

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
In-Person/Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
August 24, 2023**

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann
Jolene Helgerson
Mary Sparks
Amber Johnson
Sarah Sandau
Laurel Riek

Guests Present

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

REVIEW OF AGENDA

A request was made to move the Board of Health Assessment as the last topic of the board member discussion. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Ms. MacLaurin asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July 27, 2023, minutes. There being no changes, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Home Visiting Update: Mary Sparks, Home Visiting Supervisor, gave an update on the Home Visiting Program (see Attachment “A”) in which she highlighted each program accomplishments, challenges, and their goals.

Opioid Prevention Update: Sarah Sandau, Prevention Programs Supervisor, announced that Public Health recently received an 18-month grant through the Montana Public Health Institute for regional opioid education and naloxone distribution coordination. The goal of this project is to increase access to training for and distribution of naloxone within a multi-county region and to connect communities to resources, with the goal of reducing health disparities related to opioid misuse. With these funds, Ms. Sandau has the opportunity to hire a coordinator.

Along with this grant, there are also the Opioid Settlement Funds. On March 22, 2023, at the request of the County’s Behavioral Health System Improvement Leadership Team (BHSI LT) and the County’s Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), a community stakeholder group met to review opioid related data, document current prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and overdose efforts happening in the community, and identify where additional resources could either enhance current efforts

or fill a gap. In answer to a question from Commissioner Tom Rolfe, Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, announced that a small portion of the settlement funds will be going to fund the Opioid FTE's (full-time employees) as outlined in the plan and budget approved by the County Commission.

Pre-view to communications bootcamp: Amber Johnson, Communication Specialist, provided an agenda (on page 15 of the board packet) for the Communication Bootcamp set for September 28 in the Lewis and Clark Library's large conference room. Board of Health members are welcome to attend at any point in the day.

Board of Health Effectiveness Assessment: Ms. MacLaurin lead board members through the NALBOH (National Association of Local Boards of Health) Six Functions of Board Governance (on pages 9-14 of the board packet) in which public health governing entities are responsible for executing these functions. The Board reviewed, discussed examples, assessed their effectiveness for each function, and identified areas for improvement.

No public comment was given.

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT

Statewide Advocacy: Confluence Public Health Alliance is our statewide public health organization which includes the Montana Public Health Association, the Montana Environmental Health Association, and then the Association of Montana Public Health officials. This alliance is new this year and is taking the lead on advocacy and lobbying for public health topics. With the passing of the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Service Commission during the 2023 legislative session, the Confluence Public Health Alliance worked in collaboration with many health local health departments to put a response together to address the questions asked by the commission. Ms. Niemann will email the Alliance's responses to those questions to the board.

Public Health professionals will be attending the Montana Association of Counties Conference at the end of September to discuss advocating at the next legislative session to increase licensed establishments fees which have not been increased since 2009.

No public comment was given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Brie MacLaurin, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary