virtually all (95%) of adult smokers had their first cigarette before turning 21. Individuals who start smoking at younger ages are more likely to smoke as adults, and are also among the heaviest users. 2) With Tobacco 21, smoking initiation would be reduced by 25% for 15 to 17 year olds and 15% to 18 to 20 year olds.

Health Department Administration Report: Brittney Petersen reported that Louisa Amos started March 23, 2020 and is the coordinator of the Drug Free Community Grant. She mentioned that Kali is continuously working on the AmeriCorps Grant and has three new host sites: Fort Peck, Roosevelt County, and Dawson Health Department. She mentioned that Jessica, with RSVP, is working on renewing her grant that is due end of April.

Brittney said she has been sending out updated/overview emails of COVID-19 weekly to the Board of Health.

The BOH order and the Resolution both expired on Friday April 10, 2020. Shane Gorder made a motion to have Janet align the County Resolution and BOH Order to allow for them to be more easily extended or shortened at the vote of the Board. In addition, Janet will send the draft BOH Order to the Board for review and comments. Loren Young 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The members for the motion are: Terry, Loren, Shane, Melissa, Kari and Ray. Duane opposed the motion.

Communicable Disease report for Richland County as of April 13, 2020:

15 Chlamydia

1 Pertussis

3 Hep C

2 LTB

1 Gonorrhea

1 Crypto

1 Malaria

5 Dog Bites (1 person not from our County but dog is)

1 Ecoli

The schools have had kids out with flu like symptoms.

4 RSV (at Nursing Home)

1 Strep Pneumonia hospitalized)

1 Hep A (still investigating)

3 COVID-19 (domestic travel, close contact, and still being determined)

**2019-2020 Richland County INFLUENZA Season:**

**4/13/2020: 137** flu cases (7 hospitalization and 1 death), the highest rates are in age groups 0-18yrs old = 75 positives; 25 to 65 year old = 46 positives. 28 out of the 137 flu cases had their flu shot. There have been 43 people who have been given Tamiflu. 82 are Flu B, 53 Flu A, 1 was a suspect case so not tested, 1 was not typed,  
**For the State:** As of March 28, 2020: 11,158 cases, 488 hospitalizations, and 16 deaths in MT.  
**For the Nation:** As of April 4, 2020: CDC estimates: 39 million cases, 410,000 hospitalizations, and 24,000 deaths.

**1/13/2020 First HAN Outbreak of Pneumonia of Unknown Etiology (PUE) in Wuhan, China.** There has been 16 HANs since then. RCHD EPI has been listening in weekly to MT DPHHS calls on planning and guidance for health dept response and management.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worldwide:** As of 4/13/2020: 1978,769 cases, 125,196 deaths.  
**COVID-19 U.S.:** As of 4/13/2020: 598,670 positive cases, 25,239 deaths, 2,973,208 tested  
**4/13/2020 COVID-19 update- MT** there is 399 cases, 7 deaths, 9,270 tested, 24 hospitalized. 197 recovered. **ND** -there is 341 cases, 9 deaths, 10,916 tested and 13 hospitalized. 138 recovered

The Richland County Epi Team Activated their emergency Operations Center on 3/13/20. Epi team continued to meet daily for response actions and full ICS Team held weekly meetings. RCHD sits in on various conf calls with State, DPHHS, Local Health Dept, AMPHO, MAPHA and DES. RCHD has had meetings with schools in person and by phone, has talked to the Gov Affairs group by conf call, and has continued conversations with SHC. We have followed the Governors press conferences. Unified command setup with DES, RCHD, & SHC to talk weekly. All our messaging is gathered and available on the county website <http://www.richland.org/rchd>. We Articles have been in the papers and continued updates posted to Dept Facebook page. We continue to develop messages for the general public and coordinate with Sidney Health Center in sharing the same information as we have identified 3 cases in our County as of 4/7/2020. Follow up phone calls with individual positive cases to determine and identify close contacts can be several and last between 15 min to 45 min to trace back activities and collect information. RCHD keeps in contact with positive cases and those named close contacts to monitor symptoms and assure that they maintain the guidance to stay home and self-isolate. RCHD stays in contact with State Epi for guidance and we continue have the information line that people are encouraged to call with questions & this is available 24/7. Our PIO has been able to address questions from the public as quickly as the concern is identified.

***Emergency Preparedness:***

Julie is still working on the deliverables even though the due date got pushed back. Three capability assessments are due in Quarter 3: #10 Medical Surge, #11 Non-pharmaceutical interventions, and #15 Volunteer Management. MTDPHHS did push out deliverables to be done specifically for the COVID response by health departments. The ICS Team will review the various RCHD plans that have been activated in this response process. We will note updates as needed during these reviews.

MEETINGS

The Rabies Management Training in Miles City on April 23, 2020 from 9:30 am to 4 pm at the Sleep Inn has been postponed.

The Business Continuity Planning training for April 21, has been postponed.

Sanitarian Report:

Stephanie reported that she has been managing all the Communications for COVID-19.

County Attorney Report: Janet mentioned that Brittney, and Stephanie have been great to work with.

Old Business: None

New Business: Shane asked how information of COVID-19 is being updated and shared. Stephanie has been submitting information to the Roundup. She noted that the Sidney Herald does not always publish what is submitted. RCHD Epi team participated on calls with the the state health department, follow the Governor's press conferences and releases, and Brittney talks weekly with Jen Doty, and Deb Gilbert via Unified Command about goals, a coordinated response and what each organization is responsible for.

Public Comment: None

Shane Gorder motioned to adjourn at 3:05 pm.

Next meeting: May 12, 2020 at 2 PM

  
Duane Mitchell, Commissioner

  
Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary