

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES  
1930 9<sup>th</sup> AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.  
September 24, 2020**

Members Present by Zoom

Justin Murgel, chair  
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair  
Brie McLaurin  
Kammy Johnson  
Dr. Mikael Bedell  
Jenny Eck (arrived @ 1:09 p.m.)  
Raymond Berg (arrived @ 1:08 p.m.)  
Tyler Ream

Staff Present by Zoom

Drenda Niemann      Shelly Maag  
Jolene Helgerson  
Jacqueline Isaly  
Kathy Moore  
Eric Merchant  
Damian Boudreau

Guests Present by Zoom

Representative Mary Ann Dunwell

Members Absent

Mayor Wilmot Collins

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of board members were made.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mr. Murgel announced that the PHAB Annual Report will be moved to the October agenda. No public comment was given.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August 27, 2020, minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

WIC Presentation: Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, gave a WIC presentation (see Attachment “A”) in which she highlighted who WIC serves, explanation of benefits, education, referrals, outreach, and WIC outcomes. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Isaly said that WIC data showing an increase in the need for WIC benefits is slowly becoming available. No public comment was given.

Local COVID-19 Decision Making Dashboard and Criteria Memo: Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, presented the updated Local COVID-19 Decision Making Dashboard and the criteria in which those decisions are made (see Attachment “B”). In answer to questions from Kammy Johnson, Mr. Merchant said at this time there is not enough data to connect the rise in cases to a cluster. We need an epidemiologist to start working on the data to get that answer, he added. We are seeing public compliance regarding contact tracing, but do, at times, see resistance. In answer to a question from Jenny Eck, Mr. Merchant said we do see some push back from those who are asked to isolate. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, said the State Health Department is working with Legislature leadership on the development of their COVID plan for the

upcoming legislative session. Ms. Eck said the current session cannot make decisions for the next legislative body, which will not happen until the elections in November. This why the development of the plan is not finalized. Mr. Merchant further discussed the reopening of schools and colleges in Lewis and Clark County. Thoughtful plans have kept cases in our schools and colleges low compared to other larger school district in other counties. Mr. Murgel asked for public comment.

Representative Mary Ann Dunwell addressed her concerns regarding the mask mandate violations at the Capitol and the reluctance of some her colleagues not abiding by the Governor's mandate, while staff within the buildings are being endangered by their actions. She asked the Board of Health to enforce the mask mandate. Ms. Niemann said Public Health has received mask complaints for the Capitol Building. She said we have been working with the Department of Administration, Legislative Services, the Legislative Leadership Committee, and Governor Bullock to hold accountable those who are not following the Governor's Directive. In answer to a question from Ms. Eck, Ms. Niemann said sorting out the jurisdiction regarding the State Capitol has been difficult. We are working with our county attorney's office for further clarification of our enforcement process. Ms. Eck requested that Ms. Niemann keep the Board updated on this topic.

### **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Ms. Niemann shared the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality web page <https://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/> and discussed the complications wild fire smoke can have with those suffering from COVID-19 symptoms.

Public Health has reactivated their Facebook Community Heroes public nomination for an individual or business working to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is tracking positive COVID-19 cases in all schools and colleges in Montana and has a webpage for the public to view the data. Ms. Niemann will send the link to the Board.

Ms. Niemann highlighted the COVID-19 Dashboard and the State of Montana COVID-19 map of current numbers of confirmed, active, and recovered cases, and the number of hospitalizations and deaths.

No public comment was given.

There being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 2.59 p.m.

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Justin Murgel, Chair

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Drenda Niemann, Secretary