

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
February 25, 2021**

Members Present by Zoom

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
Mayor Wilmot Collins (departed @ 3:02 p.m.)
Kammy Johnson
Dr. Mikael Bedell
Jenny Eck (arrived @ 1:04 p.m.)
Raymond Berg
Tyler Ream
Brie McLaurin

Members Absent

Justin Murgel, chair

Staff Present by Zoom

Drenda Niemann	Laura Hendley
Eric Merchant	Laurel Riek
Kathy Moore	Sandra Bravo
A.C. Rothenbuecher	Caroline Patterson
Dorota Carpenedo	Heather Parmer
Damian Boudreau	Sara Sandau
Jolene Helgerson	

Guests Present by Zoom

Charles Lane, Deputy County Attorney

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of board members were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, asked to move the introduction of new employees to the beginning of the meeting. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Commissioner Hunthausen asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 28, 2021 minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

New Staff Introduction: Introduction of new staff members: A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator; Caroline Patterson, Suicide Prevention VISTA; and Sandra Bravo, Public Health Administrative Assistant, were made. No public comment was given.

ACTION

2021 Cooperative Agreement: Laurel Riek, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented the 2021 Cooperative Agreement between the Montana Department of Health and Human Services and the Lewis and Clark Public Health (pages 10-20 of the board packet) for board review and approval. After board member review, Tyler Ream made a motion to approve the 2021 Cooperative Agreement between the Montana Department of Health and Human Services and the Lewis and Clark Public Health. Dr. Mikael Bedell seconded the motion. There being no public comment, the motion carried 8-0.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION CONTINUED

COVID-19 Update: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, highlighted the COVID-19 Dashboard, the HUB map of current numbers of confirmed, active, and recovered cases, age groups, and the number of hospitalizations and deaths. No public comment was given.

ACTION CONTINUED

Review of the COVID-19 Emergency Rules and Regulations: Base on the COVID-19 Decision Making Dashboard triggering criteria, the Board reviewed and discussed the recommended changes to the COVID-19 Emergency Rules and Regulations made by Ms. Niemann resulting in the following changes:

III. Event Restriction

- Schools and school activities, **including graduation ceremonies**, are exempt from the 250-person limit with an approved plan by Lewis and Clark Public Health. After board member discussion, Kammy Johnson made a motion to approve the changes to include graduation ceremonies are exempt from the 250 person limit with an approved plan by Lewis and Clark Public Health. Dr. Bedell seconded the motion. There being no public comment, the motion carried 7-0 with Mr. Ream abstaining from the vote.

IV. Location Specific Restrictions

- Capacity - Gyms, restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries, and casinos shall operate at a capacity and hours as determined by the triggering criteria reflective of community conditions.

Summed Total of Triggering Criteria	Capacity	Hours
18 < (sum) < 33	75%	4:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
34 < (sum) < 46	50%	4:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.

After Board member discussion, Mr. Ream made a motion to approve extending the hours of operation for gyms, restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries, and casinos. Brie McLaurin seconded the motion. There being no public comment, the motion carried 8-0.

- Table seating has been expanded to **eight people per table**. After board member discussion, Jenny Eck made a motion to approve expanding the number of table seating. Dr. Bedell seconded the motion. There being no public comment, the motion carried 8-0.

II. Face Covering Requirement

- After board member discussion, Raymond Berg made a motion that the face-covering requirement remains in effect until the end of the declared emergency or until removed by the Board of Health. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. There being no public comment, the motion carried 8-0.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Finance Report: Heather Parmer, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY21 comparison to budget and cash flow for July 2020 through December 2020 (pages 40-41 of the board packet). Ms. Parmer noted that the department is 50% of the way through the fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$1,172,935, or 50% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$1,423,021 or 54% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$250,086; total ending cash is \$714,974.

Vaccine Update:

Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, announced that Lewis and Clark County is in Phase 1b all tiers of the vaccine rollout. Staff will be traveling to Lincoln and Augusta for a second dose clinic. Public health is working on the distribution plan for our detention center inmates. No public comment was given.

Legislative Update:

[HB 121](#) would require elected official approval of local health board and officer actions. HB 121 would require certain rules, regulations, and fees be proposed by a local Board of Health and adopted by the governing body; allowing a governing body to amend a directive, mandate, or order given by a local Board of Health during a time of emergency or disaster; allowing a governing body to amend an order given by a local health officer during a time of emergency or disaster; and providing a definition of “local governing body.” This bill is currently in the process of second reading by the House. No public comment was given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary