

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
In-Person/Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
December 7, 2023**

Members Present

Brie MacLaurin, chair
Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice chair
Commissioner Tom Rolfe
Mayor Wilmot Collins
Mayor Kelly Harris
Justin Murgel
Rex Weltz

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann
Jolene Helgerson
Mary Sparks
Jolene Jennings
Jennifer McBroom
Kathy Moore

Members Absent

Katherine Weber
Lisa Kaufman

Guests Present

Brie MacLaurin, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, announced that the Suicide Prevention update will need to be rescheduled for another time. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Ms. MacLaurin asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 26, 2023, minutes. There being no changes, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

WIC update: Mary Sparks, Healthy Families Program Supervisor, gave a WIC update (see attached “A”) in which she highlighted WIC services such as, nutrition education, food benefits, breastfeeding support, outreach, and referrals.

Behavioral Health Systems Improvement update: Jolene Jennings, Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Specialist, presented a program update (on pages 6-9 of the board packet) in which she highlighted the programs key coalitions and strategies, accomplishments, current programs and initiatives, and future program goals. Board members discussed Crisis Center funding and sustainability.

Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) update: Jennifer McBroom, WQPD Program Supervisor, provided a brief program update in which she highlighted newly hired vacant positions to continue the development of work plans, monitoring and sampling, upcoming water conservation events and watershed festivals, water quality studies, the development of the WQPD story map, and ongoing media outreach.

Ms. McBroom announced that the WQPD board still needs a BOH representative. Ms. MacLaurin announced that she would like to represent the BOH. Justin Murgel made a motion to approve Ms. MacLaurin as the BOH representative on the WQPD board. Commissioner Tom Rolfe seconded the motion, no public comment was given. Motion carried 6-0.

No public comment was given.

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT

Ms. Niemann announced that ongoing discussions and work continues to develop a balanced budget for FY25. Restructuring of the 3 divisions into 2 is one of the decisions that has been made along with moving the Environmental Services staff from the City-County building to the Murray building. Ms. Niemann also announced that the State Public Health Association, Confluence, is working diligently to prepare for the 2025 legislative session where we can ask the legislators to consider a licensed establishment fee increase. The Montana Association of Counties voted to support this advocacy effort and will stand with the Confluence Public Health Alliance as they go before the legislature.

Ms. Niemann announced that after 30 years of service to the county, Environmental Services Division Administrator Kathy Moore will be retiring.

No public comment was given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Brie MacLaurin, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary