

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
316 N. PARK AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Lewis and Clark City-County Building
January 24, 2019**

Members Present

James Benish, chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
Mayor Wilmot Collins (Arrived @ 1:42 pm)
Kammy Johnson
Scott St. Clair
Jenny Eck (Departed @1:45 pm)
Dr. Adron Medley
Tyler Ream

Members Absent
Justin Murgel

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann	Jay Plant
Jolene Helgerson	Jennifer McBroom
Eric Merchant	Jess Hegstrom
Kathy Moore	Katie Sheehy
Jacqueline Isaly	Valerie Stacey
Gayle Shirley	Heather Parmer

Guests Present

Pat Christian, Helena Citizens Council

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 December 6, 2018, minutes. The Board approved the minutes as written.

ACTION ITEMS

Rabies Control Regulation Presentation and Open Public Comment Period: Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, presented a draft Rabies Control Regulation (see Attachment “A” and pages 7-19 of the board packet). Mr. Merchant gave a brief introduction and background before discussing the regulation’s purpose, content, process and timeline (see Attachment “B”). In answer to a question from Mr. Benish, Mr. Merchant stated that the health department trains new animal control officers, who are employees of the Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Merchant also stated that the proposed regulation would impose a fine on anyone who does not vaccinate his/her animals against rabies. Ms. Johnson recommended removing “immune status testing must be provided at the expense of the Owner” from 6.3- Vaccination Exemption of the regulation. Ms. Johnson noted that serological testing can determine whether an animal has had a rabies vaccination, but it does not show whether the animal is protected against rabies. As a result, she cautioned the Board against allowing individuals to claim they can prove vaccination status to avoid quarantine observation periods. Mr. Merchant stated that quarantining an animal is a decision of the health officer, not law enforcement. Ms. Johnson moved to approve opening a public comment period on the draft Rabies Control Regulation, effective immediately and ending March 1, 2019, at 5 p.m. Commissioner Hunthausen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Employee Recognition and New Staff Introduction: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, announced that the most recent quarterly Employee Recognition Award was awarded to Murray Building Maintenance Technician Doug Ferris. Three new employees were introduced: Jess Hegstrom, Health Educator for Suicide Prevention; Katie Sheehy, Public Health Nurse; and Valerie Stacey, Environmental Technician. Jennifer McBroom was congratulated on her promotion to supervisor of the Water Quality Protection District.

Board Training: Board members watched a brief University of Michigan training video titled “Contributing to Health Equity.” Dr. Adron Medley commented that social economics and education status affect health so significantly. Gayle Shirley, Communications and Systems Improvement Manager, referenced page 48 of the 2018 Community Health Report, which showed how life expectancy varies depending even on what part of the City of Helena one lives in.

Community Health Assessment Update: Ms. Shirley presented a brief outline (on pages 21-25 of the board packet) of the 2018 Community Health Report. The full report was handed out to the board. The second Healthy Together community health improvement planning meeting will be held on February 4, 8 AM to noon, St. Peter's Health Education Center. The Healthy Together Task Force will meet the first Monday at the same time and location through April. Ms. Shirley will send the board an email reminder of the upcoming community health improvement planning meeting.

Finance Report: Heather Parmer, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY19 comparison to budget and cash flow for July 2018 through January 2019 (pages 26-27 of the board packet). Ms. Parmer noted that the department is 50% of the way through its fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$1,431,357, or 64% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$1,116,275 or 48% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are over expenditures by \$315,082; total ending cash is \$1,076,748.

Variance Summary: Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, presented an overview of variances to the Lewis and Clark County Onsite Wastewater Regulations (see Attachment “C”). Ms. Moore briefly discussed adoption of the regulations, what a variance is, the actual number of variances granted, and the number of permits issued. In answer to a question from Mr. Benish, Ms. Moore stated that the health department does have a small revolving loan account to fund low-interest loans to replace septic systems. The loans are used primarily for septic systems, but the department’s revolving loan is assisting citizens on Chaucer Street to connect to the city sewer system due to a failure of the septic system that is allowing sewage to back up into a home. Ms. Moore also stated that, during a past legislative session, a bill was proposed to require home inspection prior to sale. The Realtors’ association strongly opposed the bill. The department’s septic maintenance program received strong support from the Realtors’ association as an alternative to the bill. Mayor Collins stated that the City of Helena has a tax fund that can be used to assist homeowners who find themselves in situations similar to that which Ms. Moore described.

Air Quality Update: Jay Plant, Sanitarian, provided a brief Air Quality update (see Attachment “D”). Mr. Plant highlighted various charts showing air quality during the current air quality season and past seasons.

HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT

Ms. Niemann referenced the National Association of Local Board of Health (NALBOH) information (page 40 of the board packet). She also reminded the board of the upcoming Helena Valley Flood Preparedness Workshop noted in the health officer’s report.

Mr. Merchant gave a brief update on the 2018-2019 flu season (see Attachment “E”). In answer to a question from Tyler Ream, Mr. Merchant stated that national data indicate that this year’s vaccine has been effective.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Jim Benish, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary