



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270
February 22, 2021

Board Members Present

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

Advisory Members Present

*Janet Christoffersen
Brittney Petersen
*Julie Brodhead
*John Dynneson
Stephanie Ler-Sanitarian
Heidi Moran –Recording Secretary
Jacquelyn Free, FNP

Board Members Absent

Kari Johnson

Advisory Member Absent

Jeff Hintz

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

* indicates who was present by phone

2:30 PM Duane Mitchell called the meeting to order.

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

Minutes: The January 12, 2021 minutes were approved. Terry Meldahl made a motion to approve January minutes, Shane Gorder 2nd the motion.

Board Member Update: Heidi reported that Duane Mitchell's, Ray Trumpower's and Melissa Boyer's 3-year term as a Board member is up. Shane Gorder made a motion to have them serve another 3-year term as a Board member, Terry Meldahl 2nd the motion.

Advisory Member Update: Brittney asked the Board if she could invite Brandon Roth, the new DES Director, to serve as an Advisory Member for the Board of Health. It was agreed upon that Brittney is to contact him and invite him.

Richland County Board of Health: Brittney asked the Board if the next 4 meetings could move to Monday's to allow for the Health Department to continue to have COVID Vaccine clinics on

Tuesday's. The new dates will be March 22nd, April 19th, May 17th, and June 21st. The time for these meetings will be 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Health Department Administration Report: Brittney reported that the new AmeriCorps Director, Stephanie Reynolds, has been working on services to continue recruitment, including working with Toole County on a pilot project. Brittney mentioned that the Drug Free Communities Grant (DFC) and Chronic Health Education Coordinator positions are still open. Brittney and the DFC AmeriCorps member have been working to keep the DFC grant moving forward, including the newest action group, Dry Society.

In-School Quarantine Policy: Brittney reviewed the current in-school quarantine guidance for quarantine and mask use in schools. This guidance has worked well and has kept kids in school. Some of the schools in Richland County have lifted mask mandates for schools. Sidney is keeping the guidance, Fairview has not used this since they can socially distance in the school, Lambert can socially distance in school, and Savage uses masks only when they can't socially distance. Shane wants the guidance to be rewritten but the schools in our county should be working on their own policies. Brent mentioned that they will keep using masks in Sidney since the teachers are not able to get vaccinated yet. He said that once the teachers can get the vaccination, they will review their mask policy. Brittney said she will take out the reference of Governor Bullock and update the guidance and email the new changes to the Board to look at before sending out the updated guidance.

Brent inquired when teachers and staff will be offered a COVID vaccine. Kathy mentioned that Montana is still in phase 1B of the vaccination plan and once we move to phase 1C teachers and school staff will be eligible to receive the vaccine. Kathy explained in detail how we request COVID vaccine and what it all entails to store, plan clinics, distribute, and complete data entry and billing for the vaccine. RCHD has hosted several onsite and offsite vaccine clinics at the Event Center. In January 2021 we did over 200 vaccinations and so far for February we have given over 700 vaccinations. RCHD maintains a list of interested individuals eligible for the vaccine in phase 1B for our county. Shane asked if we could move forward to phase 1C and get our teachers on the front line. He wants to know if we can talk to DPHHS and move forward with the phases for our county. Kathy shared that the state has made it clear that counties are not to move ahead to the next phase on their own. Every county will move forward together for as of right now. If a county moves ahead, the state may stop sending vaccine for distribution. Brent thanked us for what everyone has done and would like to get to next level so it is eligible for his staff and to work with the schools to get them vaccinated.

Performance Management: Brittney had no report.

Program Report: MCH will report at a future Board of Health meeting.

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn Free mentioned that her patients have been pleased with COVID Vaccine clinics at Event Center and she has encouraged patients to take vaccine when it is offered.

Jacquelyn raised a question about the "Smoke Shack" in Fairview whether the addition was for the sale of THC. She has heard of parents that have medicated their children with CBD products, which can be lethal for children.

Communicable Disease -Julie Brodhead

New reporting year (2021 Jan 3- Dec 31, 2021)

Report given on February 22, 2021

9 chlamydia

1 gonorrhea

4 Hep C (3 confirmed, 1 suspect)

1 suspect LTBI (investigating 2 persons exposed to TB)

0 Flu

110 COVID -19 Cases at # 1184 (up 110 case since Jan 12)

2 COVID deaths for 2021

0 Influenza for 2020-2021 flu season (October 2020- April 2021)

STATE OF MT -0 influenza since October 2020 for the 2020-21 flu season so far

We are monitoring up to 30 contacts this month. (This means doing daily phone calls or texting to check on them for symptoms and follow up on testing needs). RCHD has still had 2-3 hospitalized persons over past 2 months. The automated texting system "SARA" for doing symptom checks by testing is working well.

COVID-19 case numbers on the state map are behind as RCHD work to enter the data into the state system in order for it to show up on the count. RCHD is working hard at catching up in this reporting data area.

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

World-Wide:

12/8/2020: 68,010,230 cases 1,533,025 deaths, 191 countries

1/11/2021 90,475,499 cases 1,938,349 deaths 191 countries

2/22/2021 111,633,620 cases 2,471,494 deaths 192 countries

COVID-19 U.S.:

12/8/2020: 15,087,418 cases, 285,218 deaths

1/11/2021: 22,443,295 cases, 374,572 deaths

2/22/2021 28,168,735 cases, 499,902 deaths

COVID-19 MT:

12/8/2020: 69,346 cases, (17,449 active) 763 deaths, current hosp. 479, total 2,902 51,135 rec; total tested 696,878

1/11/2021: 86,653 cases (4,922 active) 1,057 deaths, (total hosp 3,853) current 207, rec 80,674

2/22/2021: 98,810 cases, (2,170 active) 1,341 Deaths, (total hosp 4,527), current 78, rec 95,299

COVID-19 ND –

12/8/2020: 83,342 cases, (4,758 active), 1,022 deaths, total hospitalizations. 2,896, current 304, 77,562 recovered

1/11/2021: 94,830 cases (active 1,881) 1,352 Deaths, total hospitalizations 3,656, current 74, 91,597 recovered.

2/22/2021: 94,312 cases, (active 710)1438 deaths, (tot hosp 3860), current 30, rec 97,164

Emergency Preparedness: Julie has completed the Gap Assessment and now must make a 3-year work plan to address the identified gaps in the public health system for the county. Julie will review the Communicable Disease Reporting and Transport Protocols and will ask the BOH sign off on the checklist at the Next meeting.

Other items due by end of March for deliverables are: AAR for flu clinic in Sept; POD security assessment plan, Foodborne illness investigation phase 4, and the COVID -19 Progress report.

Julie continues to meet with the Eastern Regional Healthcare Coalition on purchases that benefit the region with the funding available.

Sanitarian Report:

Stephanie reported that she has been doing the scheduling for COVID -19 Clinics.

County Attorney Report: Janet Christoffersen absent

Old Business: None

New Business: None

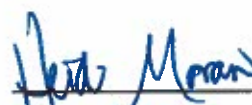
Public Comment: None

Duane closed meeting at 3:30 pm

Next meeting: March 22, 2021 from 2:30 pm to 4 pm



Duane Mitchell, Commissioner



Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary