

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

Members Present

James Benish, chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
Mayor Wilmot Collins (Arrived @ 1:26 p.m.)
Kammy Johnson (Arrived @ 1:09 p.m.)
Scott St. Clair
Dr. Adron Medley (By Phone)

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann	Eric Henrich
Jolene Helgerson	Laurel Riek
Eric Merchant	Franchesca Talbot
Kathy Moore	Laura Hendley
Jacqueline Isaly	
Gayle Shirley	

Members Absent

Tyler Ream
Justin Murgel
Jenny Eck

Guests Present

See Attached Sign-In Sheet

Jim Benish, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. A quorum was not established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made.

MINUTES

Mr. Benish asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 28, 2019, minutes. The Board approved the minutes as written.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Healthy Together: Community Healthy Improvement Planning Process: Gayle Shirley, Communications and Systems Improvement Manager, reported that the Healthy Together Task Force spent its March 4 meeting narrowing down its two priorities (behavioral health and early childhood) to 5 more specific areas of focus.

The final Healthy Together community health improvement planning meeting will be April 1, from 8 a.m. to noon, at St. Peter's Health Education Center. Ms. Shirley invited Board members to attend, even if they have not participated in previous meetings.

A quorum was established at 1:09 p.m.

RABIES CONTROL REGULATION ADOPTION

Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, gave an overview of the draft Rabies Control Regulation, read, and discussed the written public comments that were received (see Attachment "A". Mr. Merchant recommended that the board adopt the regulation. Mr. Benish said the Board would now deliberate and ask questions, as needed, regarding comments received during the public comment period and any potential modifications of the proposed regulation resulting from such comments. In answer to a question from Scott St. Clair, Mr. Merchant said the department recommends replacing the word "must" with "may" in Chapter 11: Wild Animals, as recommended in comment 6.

This would give the health officer more discretion when valuable or rare wild animals are involved in potential rabies exposures. In such a case, an exposed person could elect to go through rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Mr. Benish asked for a motion to

- 1) Adopt the regulation as presented;
- 2) Adopt the regulation with modifications;
- 3) Table the proposed regulation; or
- 4) Deny the proposed regulation.

Kammy Johnson moved to adopt the BOH-19-01 Rabies Control Regulation as presented with modifications resulting from public comments. Mayor Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Dr. Adron Medley suggested that the health department provide more education to the public on rabies prevention. The final Lewis and Clark County Rabies Control Regulation will be available for public review on the Lewis and Clark Public Health website at <https://www.lccountymt.gov/health/board-of-health.html>

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION Continued

Board Training: Board members watched a brief University of Michigan training video titled “Financing Public Health.” In answer to a question from Mr. Benish, Ms. Niemann said the staff prepares and writes grants applications for board and county commission approval. Mr. Benish asked if it would be beneficial for the board to write a grant.

Call for Finance Committee Members: Ms. Niemann announced that the Finance Committee of the Board will meet in early April and asked for board member participation. Ms. Niemann will send an email to board members with more details.

Review of Progress of Strategic Plan: Ms. Niemann showed the Board how public health employees are tracking their strategic plan activities through an electronic VMSG Dashboard. Ms. Niemann said the dashboard also connects the work we do to our PHAB accreditation requirements, and she noted that it can send reminders to staff on their work progress. Ms. Shirley said the dashboard can connect our strategic planning activities to our Community Health Assessment, too.

HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT

Karen Lane, Prevention Programs Manager, is retiring on April 5. Sarah Sandau, Tobacco Use Prevention Health Educator, was hired as the new Prevention Programs Supervisor.

Valerie Stacey, Environmental Technician, is working on an interactive map that will identify and monitor groundwater levels in domestic wells to provide a type of ‘early warning’ system to Helena Valley residents during flood season. The link to the map was sent out through the Public Health Facebook page and the media. Ms. Niemann will send the link to board members.

Ms. Niemann offered a short update on activities of the Montana Legislature related to public health:

Senate Bill 179- Prohibit expansion of prohibitions under Clean Air Act w/o approval by local gov. SB179 was heard in the House Local Government Committee on March 12 and is awaiting executive action. Commissioner Hunthausen has testified in opposition to SB 179. The League of City and Towns and public health associations have also been lobbying against SB 179.

House Bill 425- Revise and make permanent Medicaid expansion

HB 425 failed on the House floor on March 27.

House Bill 658- Generally revise healthcare laws and permanently expand Medicaid

HB 658 passed out of committee on March 26 and is awaiting debate on the House floor.

The health department continues to watch other immunization, tobacco, and alcohol related bills

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Jim Benish, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary

After adjourning, Board of Health members and staff of the Licensed Establishment Program recognized 59 local food establishments for their exceptional efforts to make, serve, and sell safe food to the public and presented them with Gold and Silver Fork Awards.

Action Items from March 28, 2019

- Ms. Niemann will send an email to the Board asking for participation in the Board Finance Committee meeting.
- Ms. Niemann will send the interactive map link for flood monitoring to the Board.