

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

Members Present

Justin Murgel, chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
(arrived @ 1:59 p.m.)
Kammy Johnson (arrived @ 1:13 p.m.)
Jenny Eck
Brie Oliver (departed 1:44 p.m.)
Dr. Mikael Bedell
Tyler Ream (arrived @ 1:17 p.m.)

Members Absent
Mayor Wilmot Collins
Scott St. Clair

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann	Laurel Riek	Shelly Maag
Jolene Helgerson	Jordan Moore	Jennifer Amos
Jacqueline Isaly	Franchesca Talbot	Theresa Rivers
Gayle Shirley	Laura Hendley	Sherry Winchell
Frank Preskar	Jennifer McBroom	Maria Stolle
Beth Norberg	Brett Lloyd	

Guests Present

Pat Christian, Helena Citizens Council
Derek Amburn
Darryl When

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was not established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Mr. Murgel announced that the WIC presentation would follow review of the minutes.

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

WIC Presentation: Jennifer Amos, WIC Administrative Assistant,, Theresa Rivers, WIC Aide; Sherry Winchell, WIC Registered Dietician; and Maria Stolle, WIC Registered Dietician, gave a presentation on the WIC program in which they discussed services, benefits, referrals, outreach, internships, farmer’s market, and WIC outcomes (see Attachment “A”). In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, said that the targeted WIC participation in the tri-county area is 800 participants in this fiscal year. At this time, WIC participation is declining nationwide. She sees this as a need for better outreach to the community. Ms. Isaly also said that the Meadowlark Initiative of the Montana Healthcare Foundation is not specific to WIC, but they are looking into the program. In answer to a question from Brie Oliver, Ms. Winchell said that the implementation of EBT cards has slightly improved WIC participation. She has seen electronic troubleshooting issues at grocery stores and believes that the state needs to provide more oversight of participating grocery stores.

A quorum was established at 1:13 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Onsite Wastewater Regulation presentation and open public comment period: Frank Preskar, Sanitarian, presented a proposed revision of the 2016 Lewis and Clark County Onsite Wastewater Treatment Regulations (pages 5-108 of the board packet). Mr. Preskar said the regulations require that the Environmental Services Division review the regulations on a regular basis and revise them if necessary. Most changes they are proposing this year are simple cleanup and clarification. One substantive change would be to allow homeowners to install “non-standard” septic systems themselves, instead of having to hire a certified installer. Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, announced that today’s meeting is the official opening for public comment on the revised regulations. A public hearing will be held on December 5, and the board will decide whether to adopt the final revisions on January 23. Ms. Niemann also added that a press release has been issued, the health department website has been updated, and the Independent Record has been notified. Board members asked to get a summary of significant changes made to the regulations. Kammy Johnson made a motion to open the public comment period on the revised Onsite Wastewater Treatment Regulations. Tyler Ream seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Murgel announced that the public hearing for the revised regulations will be December 5 at 1 p.m. in Room 330 of the City-County Building, 316 North Park. In answer a question from Ms. Oliver, Mr. Preskar said that concerning the revision allowing homeowners to install their own “non-standard” septic systems, applicants would be required to follow the same installation procedures required of certified septic installers. All systems are inspected before they can be approved.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION: *continued*

Employee Awards: Five employees of Lewis and Clark Public Health received awards at this fall's joint annual conference of the Montana Public Health and Environmental Health associations.

- Brett Lloyd, emergency preparedness specialist, was honored with an Exemplary Service Award from MPHA.
- Frank Preskar, environmental health program manager, was awarded a certificate of recognition by MEHA. Peter Italiano, director of the county Community Development Department, nominated him.
- Laura Hendley, registered sanitarian with the LCPH Licensed Establishment Program, received the Donald E. Pizzini Outstanding Achievement Award for her many years of contributions to the field of environmental health.
- Franchesca Talbot, also a registered sanitarian with Licensed Establishment, won the Vernon E. Sloulin Rookie of the Year Award for her less-than-18-months service to the field of environmental health.
- Jennifer McBroom, coordinator of the Water Quality Protection District, received a Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contribution to the field of environmental health. County Commissioner Susan Good Geise nominated her.

Shelly Maag, public health nurse supervisor, was named LCPH Employee of the Quarter.

Quarterly Finance Report: Heather Parmer, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY20 comparison to budget and cash flow for July-October 2019 (pages 110-111 of the board packet). Ms. Parmer noted that the department is 25% of the way through its fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$206,034, or 8.8% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$549,956 or 21% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$343,922; total ending cash is \$611,163.

Board Training: Board members watched a brief University of Michigan training video titled “Operating as a Board of Health.”

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Public Health and Water Quality District staff participated in a public meeting at Fort Harrison to inform local landowners about the discovery of PFAS (per- and polyfluoralkyl substances) in wells on the National Guard base. PFAS is a collection of commonly used chemicals found in food packaging, commercial household products (like nonstick products, waxes, and polishes); firefighting foam, electronic manufacturing and chrome plating. PFAS may lead to adverse human health effects, and some are being phased out of use as a result. PFAS can accumulate and stay in the environment and the body for long periods. Some PFAS have been linked to reproductive and developmental, liver and kidney and immunological effect in laboratory animals. In humans, they have been associated with elevated cholesterol and may be associated with low infant birth weights, effects on the immune system, cancer and thyroid hormone disruption. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Niemann said that she was not sure if PFAS are found in firefighting gear, but they are ubiquitous. In answer to a question from Ms. Oliver, Ms. Niemann said that if wells in the immediate vicinity of Fort Harrison test positive for PFAS, then more wells in the surrounding area will be tested.

A Ravalli County judge has issued an injunction halting implementation of an October 22, 2019, emergency vaping rule issued by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MT-DPHHS) under direction of the Governor. A hearing date has yet to be set. LCPH Prevention and Public Health Nursing staff are working closely with MT-DPHHS on this issue and will be ready to support implementation of the 120-day ban on flavored e-cigarettes if it is upheld.

LCPH wants to remind you to get your flu shot.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary