

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
April 22, 2021**

Members Present by Zoom

Justin Murgel, chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
Mayor Wilmot Collins (departed @ 3:00 p.m.)
Kammy Johnson
Dr. Mikael Bedell
Raymond Berg
Tyler Ream
Brie McLaurin (departed @ 3:00 p.m.)

Members Absent

Jenny Eck

Staff Present by Zoom

Drenda Niemann Sarah Sandau
Eric Merchant Heather Parmer
Kathy Moore Julie Bir
A.C. Rothenbuecher Taylore Dinsdale
Dorota Carpenedo Beth Norberg
Damian Boudreau
Jolene Helgersen

Guests Present by Zoom

Charles Lane, Lewis and Clark Deputy County Attorney

Justin Murgel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of board members were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, announced that the FY21 3rd quarter finance report would move from Board Member Discussion to Action Item #5. No public comment was given.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction of new and current staff members Taylore Dinsdale, Tobacco Use Prevention Education Specialist and Beth Norberg, Environmental Services Division Supervisor were made. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March 25, 2021 minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

ACTION

Review COVID-19 Emergency Rules and Regulations: Ms. Niemann highlighted the COVID-19 Dashboard, the HUB map of current numbers of confirmed, active, and recovered cases, age groups, and the number of hospitalizations and deaths, and the Centers for Disease Control Assessment. The Board of Health discussed at length removing the mask mandate and if it was possible with passage of House Bill (HB) 121. Charles Lane, Lewis and Clark Deputy County Attorney, said with the passing of HB 121, all existing rules and regulations remain in effect until an inter-local agreement is created naming the assigned governing body as stated in HB121. Once an agreement is complete, any changes to existing rules and regulations by the Board of Health will need to be presented to the governing body for approval. Raymond Berg made a motion to leave the current COVID-19 Emergency Rules and Regulation as is

until a local agreement is in place. Kammy Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Murgel opened the motion up for public comment.

Dan Purdom, Helena resident, does not support the mask mandate.

Courtney McAdams, Helena resident, does not support the mask mandate.

Jamie Bright, Helena resident, does not support the mask mandate.

In answer to a question from Brie McLaurin, Mr. Lane confirmed that changes to any of the existing rules and regulations can not be made until the inter-local agreement is created.

There being no further board member discussion or public comment, the motion carried 8-0.

FY22 Budget Recommendations to the BoCC: Heather Parmer, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY21 comparison to budget and cash flow for July 2020 through March 202 (on pages 31-32 of the board packet). Ms. Parmer noted that the department is 75% of the way through the fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$1,401,800, or 58% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$1,979,064 or 76% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$577,264; total ending cash is \$387,796.

Ms. Parmer presented the FY22 budget summary (see Attachment “A”) for board review and discussion. Ms. Parmer highlighted specific areas interest within each division. Ms. Niemann noted new FTE changes to our Emergency Preparedness position and newly acquired EPI position. Ms. Niemann noted that the board of health makes recommendation to the Board of County Commission (BoCC) for the approval of the budget. Ms. McLaurin made a motion to approve the FY 22 budget to the BoCC for approval. Kammy Johnson seconded the motion. There being no public comment, the motion carried 8-0.

Review and Approve Communicable Disease Plan: Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, presented the Communicable Disease Investigation and Surveillance Protocol and Protocol Checklist (on pages 9-29 of the board packet). Mr. Merchant noted that to meet the contracted deliverables with the Department of Health and Human Services annually the Board of Health must review and approve the Communicable Disease Investigation and Surveillance Protocol. The intent of this protocol is to ensure prevention and control of communicable diseases affecting the residence of Lewis and Clark County. Preventing and controlling communicable disease infections in our Community is not new. It is part public health 1.0. Mr. Merchant provided a background on the development of the protocol. Mr. Merchant also discussed the use of the protocol during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, the current protocol remains the same as last years approved protocol. Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the Communicable Disease Investigation and Surveillance Protocol. Commissioner Hunthausen seconded the motion. Mr. Murgel opened the motion up for public comment.

Heidi Freeland, Helena resident, recommended that further review from more medical professionals, members of the community, and private businesses is needed when developing this plan.

In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Mr. Lane will need to review HB 121 further to see if all action items need to go before the governing body.

Courtney McAdams, Helena resident, does not approve of the Communicable Disease Investigation and Surveillance Protocol’s flow chart that address the secondary transmission outbreak trigger points.

Jamie Bright, Helena resident, strongly opposes the Communicable Disease Plan.

In answer to a question from Commissioner Hunthausen, Mr. Merchant noted that the plan presented today is the same plan that was approved by the Board last year. Ms. Niemann stated that the law allows public health to do the work that is needed in order to protect the public from the spread of disease. This plan does not go outside what the law allows.

There being no further board member public comment, the motion carried 6-0.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Due to time constraints, the Variance Summary and CONNECT Referral System Update will be moved to the May agenda.

No public comment was given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

The Board met in a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary