

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
316 N. PARK AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Lewis and Clark City-County Building
December 5, 2019**

Members Present

Justin Murgel, chair
Kammy Johnson
Jenny Eck (arrived @ 1:12 p.m.)
Brie Oliver
Dr. Mikael Bedell
Tyler Ream

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann Kathy Moore
Jolene Helgersen Jennifer McBroom
Jacqueline Isaly Eric Merchant
Gayle Shirley
Frank Preskar
Brett Lloyd

Members Absent

Mayor Wilmot Collins
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
Scott St. Clair

Guests Present

Pat Christian, Helena Citizens Council

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made.

MINUTES

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 24, 2019, minutes. The Board approved the minutes as written.

ACTION ITEM

On-site Wastewater Regulation Public Hearing:

Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, provided an informal overview of the Board of Health Hearing Process for the proposed On-Site Wastewater Treatment Regulations Amendments. Mr. Murgel opened the hearing at 1:04 p.m. and proceeded to read the hearing information and instructions (see Attachment “A”). Frank Preskar, Sanitarian, provided a summary of the proposed regulations (on pages 8-9 of the board packet). There being no public wishing to speak, Mr. Preskar read a comment submitted in writing by Steve Kilbreath of Casne and Associates, Inc. (on page 7 of the board packet). Mr. Murgel announced that all written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on Friday, January 10, 2020. The Board will consider final approval and adoption of the regulation at the Board of Health meeting scheduled for February 27, 2019, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. here in Room 330 of the City-County Building located at 316 North Park Avenue, Helena. There being no further comment, Mr. Murgel closed the hearing at 1:18 p.m.

Hearing Officer Recommendation, Mr. Tom Cohn Variance:

Kammy Johnson, Hearing Officer, and Mr. Preskar gave a brief account of the Cohn variance hearing held on December 3, 2019. Ms. Johnson recommended approval of the variance. She said the request met all of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality criteria for granting a variance. Ms. Johnson moved to ratify the hearing officer recommendation for approval. The motion carried 6-0.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention Plan: Brett Lloyd, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, presented the Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) Plan for board review and final approval (on pages 12-39 of the board packet). Mr. Lloyd provided a brief description of the plan. On October 8, 2019, Ms. Niemann and Mr. Murgel signed the NPI checklist for submittal to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services by October 15. Ms. Niemann said that the NPI Plan gives the Board of Health authority to enact the plan's strategies and inform Public Health how to act. In answer to a question from Jenny Eck, Mr. Lloyd said that authority for the NPI plan already exists in Montana Code Annotated.

Water Quality Protection District Update: Jennifer McBroom, Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Program Supervisor, gave a brief 1st quarter update on the District's 3-year Strategic Plan (on pages 11-48). Ms. McBroom noted that the District added water quantity to its mission statement and that staff will give a quarterly progress update to their board every quarter.

East Helena Super Fund Cleanup Activities Update: Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, gave an update on the East Helena Superfund Cleanup Activities (see Attachment "B"). In answer to questions from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Moore said that both the East Helena High School and Prickly Pear Elementary School lots have had their soil cleaned and removed or tilled to address potential lead issues. The subdivision next to the school will have its soil cleaned or tilled prior to development. Ms. Moore informed the Board that she would give a presentation about arsenic and selenium plumes that exist in East Helena at a later date if they wish.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

The WIC Team completed its state monitoring visit in November with a score of 92! This score puts LCPH WIC in the top performance tier given by the state office. This is an indication of the exceptional work that our staff does on a day-to-day basis running a complicated program and the exceptional service that they make available to families in our community.

Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, provided an update on the increase of syphilis cases nationwide and across Montana (see page 52 of the board packet). He noted that the numbers have increased in Lewis and Clark County and Cascade County, as well as the state as a whole. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Mr. Merchant said that according to the Centers for Disease Control, 80 percent of syphilis cases occur in people between the ages 15-44 nationwide.

Ms. Niemann was accepted to participate in a 9-month National Council on Behavioral Health's Public Health Behavioral Health Initiative on leadership training. She and 39 other health officers will attend a training workshop in Austin, Texas, in April.

Western Montana Mental Health Center will no longer provide behavioral health crisis services to Lewis and Clark County. The Local Advisory Council on Behavioral Health, in partnership with St. Peter's Health, will host a community conversation on December 11, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the SPH Education Center to discuss and make short- and long-term recommendations for the future of behavioral health crisis services in the county. Ms. Niemann announced that in the short-term the county's detention center behavioral health services will be provided by the Center for Mental Health. The county's Criminal Justice Department will take over long-term behavioral health services.

The January Board of Health meeting will be a poverty simulation at Carroll College. More information is to come.

In answer to a question from Brie Oliver, Ms. Niemann said that the National Guard has completed testing 4 out of 6 targeted wells for PFAS (per- and polyfluoralkyl substances). The results should be available in February.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Christian with the Helena Citizens Council addressed the Board regarding the availability of assistance for the public to sign up for Medicaid. Ms. Niemann informed Ms. Christian that Stephen Cocca, ACA Outreach Worker with PureView Health Center, is a resource to the public regarding Medicaid.

Representative Mary Ann Dunwell of 2811 Alexis Ave., Helena, MT, thanked the Board for their volunteer service on the Board of Health.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary