



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270  
August 11, 2020

Board Members Present  
Shane Gorder – Commissioner  
Duane Mitchell – Commissioner  
Terry Meldahl  
\*Ray Trumpower  
\*Kari Johnson

Advisory Members Present  
Stephanie Ler-Sanitarian  
Deb Gilbert  
Julie Brodhead  
\*John Dynneson  
Heidi Moran –Recording  
Secretary

Board Members Absent  
Melissa Boyer  
Loren Young- Commissioner

Advisory Member Absent  
Jeff Hintz  
Brittney Petersen  
Janet Christoffersen  
Jacquelyn Free-Health Officer

Guest: \* Brent Sukut, Sidney Public Schools, Kathy Helmuth (RCHD)

\* indicates who was present by phone

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

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

*Minutes:* The July 14, 2020 minutes were approved as read. Shane Gorder made a motion to approve the July minutes, Kari Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Health Department Administration Report:

Stephanie Ler reported for Brittney Petersen-

***Follow-up to Proposed Rule to Ban the sale of Flavored Vaping Products***

Jackie submitted our letter with signatures from Board Members and our health officer in support of the proposed rule to eliminate the sale of flavored e-cigarettes to persons in MT on July 23, 2020.

The public hearing on July 16 had great attendance and support from national organizations. Most recently, the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee received objections to the proposed rule from 20 legislators, which by law, triggers a poll of the legislature. If the majority of members of both houses determine that the proposed rule is contrary to the intent of the legislature, this proposed rule must be conclusively presumed to be contrary to the legislative intent in any court proceeding involving its soundness.

DPHHS submitted their response to the objection indicating that the committee objecting (Economic Affairs Interim Committee) does not have the authority to object because the statute states that the "appropriate administrative rule review committee," with "committee" being defined as the appropriate committee assigned subject matter jurisdiction.

So far, there is not any additional information about the poll of members of the legislature. Jackie will continue to participate in calls, the next one is tomorrow, August 12, to learn more about next steps for this proposed rule.

### **Mass Flu Clinic**

As an update to from the July meeting, RCHD staff continue to explore the feasibility of doing a drive thru flu clinic this year. We have started discussions with Larry and Kale at the Fire Hall and have begun internal preparations. As our ICS team continues to meet and plan, we will decide the best plan to move forward taking into consideration staff and volunteers needed and ease of use and safety for the community to receive their flu shots this year.

### **Work with Schools**

Health Department staff hosted a call with school superintendents on July 22 to answer questions, outline a draft process for when a student tests positive for COVID-19, including how the health department, schools, and parents should work together, and allow time for superintendents to share ideas with one another on individual school plans. As follow-up to the call, RCHD developed a Consideration for Schools document that outlined common terms and scenarios discussed on the call. Both this document and notes were shared with superintendents. In addition, RCHD developed a more detailed flow chart for when there is a student that tests positive for COVID-19. This process outlines the steps for the health department and identifies communication points between the schools, parents and RCHD. This will be shared with the superintendents of each school.

Health Officer Report: Stephanie Ler reported for Jacquelyn Free, FNP - In regards to the meeting today, there is nothing new from my end. I continue to encourage mask/face covering use if you are unable to physically distance. Now is not the time to become complacent. I have been working with East Fairview School, which falls under the Upper Missouri District Health Unit, with a safe re-opening plan. Daphne Clark is my contact person there and will be notified

should any cases develop during the school year since that is North Dakota. She will remove the burden from our health department for contact tracing should this occur.

Sidney, Fairview, Savage and Lambert have been working on their reopening plans. Flu season will be off and running come this fall and differentiating between that and COVID19 will come down to testing. Again, reminding people that are ill to stay home is of utmost importance.

Sidney Health Center will continue to require masks upon entrance into the hospital. There are new temperature scanners placed there and at Mondak Clinic. Remember other diseases still continue to exist, so do not have tunnel vision. Will see you next meeting.

Communicable Disease report for Richland County as of August 11, 2020.

- 20 Chlamydia
- 1 Pertussis
- 3 Hep C Chronic
- 3 TB (no one on meds)
- 1 HIV
- 1 Gonorrhea
- 1 Crypto
- 1 Malaria
- 18 Dog/Cat Bites
- 1 Ecoli (#2 under investigation as of 5/1)
- 1 salmonella
- 1 Strep Pneumonia

48 COVID-19 (domestic & out of state travel, close contact, gatherings such as weddings, celebrations, and still 1 being determined) 2 deaths  
We have monitored up to 70 plus people over the last month and now we have dropped maybe to 20 as of today. (This means doing daily phone calls or texting to check on them for symptoms and follow up on testing needs)

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

**World-Wide: 7/13/2020** 12,995,037 cases; 570,435 deaths; 7,157,634 recovered  
**8/11/2020** 20,152,405 cases, 737,986 deaths, 12,387,644 recovered

**COVID-19 U.S.: 7/13/2020** 3,346,246 cases, 135,477 deaths, 1,006,326 recovered  
**8/11/2020** 5,113,906 cases, 164,101 deaths, 1,670,705 recovered

**COVID-19 MT: - 7/13/2020** 1,843 cases, 32 deaths, 133 hospitalizations, 875 recovered,  
**8/11/2020** 5,104 cases (1,485 active) 77 deaths, 276 hospitalizations with 77 current, 3,542 rec

**COVID-19 ND - 7/13/2020** 4,442 cases 87 deaths, 277 hospitalizations, 3,653 recovered  
**8/11/2020** 7,885 cases, (1,099 active) 118 deaths, 430 hospitalizations with 55 current, 6,668 rec

Emergency Preparedness:

1st Quarter Deliverables due 10/15 include chempack update, training planning & exercise workshop to plan with partners on addressing identified area to work on? Any ideas.

Gap assessment workbook to address the capabilities from last year, truck wreck protocol review, volunteer registry training was done - new program for state to have health professionals sign up state wide - includes read

information, <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/phep/htmas>

MT DPHHS has sent out deliverables to be done specifically for the COVID response by health departments; the first set is due Sept 30<sup>th</sup>

Eastern Regional Healthcare Coalition HCC Executive Committee Thu Sep 17, 2020 12:30pm – 4pm (MDT) conference call

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.

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.)

Sanitarian Report:

Stephanie Ler reported that she has extended the Dawson County Sanitarian contract to September 30, 2020.

County Attorney Report: Absent

Old Business: It was mentioned that a small amount of cases came out the mass testing in Dawson County.

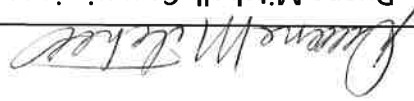
New Business: Deb Gilbert spoke about the PPE Cache that each county will be given and would be managed by DES. Deb has already contacted the Sidney Fire Department to store the PPE Cache there. This PPE Cache is to be used for emergency use by Fire/Law enforcement/EMS/local Public Health offices or to provide backfill in the event of a surge/overload of supply chains.

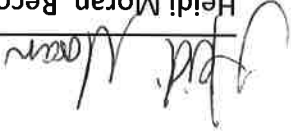
Brent Sukut updated the board on the schools have received funds from the CARES ACT (\$120,000) and the COVID Relief fund (\$500,000). The school has purchased 650 chrome books to be used if off-site learning is put in place. Fall activities will start as normal.

Public Comment: None

Terry Meldahl motioned to adjourn at 2:45 pm.

Next meeting: September 8, 2020 at 2:00 PM

  
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Duane Mitchell, Commissioner

  
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Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary

