



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270

July 14, 2020

Board Members Present
Shane Gorder – Commissioner
Loren Young- Commissioner
*Ray Trumpower
Melissa Boyer
*Kari Johnson

Advisory Members Present
Jacquelyn Free-Health Officer
Brittney Petersen
Julie Brodhead
*John Dynneson
*Janet Christoffersen
Heidi Moran – Recording
Secretary

Board Members Absent
Duane Mitchell – Commissioner
Terry Meldahl

Advisory Member Absent
Jeff Hintz
Stephanie Ler-Sanitarian
Deb Gilbert

Guest: * Brent Sukut, Sidney Public Schools

* indicates who was present by phone

2:05 PM Loren Young called the meeting to order.

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

Minutes: The June 1st, June 8th, and June 22nd minutes were approved as read. Shane Gorder made a motion to approve all the June minutes, Melissa Boyer 2nd the motion.

Health Department Administration Report:

Brittney reported that DPHHS proposed a rule to eliminate the sale of flavored e-cigarettes to persons in MT. They are using the term electronic smoking device instead of vapor product and the enforcement would be the same as the current tobacco protections such as the Clean Indoor Air Act via inspection and complaints. The proposed rule is more comprehensive than the FDA guidelines in that this rule applies with equal force to the closed and open system and covers the flavor of menthol. The Public Hearing will be via conference call on July 16 at 3 pm and public comments will be accepted in writing up until July 24th. Melissa made a motion to

authorize the Health Department to make comments and Shane 2nd the motion. Britney will ask Jacklyn Damm to do this.

AmeriCorps members are wrapping up their projects and sadly have begun to depart. A few will be staying for a second year.

The Richland County Health Department is exploring and planning to do a drive thru flu clinic this year. Health Department staff met with Larry Christensen and Kale Rasmussen to discuss options, challenges, and feasibility in doing it over at the fire hall. The purpose of a drive thru clinic would be to avoid a large gathering of individuals at the Health Department and an opportunity to try something new.

Britney reported on RCHD COVID-19 Response Activities, specifically the staff time spent from May 11 through July 13, 2020.

Number of Information Line calls: Over 247 calls

Average call time: 7-9 minutes (approximately 37 hours of calls; total for pandemic: 71 hours)

RCHD staff receive notification of all residents tested for COVID-19. Staff make at minimum 2 follow-up calls: 1 call when the person is tested, and another when test results are received. This includes out of state residents tested in Richland County, as well as Richland County residents tested out of state or out of county.

Number of follow-up calls to tests: approximately 638

Average call time: 15-20 minutes (approximately 213 hours of calls; total for pandemic: 320 hours)

RCHD staff follow-up with individuals who have tested positive to determine close contacts and to monitor health status. Number calls to 27 positive cases and their contacts, including those who do not meet the criteria to be considered exposed (also known as contact tracing): Approximately 400, plus daily health status checks

Call time can be upwards of one hour (more than 410 hours of calls; total for pandemic: 489 hours, plus daily health status checks)

The average reach of our messages on Facebook is 5044 individuals. Facebook is the only communications metric we have available to track.

Lessons learned:

Quarantine is an effective method to reduce the spread of COVID-19 because it reduces the number of close contacts when an exposed person becomes positive.

Residents could be doing more to stop the spread of COVID-19, particularly by staying home when sick.

Businesses could be better prepared to handle a case or exposure, particularly by planning for the potential, temporary reduction in staff due to isolation and quarantine.

RCHD conducted a staff survey regarding the implementation of the RCHD Continuity of Operations Plan (COP) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was conducted through mid-June, prior to the most recent surge of positive cases. The COP plan was sufficient to continue operations. One area identified for improvement was in succession planning. 41% (9/22) of staff have not considered who will complete their job tasks should they not be available.

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

- 17 Chlamydia
- 1 Pertussis
- 3 Hep C Chronic (not 3 as one was a known case)
- 3 LTB (no one on meds)
- 1 HIV
- 1 Gonorrhea
- 1 Crypto
- 1 Malaria
- 16 Dog Bites (1 person not from our County but dog is)
- 1 Cat Bite
- 1 Ecoli (#2 under investigation as of 5/1)
- 1 salmonella
- 1 Strep Pneumonia

30 COVID-19 (domestic & outdo state travel, close contact, and still being determined)

We have monitored up to 70 plus people over the last 2 ½ weeks and now we have dropped to about 50 as of yesterday. (This means doing daily phone calls or texting to check on them for symptoms and follow up on testing needs)

2019-2020 Richland County INFLUENZA Season:

June 1, 2020 it ended. The State has not updated or got the report out yet.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worldwide: Johns Hopkins Map:

World-Wide: 7/13/2020 12,995,037 cases; 570,435 deaths; 7,157,634 recovered

COVID-19 U.S.: 7/13/2020 3,346,246 cases, 135,477 deaths, 1,006,326 recovered

COVID-19 MT: - 7/13/2020 1,843 cases, 32 deaths, 133 hospitalizations, 875 recovered, 936 active cases

COVID-19 ND – 7/13/2020 4,442 cases 87 deaths, 277 hospitalizations, 3,653 recovered

Emergency Preparedness:

4th Quarter Deliverables due 7/15 the Pandemic Flu Plan draft will be submitted along with Capabilities #8 (Medical Countermeasure Dispensing and Administration) and #9(Medical

Material Management & Distribution). MT DPHHS has sent out deliverables to be done specifically for the COVID response by health departments; the first set is due Sept 30th

RCHD continues working on response to positive cases and named contacts – always asking ourselves what can we improve? We have trained staff to contact tracing phone calls to those exposed.

Review of the Cluster map video by Joe White, AmeriCorps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNrzMvQMKGs&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2rsMujCOAtkwPmskRivctfs5D-gnWwh4gadOs1G1hUgF0rb5L6asyS3bs>

Jessica Gilbert will be working with the representative to set up the Business Continuity Training Course which would be 2 ½ days done virtually (where people can participate in their own location or maybe RCHD could host some at our conference room to do together.)

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn reported that there is an uptick in cases. She mentioned we should be using common sense and to push that message. Like wash your hands, stay at home when sick, social distance and wear a mask. She has got calls from nurses from bigger companies that have their own nurses. Julie did mention that they do share the address with dispatch of the people who have COVID.

Sanitarian Report:

DPHHS offered an amendment to the Cooperative Agreement under which the Department is paid for health inspections of licensed facilities. Given the restrictions on businesses and ability to work with the public, DPHHS offered payment for COVID-related activities, which will be reported each quarter, as well as payment per inspection as outlined in the original agreement. This simply ensures payment during the pandemic.

County Attorney Report: Janet mentioned that the Governor will be have a press conference tomorrow about masks.

Old Business: Brent Sukut spoke on what they are looking at to restart school. He said they have 3 possible scenarios outlined: 1) full capacity, 2) 50% capacity and 3) all remote. He said they are using an Oregon school plan to flesh out the details and will go over the plan with Health Department once they have a draft. Brent said that they are looking into additional bus routes and wearing masks on the buses. Nothing has been decided about Fall sports.


New Business: Shane asked if anyone had heard how the mass testing went in Dawson County. Britney mentioned she talked to Timber and they only tested 315 people and they had 21 nation guard, 6 health department staff and 6 RNs to run the clinic. It will take 12 days for asymptomatic test results to come back and most symptomatic test results are back. Shane spoke on the sit down meeting between MACO and Governor staffers that was held in Helena on June 25, 2020. Shane and other MACO representatives spoke on behalf of schools, senior centers, nursing home visitations and testing criteria. He asked what more counties could be

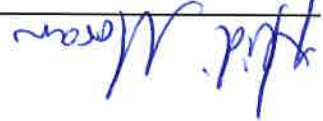
doing to open up MT and give more control to local government. He left the letter that outlined the questions and comments with Brittny.

Public Comment: None

Shane Gorder motioned to adjourn at 3:20 pm.

Next meeting: August 11, 2020 at 2:00 PM


Duane Mitchell, Commissioner


Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary

