

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
December 1, 2022**

Members Present

Justin Murgel, chair
Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice chair
Commissioner Jim McCormick
Mayor Kelly Harris
Brie MacLaurin
Katherine Weber
Rex Weltz

Members Absent

Mayor Wilmot Collins
Lisa Kaufman

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann
Jolene Helgerson
Laurel Riek
Jolene Jennings
Beth Norberg
Jay Plant

Guests Present

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 27, 2022, minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

ACTION ITEMS

Cooperative Agreement between BOH and DPHHS/FCS, Laurel Riek, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, presented the Cooperative Agreement between the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health (BOH) and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (on pages 7-16 of the board packet). The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a payment schedule for maximizing the disbursement of funds to the BOH to support inspections of licensed establishments and to determine which optional programs the BOH will conduct. The agreement is effective from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. All the license fees for facilities in Lewis and Clark County are collected by the state and deposited in this fund. This includes:

- retail and wholesale food facilities;
- hotels, motels, tourist homes, B & B's;
- public swimming pools, spas and recreational water features; and
- trailer courts, campgrounds, and youth camps.

In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Riek said licensing fees have remained the same since 2009. Sanitarians statewide have gone before the State Legislature many times to request a fee increase with no prevail. The licensing fees remain in state statute rather than in administrative rule.

There being no further comment, Commissioner Jim McCormick made a motion to approve the Cooperative Agreement between Montana DPHHS Food and Consumer Safety and the Board of Health. Mayor Kelly Harris seconded the motion. No public comment was given. The motion carried 7-0.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Update: Jolene Jennings, Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Specialist, gave an update on the Behavioral Health Crisis System Improvement FY22-23 strategic accomplishments and goals (on pages 18-20 of the board packet). Ms. Jennings highlighted the strategic alliance and community coalition strategic partners, identified gaps in services, ways these collaboratives are working to improve the behavioral health crisis system, discussed the 988 suicide prevention hotline and the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), and the FY23 goals.

In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Jennings provided an estimate on the number of calls that have come into the 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline. She estimated the total number of calls in the last quarter for Lewis and Clark County have been 244 but the crisis response calls were 30. Out of those 30 crisis response calls, 20 of them de-escalated during the phone call.

In answer to a question from Dr. Mikael Bedell, Ms. Jennings stated funding for the MCRT is not easy. The state crisis coordinator network advocated for MCRT to have bundled Medicaid reimbursement this past year. This addition to Medicaid currently under review and DPHHS is accepting public comment. Staff will present their recommendations regarding the future funding of the MCRT during a public hearing on December 8.

Air Quality Review and Recommendations: Beth Norberg, Registered Sanitarian and Supervisor for the Environmental Services Division, highlighted the Lewis and Clark County Outdoor Air Quality Regulation Review Memorandum (on pages 21-22 of the board packet). No edits to the regulations were required but staff recommendations to the County air quality program data and the effectiveness of the program were made.

2018-2023 Strategic Plan Performance Update and Preparation for Next Strategic Plan: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, presented 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and highlighted key areas of the work that has been accomplished in the Operational Plan Report (on pages 23-44 of the board packet). The Board will meet in person on January 26 to the strategic direction for the 2023-2026 strategic plan. Public Health staff will meet in March to determine goals, objectives and strategies. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Niemann will have the strategic plan board packets out in time for board preparation before the January meeting.

No public comment was given.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

COVID-19 Update: Ms. Niemann noted that COVID-19 infections in Lewis and Clark County are remaining stable with no significant increase in new cases.

Interlocal Agreement Update: Nicho Hash, Deputy County Attorney for Lewis and Clark County, continues to work on draft by-laws for the governing body to consider.

No public comment was given

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary