

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
In-Person/Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
May 25, 2023**

Members Present

Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice chair
Commissioner Tom Rolfe
Mayor Kelly Harris
Brie MacLaurin
Lisa Kaufman

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann
Jolene Helgerson
Heather Parmer
Beth Norberg

Members Absent

Justin Murgel, chair
Mayor Wilmot Collins
Katherine Weber
Rex Weltz

Guests Present

Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice 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

Dr. Bedell asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April 27, 2023. Brie MacLaurin noted an error with her last name on page 4 of the board packet. There being no further changes, the Board approved the amended minutes as written. No public comment was given.

ACTION ITEMS

Variance Request, Nicholas and Stacy Messick, 5620 Alabama Dr. Helena, MT: Lisa Kaufman, Hearing Officer, read the hearing officer recommendation (on page 6 of the board packet) from the Messick Variance held on May 22, 2023. She said the request met all the Montana Department of Environmental Quality criteria for granting a variance. In answer to a question from Dr. Bedell, Ms. Kaufman said it was the request from the homeowner that they relocate their well. Mayor Kelly Harris moved to ratify the hearing officer recommendation. Commissioner Tom Rolfe seconded the motion. No public comment was given. The motion carried 5-0.

Board Finance Committee Report and FY24 Budget recommendation to the Board of County

Commission: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, presented the FY24 Budget for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (see Attachment “A”). Ms. Niemann highlighted projected revenue and expenditures along with grant contributions. Ms. Niemann noted that the department will not have a cash reserve due to expenditures being higher than incoming revenues. Administrative staff along with the Board of Health Finance Committee presented measures to balance this fiscal year’s budget but will need to consider permanent fixes for the next few fiscal years to have an ongoing balanced budget. In answer to a question from Ms. Kaufman, Ms. Niemann was unsure of when the Mill was last increased by voters but that it was over 10 years. After further board member discussion, Ms. MacLaurin made a motion to

recommend the FY24 budget to the County Commissioners for approval. Ms. Kaufman seconded the motion. No public comment was given. The motion carried 4-0 with Commission Rolfe abstaining from the vote.

No public comment was given.

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT

Annual Appraisal Reminder: Dr. Bedell reminded Board members they will be receiving Ms. Niemann's evaluation through a program called Track Star. He asked that they fill it out before the June Board meeting.

PHAB Reaccreditation Update: In April, Public Health submitted their reaccreditation application (step 1) which was approved and allows for staff to upload supportive documentation for the ten domains that shows how we have met standards and measures. Staff have currently uploaded nine of the ten domains. Once submitted, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) will review those documents. In the fall, we will host a site visit with the PHAB review team. Board members will participate in the site visit.

Legislative Update: Ms. Niemann presented the 2023 Legislative Session Summary Report (on pages 24-34 of the board packet) in which she discussed House Bills 2; 364; and 715. In answer to a question from Commissioner Rolfe, Ms. Niemann said that in HB 2, she was not sure of the exact rate increase Medicaid Providers will see but that in the 1st year they will have reached a 95% benchmark rate and then in the 2nd year the providers will have received the full 100% benchmark rate. In answer to a question from Dr. Bedell, Ms. Niemann said that Medicaid will continue with their reassessment after freezing those evaluations due to the pandemic.

Local Governing Body: Commissioner Rolfe said that the Local Governing Body did not meet to review and vote on the By-Laws but that they intend to meet soon.

No public comment was given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Mikael Bedell, Vice Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary