



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270
February 8, 2022

Board Members Present

Shane Gorder
Loren Young
Kari Johnson
Melissa Boyer
Ray Trumpower

Advisory Members Present

Brittney Petersen
Jacquelyn Free A
Julie Brodhead
Stephanie Ler
Heidi Moran
Brandon Roth

Board Members Absent

Duane Mitchell
Terry Meldahl

Advisory Members Absent

John Dynneson
Janet Christoffersen
Jeff Hintz

Guests: Jaylea Siroky, Drug Free Communities

2:00 PM Shane Gorder called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

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

Minutes: The January 11, 2022 minutes were approved with no changes. Melissa Boyer made a motion to approve the January minutes with no changes, Loren Young 2nd the motion.

Health Department Administrator Report

General Health Department Updates –

- Brittney reported that Hypertension classes have started. This is an 8-week class that teaches individuals to manage hypertension by focusing on nutrition, physical activity, stress management and more. Heather Nevins is leading this class which started on February 3, 2022. There are 2 class times at Noon and 5:15 pm. Individuals can still join after week one.
- Brittney reported that RCHD received over 2,000 COVID-19 home test kits from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. RCHD will host a COVID-19 home test kit distribution on February 11th from 12 - 3 at the Events Center Parking lot. There will be no active testing at this site and every household is eligible to receive one

test kit. RCHD will provide test kits to Crestwood, Commission on Aging, Richland County Housing Authority, Savage Manor, and the jail. Commissioner Gorder suggested that RCHD give test kits to the Senior Centers in Richland County if any are remaining after February 11th.

- RCHD will no longer be providing return to work or school documentation for COVID-19 isolation and quarantine beginning February 12th.

Program Report – Jaylea Siroky, Drug Free Communities (DFC)

Jaylea reported on the highlights the DFC has accomplished in the last 6 months:

- DFC partnered with several community organizations during Red Ribbon Week to provide relevant materials for students in all nine Richland County Schools. With Pella Lutheran Church as the lead, Supaman spoke to youth and the community about empowering and spreading the messages of hope, pride and resilience through his original art form.
- The DFC and Youth Outreach AmeriCorps worked to create a scavenger hunt around Sidney on October 30, 2021 and those that finished the hunt were encouraged to attend a free movie at the theatre that included a snack and drink.
- The DFC partnered with the DUI Taskforce to distribute information cards in holiday food boxes being given at the Boys and Girls Club (BGC) on December 15, 2021. Coalition members also spent time at BGC reading holiday stories and creating book marks with club members.
- On December 9, 2021 the DFC partnered with Sidney Police Department and Richland County Housing Authority to hold a cookie decorating party with youth and police officers.
- Each month the DFC and AmeriCorps plan 1-2 activities to engage youth at the Youth Center held at Faith Alliance on Fridays from 1-4.
- Before June, there was consistent engagement and representation from 4 of the 12 community sectors. Now, we have engagement from eight of the sectors and Jaylea has been working to fill the remaining sectors of media, healthcare, youth, and parent.
- Commissioner Gorder suggested that Jaylea connect with Nick Kallern to discuss opportunities to collaborate during the suicide prevention walk in September.
- Commissioner Gorder is working with the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) to bring Karl Rosston, the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, to Richland County to present on Suicide in Montana. Commissioner Gorder asked if Jaylea could help coordinate and advertise through the DFC.

Performance Management – Brittney had nothing to report.

Communicable Disease -Julie Brodhead, RN - New reporting year (2022 Jan 2- Dec 31, 2022)

- See Spreadsheet for Disease Reports
- Richland County Flu -56 for the year, 64 for the season, 7 hospitalizations

- MT State flu –2,876 cases, 80 hospitalizations, 1 death for season, week ending 1/29/2022; Lab reports show Influenza A state wide.

COVID -19 Cases for 2022:

- See Spreadsheet for COVID Comparisons from local to global level
- Richland: 2,567 cases, 30 deaths, (up 402 cases due to Omicron)
- Richland county had 4 people hospitalized since January 11th
- COVID cases for Richland County Schools as of 1-7-2022 is 139

Vaccinations

Vaccination for Richland County:

1/10/2022: 9,268 total given, 4,060 fully vaccinated, 4,311 with one dose

2/8/2022: 9,587 doses total given, 4,123 fully vaccinated = 40%; 4,384 with one dose

Vaccinations for State of MT:

1/10/2022: 1,348,068 doses given, 542,930 fully vaccinated = 53%

2/8/2022: 1,392,217 doses given, 55,056 fully vaccinated = 54%

Vaccinations for State of ND:

1/10/2022: 990,009 doses given. 59.9% with one dose, 57.1 fully vaccinated

2/7/2022: 1.02 million doses given. 64% with one dose, 54.1% fully vaccinated

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The following Quarter 3 deliverables are due April 15, 2022:

- After-Action report either on the COVID clinics or the mass flu clinic
- POD Box inventory
- Participate in a Public Health Law Training February 22th or February 24th
- Risk Communication Improvement Plan
- Checklist for Disease Protocols

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn Free had nothing to report.

Sanitarian Report: Stephanie handed out Richland vaccine uptake information for eligible Montanans by age group as of February 4, 2022. Stephanie spoke about the one license that she refused to validate, and will be sending out a letter and the business will have 30 days to appeal it.

County Attorney Report: Absent

Old Business: Commissioner Gorder shared that the individual seeking a license for a marijuana business in Richland County reached out to the Commissioners a second time requesting a

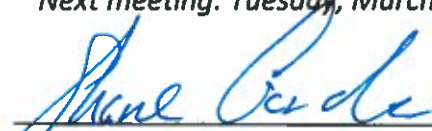
letter of approval for the business. The individual was acting on a requirement from the Montana Cannabis Control Division (CCD) within the Montana Department of Revenue. The Commissioners plan to engage both the County Civil Attorney and the County Attorney for review of this matter.

New Business: Commissioner Gorder received a call from a reporter in Fargo, North Dakota inquiring about the impact of the legalization of recreational marijuana in Richland County. Commissioner Gorder responded that it is too soon to tell, but shared concerns for the impact on law enforcement, schools, and overall mental health. Local jurisdictions may add an additional 3% tax on recreational marijuana. Richland County may include this on the June Primary Ballot.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn at 2:35 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm



Shane Gorder, Commissioner



Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary