

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES  
1930 9<sup>th</sup> AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.  
August 26, 2021**

Members Present

Justin Murgel, chair  
Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice chair  
Mayor Jamie Schell  
Lisa Kaufman  
Brie McLaurin  
Katherine Weber

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann            Mary Pierce  
Laurel Riek                Katie Maslowski  
Kathy Moore               Marissa Johnson  
A.C. Rothenbuecher      Greg Daly  
Dorota Carpenedo        Franchesca Talbot  
Jolene Helgersen  
Damian Boudreau

Members Absent

Mayor Wilmot Collins  
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen  
Rex Weltz

Guests Present

Justin Murgel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was not established.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mr. Murgel announced that the Home Visiting Presentation would be moved to the first discussion under board member discussion. No public comment was given.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July 22, 2021 minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Introduction of new board member Katherine Weber was made. Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, announced that the most recent quarterly Employee Recognition Award was awarded to Licensed Establishment Sanitarian, Franchesca Talbot. No public comment was given.

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Home Visiting Presentation: Mary Pierce, Home Visiting Supervisor, along with the Home Visiting staff, gave brief updates on the Parents as Teachers (PAT), Nurse-Family Partnership, Peer Breastfeeding, Circle of Security, Montana Asthma, Home Visiting and First Breath Smoking Cessation Programs. The presentations included program challenges, successes, and recommendations for improvement (see Attachment “A”).

Review COVID-19 Emergency Rules and Regulations: Ms. Niemann highlighted the COVID-19 HUB map of current numbers of confirmed, active, break through and recovered cases, daily new case incidences, weekly case incidences, and test positivity rates. The board decided that if the number of positive COVID-19 cases increases and reflects an average two-week score of 18 or higher, certain Emergency Rules and Regulations would be recommended to the public in order to reduce the spread of

infection. Board discussion was had regarding COVID-19 testing availability, barriers, and collaboration with providers. Discussion was also had regarding ARPA COVID-19 funding and how it is allocated from the state to county and city government. Ms. Niemann announced that ARPA funding was provided to sustain the COVID-19 wastewater surveillance and to help with the Home Visiting funding if needed. No public comment was given.

Interlocal Agreement Update: Ms. Niemann announced that the Interlocal Agreement negotiations are still underway. The small working group with representatives from the county, City of Helena, and the City of East Helena will meet again on September 14 to continue discussing the amendments to the interlocal agreement. In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Ms. Niemann said that data is available to see which vaccine a person received in a breakthrough case but retrieving that level of granular analysis is not something we have the capacity to do at this point. Mr. Murgel asked if there was any public comment.

Mary Ann Dunwell, East Helena State Representative, spoke about the effects House Bill 257 will have on the health care system, local public health, and local businesses.

### **HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator announced that over the past few years, the Montana Army National Guard (MT ARNG) at Fort Harrison has been investigating per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) releases at both the Fort and at the Aviation Support Facility at the Helena Regional Airport. This is a multi-year investigation with MT Department of Environmental Quality oversight. Presently, the MT ARNG is obtaining access agreements and sampling potentially affected residential wells for PFAS. Throughout this effort, Water Quality Protection District has been collaborating with the MT ARNG to provide outreach and education to residents regarding the sampling effort and the potential effects of PFAS on public health. This multi-year effort involves the MT ARNG, MT DEQ, L&C Public Health, MT Department of Health & Human Services, and participating residents. Ms. Moore also shared the Montana PFAS Action Plan (on pages 12-15 of the board packet). In answer to a question from Mayor Schell, Ms. Weber said that the PFAS samples are sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Cincinnati, Ohio for testing.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Schell noted that September is National Suicide Prevention and Recovery Month.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

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Justin Murgel, Chair

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Drenda Niemann, Secretary