

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
July 23, 2020**

Members Present by Zoom

Justin Murgel, chair
Mayor Wilmot Collins
Brie Oliver
Kammy Johnson
Dr. Mikael Bedell
Raymond Berg (Arrived at 1:04 p.m.)

Staff Present by Zoom

Drenda Niemann	Sarah Sandau
Jolene Helgerson	Nathan Wellington
Jacqueline Isaly	Megan Peters
Eric Merchant	Jolene Jennings
Kathy Moore	
Jan Williams	

Members Absent

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
Jenny Eck
Tyler Ream

Guests Present by Zoom

Mary Ann Dunwell, State Representative
Nicho Hash, Deputy County Attorney

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of board members, staff, and guests were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No additions were made.

MINUTES

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July 25, 2020, minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written.

ACTION ITEM

Regulations Governing Soil Displacement and Disposal Adoption: Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, asked the Board to consider approving the Regulations Governing Soil Displacement and Disposal in the East Helena Superfund area. There being no board member discussion, Brie Oliver made a motion to approve the Regulations Governing Soil Displacement and Disposal in the East Helena Superfund area effective August 1, 2020. Mayor Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Inclusiveness Resolution: Sarah Sandau, Prevention Programs Supervisor, presented a Resolution of the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health in support of recognizing July 2020 as Disability Health Equity Month (on pages 9-10 of the board packet). Raymond Berg made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health in support of recognizing July 2020 as Disability Health Equity Month. Mayor Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

New Staff Introductions: Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, and Ms. Sandau introduced new employees Megan Peters with the Early Education and Care Vista Program and Jolene Jennings, Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Specialist.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Niemann highlighted the State of Montana's COVID-19 Map of current number of confirmed, active, and recovered cases, the number of hospitalizations, and deaths. Ms. Niemann announced that public health is in the process of hiring additional PRNs and contact tracers. Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, said that Public Health is in the process of finalizing the MOU with Carroll College to begin sampling for COVID-19 in the wastewater for Helena and East Helena. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Niemann described the procedures for testing and quarantine when symptomatic and when considered a close contact to a positive case. Ms. Niemann also discussed the collaboration between the Helena School District, East Helena School District, schools in Lincoln and Craig, and private schools and Public Health on their plans for opening schools. In answer to a question from Ms. Oliver, Ms. Niemann discussed the challenges with the Farmers Market event plan such as controlling groups coming in and out, providing environmental controls, physical distancing, and keeping the event to a minimum of 250 people. The Farmers Market Board will need to provide an adequate plan to ensure those challenges can be met. Mr. Merchant described the difference between a planned event/social event, which the Farmers Market is considered, and grocery stores as per the Governor's order. Mr. Berg expressed his concern regarding the need for compliance on the mask order. Mr. Berg read a small portion of an NPR article "Can masks save more of us from lockdowns? Here is what the science says." Ms. Niemann discussed the complaint process regarding masks and other phase two complaints. Complaints can be emailed to publichealth@lccountymt.gov or called into 457-8900. An additional complaint phone line is in development. Mr. Berg recommended removing the educational call step and only have corrective order and injunction steps for mandatory compliance for masks. Ms. Niemann said she would visit with staff on Mr. Berg's suggestion. We would need full assistance from law enforcement and the county attorney's office if we did so.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In answer to a question from Mary Ann Dunwell via Zoom chat message, (see Attachment "A"); Ms. Niemann said that we have not received a school opening plan from the East Helena School District. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Niemann said that schools are working on developing plans. They recognize that these plans need to be flexible, as we do not know what six weeks from now will look like. She believes that making a decision about August 26 is not wise at this time. Mr. Merchant said that School District #1 is setting up a scenario-based plan. Mr. Merchant is encouraging scenario-based plans. In answer to a question from Mr. Berg, Ms. Niemann said that schools are acknowledging the pitfalls from last school year involving students with disabilities and lack of internet access and are making corrections in their plans.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT *continued*

Ms. Oliver expressed her opinion as a consumer that the Farmers Market should not be considered a social event. The lack of food on shelves in certain stores is concerning, and we should be proactive in supporting our farmers and local infrastructure to ensure healthy food in our community. Ms. Niemann said Public Health is an advocate of the Farmers Market and that we want to see it up and running in a safe manner for all. Our Public Health staff has committed many technical assistance hours to working with the Farmers Market Board. If advocacy is to be had, it is with the Farmers Market Board. We needed the Board to work with us and take our advice on limiting the market to only food and produce, but that was disregarded along with our technical assistance. Now that legal action was taken, the Board is back to working with our staff in working on a plan for operation. In the meantime, we encourage vendors to find a way to sell their products to the community in a way that does not create a situation that creates large gatherings. If the Board did keep the market to only food and produce vendors, they would still need to keep the limit on the number of people, and vendors would still need to be restricted with controls in place. People come and go from the market, which requires a lot of thought and effort from the

market's board to create their plan. We are encouraging vendors to consider selling online and through social media. We want the vendors to be creative. This is not the year for gatherings.

PUBLIC COMMENT *continued*

Mary Ann Dunwell thanked the health department for the work that they are doing during this time and the need for the public to wear face masks.

REVIEW OF AGENDA *continued*

Mr. Berg noted that the inclusiveness resolution agenda (on page 8 of the board packet) had the wrong date. He also requested adding Megan Peters on the agenda. Ms. Niemann announced that the title Lewis and Clark Commission was added in the inclusiveness resolution. It should read Lewis and Clark County Board of Health.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT *continued*

In answer to a question from Ms. Oliver, Ms. Niemann said that we need a rigorous campaign for mask usage for adults and children. Once we have our communications specialist hired, we will be working on the research about the science on using masks and continuing the messaging from Ms. Dunwell about sacrificing now for later so people can get back to normal and children can get back in school. We will also be working on finding more research on how to help reduce fear in our community by everyone doing their part. Mr. Murgel will share some of his resources that he has about masks.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary