

**BEFORE THE BOARD CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA**

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND  
DIRECTING CASCADE COUNTY STAFF TO NEGOTIATE  
A CONTRACT WITH ALLUVION HEALTH FOR THE PROVISION  
OF CERTAIN CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 19-39**

**WHEREAS**, the City-County Health Department (CCHD) consists of four Divisions including - Prevention Services, Environmental Health, Family Health Services and Administrative Services, funding for which is a combination of \$550,000 in tax revenues from rural residents (living outside the Great Falls city limits), an annual \$250,000 allocation from the City of Great Falls (from property tax levies on residents within the city limits), fees for services (i.e. Septic System permits) and federal-state-private grants, with the Family Health Services Division being primarily grant-funded at a \$63,000 match requirement funded by the county from tax revenues, and;

**WHEREAS**, the CCHD originally oversaw both the Health Department functions and the Community Health Care Center (CHCC-Clinic), and;

**WHEREAS**, since 1994 while the CHCC-Clinic operated as a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC) under a co-applicant agreement arrangement with Cascade County, both the CCHD and CHCC were managed by one County Department Head, and;

**WHEREAS**, in late 2010, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) directed Cascade County to separate these two operations into two (2) distinct Departments and hire a Department Head to oversee the FQHC operation which mandate was accomplished and fulfilled with the hiring of the first CHCC CEO, while both Departments continued to function in the co-located space at 115 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, and;

**WHEREAS**, for several years, the CHCC Board of Directors had been exploring the idea of separating the CHCC from Cascade County and becoming an independent non-profit operation, and;

**WHEREAS**, after more than 25 years under the co-applicant agreement, the CHCC made an amicable separation from Cascade County on December 30, 2018, and CHCC, doing business as *Alluvion Health* officially became an independent operation on January 1, 2019, and;

**WHEREAS**, late February 2019, saw the departure of Cascade County's Public Health Officer (PHO) for a position with the Community Health Care Center, dba *Alluvion Health* leaving Cascade County without a PHO, and;

**WHEREAS**, *Alluvion Health* offered an opportunity for Cascade County to contract the services of the former PHO as PHO until the PHO position could be advertised and filled by Cascade County, in addition with *Alluvion Health's* management of the administrative aspects of the CCHD during this transition period, which was ultimately effectuated by contract dated February 22, 2019, and;

**WHEREAS**, late March 2019, *Alluvion Health* proposed a long-standing arrangement with the County whereby *Alluvion Health* would permanently provide all CCHD services for Cascade County under contract with *Alluvion Health* including the opportunity for Cascade County's CCHD employees to become *Alluvion Health* employees, and;

**WHEREAS**, in light of the foregoing proposition, the Board of Cascade County Commissioners (BOCC) in the exercise of their due diligence, embraced the need to explore whether and to what extent and how other counties may have transitioned their CCHD functions to other government and non-government entities, and;

**WHEREAS**, BOCC engaged in an extensive review to fully understand how Cascade County CCHD functions and operations might be impacted if this transition proceeded, and;

**WHEREAS**, the BOCC and *Alluvion Health* conducted a meeting with the Federally Qualified Healthcare Center in Miles City to learn of their relationship with Custer County's CCHD, and met with all CCHD employees throughout late April and May, conducted four (4) meetings with the CEO and interim PHO of *Alluvion Health*, each of the Division Managers (Prevention Services, Administrative Services, Environmental Health, and Family Health Services) and their primary staff (manager's choice of who attended the meetings), and also met with the Board of Health (BOH) to discuss the process and identify any concerns/support should a consolidation of the CCHD with *Alluvion Health* proceed, and;

**WHEREAS**, the BOCC met with the BOH in early May and also with representatives from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) on May 23, 2019, and thereafter, met with City of Great Falls leadership on May 30, 2019 to discuss any concerns, define the service line and the city's future commitment to their \$250,000 annual contribution for the CCHD operations, and;

**WHEREAS**, based upon the foregoing, the BOCC believes it prudent to express it's intention to further explore the terms and conditions of a potential contract with *Alluvion Health* for the provision of a long-standing arrangement with *Alluvion Health* whereby *Alluvion Health* might permanently provide all or a portion of the existing CCHD services for Cascade County.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners approve Resolution 19-39 authorizing and directing Cascade County staff to negotiate a contract with *Alluvion Health* for the provision of certain City-County Health Department functions, the terms of which would be subject to final review, consideration and approval by the Board of Cascade County Commissioners.

Passed and adopted this 4th day of June, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Briggs, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
James L. Larson, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Weber, Commissioner

**Attest**

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019, I hereby attest the above-written signatures of the Board of Cascade County Commissioners.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rina Fontana Moore, Cascade County Clerk and Recorder

\* APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Josh Racki, County Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

\* THE COUNTY ATTORNEY HAS PROVIDED ADVICE AND APPROVAL OF THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT LANGUAGE ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND NOT ON BEHALF OF OTHER PARTIES OR ENTITIES. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THIS DOCUMENT BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WAS CONDUCTED SOLELY FROM A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE AND FOR THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CASCADE COUNTY. OTHER PARTIES SHOULD NOT RELY ON THIS APPROVAL AND SHOULD SEEK REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE COUNSEL.