

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
July 28, 2022**

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann
Jolene Helgerson
Kathy Moore
Laurel Riek
Heather Parmer
Franchesca Talbot
Lori Erion

Members Absent

Mayor Wilmot Collins
Rex Weltz

Guests Present

Deputy County Attorney Charles Lane

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

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June 23, 2022, minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

INTRODUCTIONS

Laurel Riek, Disease Control and Prevention Administrator, introduced Front Desk Clerk Lori Erion. Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, introduced Franchesca Talbot in her new role as a lead education and abatement program sanitarian in the Environmental Services Division.

ACTION ITEMS

Board of Health Appointments for Fiscal Year 2023: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, enumerated the board positions that needed to be filled for FY2023. The Board made the following appointments:

- Justin Murgel as chair
- Dr. Mikael Bedell as vice-chair
- Lisa Kaufman as hearing officer
- Lisa Kaufman as Water Quality Protection District Representative

Brie MacLaurin made a motion to approve Board of Health appointments for FY23. Mayor Kelly Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

FY22 Year End Financial Report: Heather Parmer, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY22 year-end comparison to budget and cash flow for July 2021 through June 2022 (see Attachment “A”). Ms. Parmer

noted that the department is 100% through the fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$2,717,859 or 102% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$2,777,719 or 106% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$59,860; total ending cash is \$599,368. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Parmer said the reason the budget is under the recommended 90 day cash reserve is due to commission approved cost of living increase to county employees and nationwide inflation. Ms. Niemann noted that Public Health will be as fiscally responsible as possible with the FY23 budget.

Widerstand Audit Recommendation and Next Steps: Ms. Niemann announced that the Widerstand Audit on the racial equity course that Public Health employees participated in is complete. The audit was emailed to board members in May for review. Ms. Niemann shared staff's response to the course, the collaboration with the county human resource department (HR) and next steps, which is to incorporate health equity, inclusiveness and diversity into our upcoming Workforce Development Assessment, Strategic Plan and Reaccreditation. Ms. Niemann highlighted the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) Equity Measures version 2022 (on pages 9-10 of the board packet). Commissioner McCormick announced that all county contracts are reviewed and approved by the Board of County Commissioners and that all county employment, polices, job descriptions, employee performance are managed by the County's HR department and is under the jurisdiction of Lewis and Clark County. Commissioner McCormick also recommended that Public Health look at other training opportunities before using outside contractors. Ms. MacLaurin commended Public Health on the work they have done to include anti-racism into their work culture.

Healthy Together Update: Ms. Niemann shared the Healthy Together committee's web page and highlighted the committee's purpose and goals along with the recent 2022 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the 2021 Community Health Report.

No public comment was given.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Onsite Wastewater Regulations Review: Ms. Moore announced that the Public Health's Onsite Wastewater, Lead Education, and Air Quality Regulations are reviewed every 2 years. Staff presents the regulations to the Board for review and will provide recommendations on whether or not they need to be updated. The current Onsite Wastewater Regulations meets the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administrative rules and does not require any recommended changes. However, DEQ is updating their administrative rules which will make it necessary to update our local regulations as well.

Reaccreditation News: Ms. Niemann announced that Public Health reaccreditation application will occur in April or May of 2023, followed by 6 months of documentation, ending with a PHAB review and a site visit later in 2023.

COVID-19 Update: Ms. Niemann shared the COVID-19 HUB map while noting that the newest BA.4 & 5 subvariant of the Omicron is more cotangent and is showing to evade some of the antibodies produces after vaccination and natural infection. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending an update to booster shots to target the BA 4 & 5 subvariant. Ms. Niemann shared the upcoming Helena and East Helena vaccine clinics. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Dr. Bedell said that this new variant has shown an increase in hospitalizations. In answer to a question from Ms. Kaufman, Ms. Niemann said that home test results are not always reported which leads to under reported number of new COVID cases. Ms. Niemann shared the COVID-19 HUB Wastewater testing results which is updated weekly.

Interlocal Agreement Update: Ms. Niemann announced that Interlocal Agreement negotiations are complete. The local governing body will consist of 2 County Commissioners, 2 Helena City Commissioners, and the Mayor of East Helena. The signed Interlocal Agreement is available online in the board member orientation packet. The County Attorney's Office is drafting By-Laws for the local governing body to consider and adopt.

No public comment was given

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary