



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270  
June 22, 2020

Advisory Members Present

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

Advisory Member Absent

Jeff Hintz

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Guest: Joe White (RCHD/CIA Corps), \*Jamie Larson (Fair Manager), \*Josie (Extension Office)

\* indicates who was present by phone

2:35 PM Duane Mitchell called the meeting to order.

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

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn reported that there five new COVID-19 cases in Richland County. One individual is hospitalized and the others are isolating and recovering at home. SHC is testing both asymptomatic and symptomatic people. Jacquelyn tested 31 staff and residents at ROI and she got all the testing swabs from Sidney Health Center. John mentioned that inmates will not be tested at this time, unless they are being seen at the hospital. Julie mentioned that there have been over 500 tests done since COVID-19 started.

COVID-19 Update and Discussion: Brittney reported that we will continue to share the following messages with the community: stay home if sick, monitor symptoms, wash hands, limit close contacts, wear a mask, and social distance. Brittney briefly recapped the discussion from the last Board of Health meeting concerning the Fair Board's plan for the Fair in Phase 2 and the

Department's response. Brittny mentioned she would like to hear from all Board of Health and Advisory members on what they think is important to the long term recovery of our community. She reminded the group that the role of our Board is to protect the health of our community. The long term recovery examples shared included ensuring that businesses can stay open and that school can be in-person this fall. We have had 2 large events in the past several weeks – a funeral and a derby – and social distancing was not followed well at either event in the grand stands. Both events had plans to adhere to the guidelines of Phase 2. Jamie mentioned that there were over 2000 people at the derby and there was very little social distancing in the main grand stands. The organizers had a great plan on paper but it did not go as planned.

Board and Advisory Members discussed the Fair in terms of the impact to the community's health. Sheriff Dynneson asked why Richland County would want to host a large event that could cause substantial spread in our community. More spread could put staff in harm's way, overwhelm the hospital, and impact needed services in our economy. Melissa said she agreed with Sheriff Dynneson and that he hit on every point. Jacquelyn's concerns are the number of people that will be coming to our fair from different places could increase the risk for a potential outbreak in our community. Jamie met with the Commissioners on June 15 to discuss the financial aspect and options for the Fair. Jamie needs to know by July 1, 2020 if there will be a fair or not.

Melissa made a motion that the Board of Health of Richland County recommend not having a Richland County Fair and Rodeo this year and Ray 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was discussion about other upcoming events that are planned and some organizers are wondering if the Fair is still on to help decide if they should hold their event. There was brief discussion whether all large Richland County events need to be cancelled if the Fair is cancelled this year. Additional discussion included whether the Board should consider waiting on a recommendation until next week. Jamie mentioned that the Fair Board will also be making a recommendation to the Commissioners. Commissioner Mitchell stated that the Commissioners are the final decision makers regarding the Fair. The Board of Health can only provide a recommendation. When votes were made for the motion Melissa, Karl, Ray and Terry voted for the recommendation, Duane voted against the recommendation, and Shane and Loren voted abstained. The motion passed 4 to 1 with 2 abstained.

Josie spoke on 4-H and she mentioned there is a plan in place and it allows social distancing and sanitation. The 4-H leaders are aware this will be more work. Shane and the other MACO Board of Directors have a one hour meeting with the Governor this Wednesday and hope to get a sense of direction of how we can open Montana more. Shane asked if anyone had any questions that they would like included in this meeting. The group recommended the following:

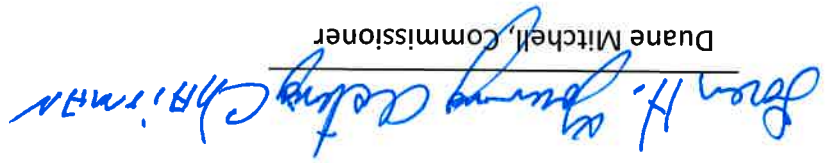
- What steps can we take to open Richland County up?
- What are the options to conduct more testing in Montana counties?

- If there are more cases will we go back to phase 1?
- What is the percentage of testing that needs to be done versus the number of cases to make a decision to open up completely?

Public Comment: Deb from DES mentioned that she has cloth face masks and KN95 masks at her office. She has reached out to the schools and other places to let them know she has these. It was also mentioned that we need to go back to only having BOH once a month on the normal scheduled date unless something big comes up.

Loren Young motioned to adjourn at 3:45 pm.

Next meeting: July 14, 2020 at 2 PM

  
 Loren H. Young Acting Chairman

Duane Mitchell, Commissioner

Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary

