



PUBLIC MEETING

April 14, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

Chair Jim McCormick called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Tom Rolfe and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Misty Edwards, Eric Griffin, Charles Lane, Drenda Niemann, A.C. Rothenbuecher, Denise Griffin, Riley Griffin, Nicho Hash, Mark Piskolich, Nancy Everson, Kari DesRosier, Keni Grose, Emily McGlenn, Christian Lehnert, Christal Ness, Betsy Kirkeby, Dan Karlin, Katrina Chaney, Angie Sparks, Jessica Makus, Jade Wills, Chris Sinrud, Ann McCauley, Kellie McBride, Jillian DeMarcus, Amy Reeves, Alex LeMieux, Chris Hardyman, Mac McCarley, Clay Caudle, Katrina Chaney, Greg McNally, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Proclamation Declaring April 15, 2022, as Eric Griffin Day in Lewis and Clark County.

Commissioner Hunthausen talked about Eric Griffin and read the proclamation declaring April 15, 2022 as Eric Griffin Day in Lewis and Clark County.

Consent Action Items

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending April 15, 2022. (Marni Bentley)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on consent action item 2a and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Andrew Laue. (Tabled 4/5/22) (Drenda Niemann)

Commissioner McCormick stated the contract with Andrew Laue was tabled on April 5, 2022. He asked that the item be moved to April 21, 2022 due to potential legal questions that require more time for discussion.

Drenda Niemann, Public Health Officer, recognized April as Stress Awareness month that has been recognized every April since 1992. Coping with stress and finding healthy ways to manage stress is important in a health life. Due to COVID-19, staff and healthcare professionals have been overwhelmed to meet obligations to protect the public from Covid over the last two years and are showing signs of significant burnout. Public health has not had time to recover from this long pandemic. Two hundred and forty-eight public healthcare leaders have left their job nationally during the pandemic, with 26 in the state and 6 in Lewis and Clark County. Depression, anxiety, and mental health conditions have been increased due to the stress from global trauma from COVID-19. The trauma needs to be faced and skills need to be learned to build strength through engaging it. Star - T training is key to building resilience. The contract begins upon approval through June 30, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Andrew Laue.

Ms. Niemann gave an overview of the trauma that has been experienced over the last two years including working long hours which kept workers from their families, supporting people who tested positive for Covid, supporting families who lost loved ones from Covid, and working to meet obligations while being understaffed during the emergency. This has resulted in loss of employees, extended periods of time off, and experiencing mental health issues.

Discussion occurred on the possibility of other vendors that could provide these services. Ms. Niemann noted Mr. Laue came to her with free services because of a grant received. As they continued services, an agreement was entered into in the fall and the program received great feedback from staff with a request to continue the program. This is not therapeutic care; it is shared experience counseling on how to internally identify how the trauma is impacting the individual and how to effectively connect with others to bring stress down during traumatic times. This is a cultural shift in bringing in people and helping them gain tools instead of sending them away to get better and then bringing them back to work.

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, stated she has had the opportunity to attend the Star-T training. She spoke of the services her staff provides and that they dropped their normal workload to serve the public in disease investigation and contact tracing. When they transitioned back to their regular roles, the stress and trauma did not go away, it changed. Staff is experiencing secondary trauma by supporting families that are going through trauma during the pandemic, added on to their own trauma they are experiencing. The skills needed to deal with that is different now because this situation is unique, and no one has ever gone through it before. She gave an example of a situation where staff was heightened, emotions occurred, assumptions were made, and the skills she learned through Star-T training helped her de-escalate and resolve the situation in a way that she would not have been able to do before the training.

Commissioner Hunthausen stated he will not be available on April 21, and suggested the item be moved to April 19, 2022.

No public comment was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rolfe to table the item to April 19, 2022 and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the grant award for a supplemental task order from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for American Rescue Plan Act to fund specific services for home visiting families. The award amount is \$2,565 for the period of March 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. The funds will be used to purchase grocery gift cards, with limitations on what can be purchased, for families with highest needs. Staff recommends acceptance of the grant award from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.

Meeting minutes approved on January 24, 2023

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tom Rolfe, Chair



Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair



Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board