



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270
February 14, 2023

Board Members Present

Loren Young
Shane Gorder
Duane Mitchell
Melissa Boyer
Ray Trumpower
Kari Johnson

Advisory Members Present

John Dynneson
Brittney Petersen
Julie Brodhead
Heidi Moran
Charity McLarty

Board Members Absent

Terry Meldahl

Advisory Members Absent

Jacquelyn Free
Brandon Roth
Stephanie Ler
Jeff Hintz

Guest

Jessica Gilbert, RCHD, Volunteers in Action Program

2:02 PM Loren Young called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

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

Minutes: The January 10, 2023, minutes were approved with no changes. Melissa Boyer made a motion to approve the January minutes with no changes, Ray Trumpower 2nd the motion.

Board and Advisory Member Update: Heidi reported that Loren Young's and Kari Johnson's 3-year term as a Board member is up and invited them to renew. They both agreed to serve as a Board member for 3 more years.

Health Department Administrator Report – Brittney Petersen

General Health Department Updates –

Brittney reported that our WIC program had our bi-annual monitoring visit on January 31, 2023. We scored in Tier 1, the highest of tiers thanks to the great work of Lesley Thiessen, our WIC Director. Richland County is the new lead agency for the WIC contract in Richland and Sheridan counties. The state is finalizing our task order for signature in the next few weeks. Loren asked

if RCHD would receive additional support to administer the program. Brittney said that she requested additional support but was told to request the increase after the first task order is signed.

RCHD is currently working on continuation grants for our Volunteers in Action program and Drug Free Communities to be submitted the beginning and middle of March.

Performance Management –

The quality improvement team is updating our Quality Improvement and Performance Management Plan and we continue to prepare to prepare for Reaccreditation.

Program Update – Volunteers in Action, Jessica Gilbert

Volunteers in Action serves the counties of Richland, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, and McCone. Jessica discussed the mission and benefits of Volunteers in Action and how the program makes a difference. For all the counties except for McCone, in 2022, there was a total of 453 volunteers which served 31,364 hours which saved \$939,352. She uses the National Volunteer Rate, \$29.95, to get the amount of dollars saved. The impact areas include access to care, behavioral health, capacity building, nutrition/food support, companionship, veterans services, and other community needs.

Communicable Disease -Julie Brodhead, RN - New reporting year (2023 Jan 1- Dec 31, 2023)

Report for Feb 14, 2023, meeting:

- Richland County Flu: **Season 2022-23 =207 cases with 13 hospitalized.** Our vaccination records search show only 18 of the 207 were vaccinated. Noted decrease in cases the last 3 weeks.
- Montana Cases: Season to date, 10,206 cases, 527 hospitalizations, and 16 deaths have been associated with influenza as Feb 4th.
- The Biden administration ended the monkeypox public health emergency on December 31, 2022.
- RCHD continues to serve as a hub for monkeypox vaccine for our region.
- School absenteeism reports over the last several weeks show moderate numbers of diarrhea, vomiting, sore throats, fever, colds.
- On January 30, President Biden announced the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration will end on May 11, 2023. You can read declaration as desired. We are not sure what this will look like for public health at this time.

COVID Vaccination Coverage:

Vaccination for Richland County: 2/10/2023: fully vaccinated = 38% *

State of MT: 2/10/2023: fully vaccinated = 53% *

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Grant year 2022-23 23rd Quarter deliverables due April 15th.

The following plans are to be reviewed 2022-23: Pandemic Influenza Plan, Communicable Disease Response Plan, Risk Communication plan, and Specimen Transport Plan.

RCHD will offer ICS 700, 800, 100 & 200 courses to all staff this spring. Board and Advisory Members are welcome to participate.

Eastern Healthcare Coalition will hold a 4-hr. virtual Medical Surge Exercise on Feb 15th. The quarterly meeting will be virtual on Feb 23, 2023.

Please remember to sign up for the **Emergency Notifications Via CodeRED**. Richland County now utilizes CodeRED as a system to alert residents and businesses during an emergency. This Mass-Notification system allows us to almost instantly alert large and specific areas of an emergency disaster, such as a HAZMAT emergency, town evacuation, Wildfire threat, contaminated water, etc. More information is available on the DES County website page: <https://www.richland.org/825/CodeRED-Emergency-Notification>

Health Officer Report: Brittney reported for Jacquelyn. Jacquelyn has seen an uptick in RSV and Strep throat. John Dynneson mentioned his appreciation for Jacquelyn's work at the detention center.

Sanitarian Report: None

County Attorney Report: Charity McLarty reported that they are seeing mental health, domestic violence, and an increase in DUI's.

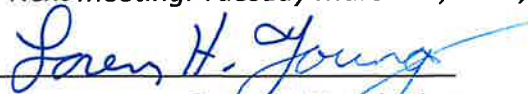
Old Business: None

New Business: Shane Gorder mentioned that they are watching House Bill 328 – Audio and Video Recording of certain public meetings.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn at 3:00 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 14, 2023, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm


Loren Young, Board of Health Chairman


Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary

