

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES  
316 N. PARK AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
Lewis and Clark City-County Building  
February 28, 2019**

Members Present

James Benish, chair  
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair  
Mayor Wilmot Collins  
Kammy Johnson (Arrived @ 1:06 p.m.)  
Jenny Eck  
Justin Murgel  
Tyler Ream

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann      Shelly Maag  
Jolene Helgersen      Laurel Riek  
Eric Merchant      Franchesca Talbot  
Kathy Moore  
Jacqueline Isaly  
Gayle Shirley

Members Absent

Scott St. Clair  
Dr. Adron Medley

Guests Present

See Attached Sign-In Sheet

*Prior to the scheduled February board meeting, a National Associations of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) webinar (Leading Change for Public Health 3.0) was presented. Attendance for board members was optional.*

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

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No changes were made.

**MINUTES**

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

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

NALBOH Webinar: Leading Change for Public Health 3.0 post-webinar discussion: Mr. Benish gave a brief summary of the webinar to board members who were unable to attend and opened the meeting for discussion. Mr. Benish said the webinar not only benefits health departments but would also benefit governmental agencies, legislators, contractors, and architects. Justin Murgel agreed that legislators would benefit from learning how infrastructure and social services work together. Important concepts addressed in the presentation were collaboration, social determinants of health, and health insurance coverage for all. Commissioner Andy Hunthausen said there is an opportunity to address public health issues in work with other local government departments by influencing policies and rule and regulations. Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, said public health is working with the county public works department and disaster and emergency services coordinator to address flooding in the valley. Ms. Niemann said she would provide a link to the NALBOH presentation to board members who were unable to attend the webinar.

Healthy Together: Community Healthy Improvement planning process: Gayle Shirley, Communications and Systems Improvement Manager, noted that, in the NALBOH webinar, the presenter mentioned that North Carolina has created a Healthy Alliance partnership with multiple agencies. This is exactly what Lewis and Clark Public Health is attempting to do by creating the Healthy Together Task Force.

At the February 4 Healthy Together community health improvement planning meeting, stakeholders addressed specific behavioral health and early childhood topics and broke them down into 5 areas of focus: early childhood care and education; suicide prevention and mental-health stigma reduction; mental health screening and access to mental health care; and systems coordination and referral.

The third Healthy Together community health improvement planning meeting will be March 4, 8 a.m. to noon, St. Peter's Health Education Center. The Healthy Together Task Force will meet April 1 at the same time and place.

Ms. Shirley highlighted current data on fall-related deaths in Lewis and Clark County from 2014-2018 (on page 36 of the board packet) in response to a question from Mr. Benish during the January board meeting.

Communicable Disease Report: Measles: Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, gave a presentation on the 2018 Communicable Disease Report and the Lewis and Clark County Measles Watch 2019 (on pages 7-19 of the board packet). Mr. Merchant highlighted the 2018 communicable disease report, the history of measles, how one contracts measles, current measles outbreaks, and how we are preparing locally. In answer to a question from Tyler Ream, Mr. Merchant stated that one could contract measles at any time of the year. Mr. Merchant said that, to stem an outbreak, the health department could increase notification through letters like the one developed by Helena Public Schools and Public Health (on page 18 of the packet), along with hospital triage and public health communicable disease protocols. In answer to questions from Mr. Benish, Mr. Merchant said public health is actively involved in vaccination education for the public and legislators. Mr. Merchant also noted that adding informative vaccination information to the school letter would be great but might be controversial. Public health should use a positive scientific approach for parents who have different viewpoints on vaccinations. In answer to a question from Kammy Johnson, Mr. Merchant said he did not have accurate data on adverse outcomes regarding the current measles outbreak but that he would do some research and email the board with the data. He did recommend that board members look at the Washington State webpage to learn how they are handling the current measles outbreak.

## **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Legislative Update: Ms. Niemann announced that a joint committee of Montana public health officials meets by phone every Monday to discuss public-health-related bills. Currently, the committee is tracking 10-12 immunization bills. Public health advocates are presenting scientific education at hearings on these bills, including bills that call for eliminating vaccination requirements in daycare and foster care settings. In answer to a question from Jenny Eck, Ms. Niemann said public health is working closely with the Governor's Office to encourage his veto if any of the anti-vaccination bills pass.

### Senate Bill 179- Prohibit expansion of prohibitions under Clean Air Act w/o approval by local gov.

Ms. Niemann noted that state law gives Boards of Health the authority to protect public health by passing rules and regulations to implement the state Clean Indoor Air Act. This particular bill would degrade that authority. The bill passed the Senate and was transmitted to the House. There will be a hearing March 12 at 3 p.m. Ms. Niemann has reached out to Superintendent Ream for support since this bill would affect

school districts by voiding any policies adopted by entities other than a City Commission or County Commission. The current LCPH implementation protocol would also be affected. Commissioner Hunthausen said he believes this bill is unnecessary. Ms. Niemann said board members may testify on the bill either as a private citizen or as a board member following approved messaging.

House Bill 425- Revise and make permanent Medicaid expansion

A hearing for HB425 will be held March 16 at 9 a.m., with a rally after the hearing at noon. Ms. Niemann said the health department could draft a letter on behalf of the board in support of permanent Medicaid expansion. Jenny Eck made a motion to have the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health submit a letter to the Legislature in support of HB425. Mr. Murgel seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Niemann gave a quick overview of the public hearing process scheduled for 2 p.m. on proposed rabies control regulations.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Jim Benish, Chair

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Drenda Niemann, Secretary