

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Via Zoom

Members Present:

Owen Robinson
Matt Martin, DDS
Amanda Ball
Joe Briggs
Ray Geyer, DO
Tom Moore

Staff/Visitors Present:

Trisha Gardner—Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight—County Attorney, Melanie McKinzie Swartz—Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Albert Grobe, PhD—Environmental Health Division Manager, Joey McDermand—Accountant, Rachel Doran—MT Connect Coordinator, Sandy Johnson—Superfund Site Coordinator, Bowen Trystianson—Deputy Health Officer, Erik Haivala—Preparedness and Community Planner, Jordan Crosby—Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C, Ben Spencer, Jen Rowell, K. Foster, Beth Price Morrison, Brittany Budeski, Nicole Girten, Laurie Glover, Christy Buttler Nelson

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:57 a.m. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from April 7, 2021, BOH Meeting: Mr. Robinson

Mr. Robinson announced Mr. Barber tendered his resignation, effective May 31, 2021. Mr. Robinson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Barber's work on the Board.

Mr. Briggs moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Dr. Geyer seconded the motion. With all board members voting in favor, the motion carried.

2. COVID-19: Trisha Gardner

Ms. Gardner provided the COVID-19 Report.

- Cascade County Statistics
 - 8,935 – Cases
 - 181 – Active cases
 - 117 – New cases (April 29, 2021 – May 5, 2021)
 - Case Rate – 20.5 per 100,000
 - 15 – Breakthrough cases
 - Individuals were fully vaccinated.
 - Vast majority of individuals had underlying conditions or a weakened immunological response.
 - All breakthrough cases are sent for variant testing.
 - 5 – Variant cases identified in the County
 - 2 – B.1.1.7, strain originating in the United Kingdom (variant of concern)
 - 1 – Breakthrough case
 - 2 – hospitalizations of which 1 died
 - 1 – NY strain (variant of interest)
 - 1- CA strain (variant of interest)
 - All hospitalized cases are sent for variant testing.
 - All cases are reported to the state (including variants).

- Breakthrough is expected with all vaccines, as none are 100% effective.
 - Tracking is valuable as it can make a difference in future vaccines and boosters.
 - 23,833 – Fully vaccinated
 - Eligible population of approximately 64,000 individuals.
- Pfizer is seeking approval for use of their vaccine in the 12-15 year old age group. This will expand Cascade County’s eligible population for vaccination.
- The Johnson and Johnson pause was lifted. The Emergency Use Authorization now includes additional information for women over 50 to monitor for blood clots.
- No-Show Rate for Vaccinations
 - 4% - Montana State
 - 10% - Cascade County
 - The agency is reviewing factors that may account for the higher rate and how they can be addressed. Some factors impacting this percentage include:
 - Hospitalizations between 1st and 2nd shots
 - Deaths between 1st and 2nd shots
 - Individuals that have moved
 - Individuals initially coming from smaller jurisdictions to received 1st shot
- CCHD is promoting vaccine availability. Information found at VaccineFinder.org show which agencies have vaccine and which vaccine type.
- CCHD is receiving Pfizer this week and will schedule Pfizer vaccinations next week.
- CCHD is considering walk-in days for vaccination.
- CCHD will begin targeting businesses with younger populations for vaccination clinics.
 - Great Falls Public Schools has already taken advantage of this type of arrangement.
 - Target age is 20-40 years of age. COVID-19 cases are increasing in this population.

3. Totem Beverages Litigation Update: Ms. Haight

Mr. Robinson advised the Board would be going into executive session, “...to discuss the Totem Beverages Lawsuit, ADV-16-0112, as the subject of this topic involves discussion of legal strategy and open discussion would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board. See Mont. Code Ann. §2-3-203(4)(a).]”

The Board went into executive session at 12:09 p.m. and returned at 1:07 p.m.

Mr. Robinson advised attendees the Board discussed litigation strategy and advised it likely that discussions would continue in the future. No action was taken during the executive session.

4. Environmental Health Report: Albert Grobe, PhD

Dr. Grobe provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- A Registered Sanitarian position remains open and posted.
- Environmental Health is working closely with the County Planning Department.
 - Every Location/Conformance Permit Application received by Planning is forwarded to Environmental Health to review for septic issues and/or issuance of a septic permit.
 - 122 – Location Conformance Permits received for review to date.
 - 87 – Septic Permits issued to date compared to 52 permits last year at this time.
 - Two Sanitarians attended the Farmers’ Market Vendor Meeting on April 17, 2021.
 - Approximately 40-50 people attended.
 - Environmental Health Sanitarians review and approve Farmers’ Market vendor applications to ensure regulation are followed.
 - Licensed Facilities

- 375 – Inspections to date
 - 647 – Inspections remaining
- The Environmental Health web page was updated and includes a link to the new Farmers’ Market page.
- Rabies – 74 bites to date
 - All bites are investigated by a Sanitarian.
 - A Public Service Announcement about bats and rabies will be released on the radio. The division will also release educational updates on CCHD’s Facebook page.

5. Superfund Site Report: Ms. Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided the Superfund Site Report.

- Black Eagle Site
 - A public in-person meeting occurred on April 7, 2021, at the Black Eagle Community Center. The meeting was to allow presentations on the proposed amphitheater and ski hill for inclusion in the conceptual use land plan for Operable Unit 2 (the old smelter site).
 - Approximately 40 people attended the meeting.
 - The public comment period for feedback on the land use proposal ended April 9, 2021.
 - Water and Environmental Technologies (WET), the County’s consultant for Superfund site navigation, compiled all comments on proposals and provided to the County Commissioners.
 - The County Commissioners will decide whether to include the proposals in the land use plan draft report created by WET.
 - There are numerous Superfund processes that must happen on Operable Unit 2 before clean-up can occur. It is speculated clean-up is not likely to begin before 2028.
 - The Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit 1 (residential yards) is still pending. EPA and The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) met on 04/23/2021, and agreed to approach clean up on a yard-by-yard basis since State DEQ requirements are more stringent than EPA.
- Neihart
 - The Consent for Access Agreement, for a potential land swap between a private property owner and the County, has not been signed by the owner. This agreement would allow a survey to be done preceding the land swap needed to facilitate construction on Carpenter Creek Road to include adequate bridges and a fish barrier.
 - EPA and DEQ are working on an alternative plan if the Consent for Access Agreement is not signed. Alternate plans would not incorporate the fish barrier requested by Fish and Wildlife Parks.

6. Prevention Services Report: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Prevention Services Report.

- Weekly Surveillance Report
 - The report was discontinued during COVID-19 response.
 - The report is sent to key partners weekly to notify them of communicable diseases within the County.
 - Additional information can be included with the report, such as COVID-19 variants and breakthrough cases.
- The division is releasing more social media messaging.
- Communicable Disease Report (MMWR Weeks 8-15)
 - COVID-19 cases (1,111) are elevated due to backlog cases not reported within month they occurred.
 - Two cases of Campylobacter occurred in the County.

- Chlamydia and gonorrhea infections continue to be high. The division is seeing more walk-in testing at the health department which also provides an opportunity to treat individuals, provide education, and reduce spread.
- Year-to-Date information is included in the report for the larger counties in Montana for comparison.

7. Administration Report: Ms. Gardner

Ms. Gardner provided the Administration Report.

• Finance Report

- The Community Behavioral Health part of the PHEP grant has been billed. Services are managed by The Center of Mental Health.
- The HIV and Ryan White grants did not fully expense last year due to staff reassignment to COVID-19 response. The grants continue to run behind this year for the same reason but will change going forward with full-time reassignment of the responsible staff member back to the grants.
- CCHD is renewing several grants that run on the County fiscal year.
- Family Health Services has grants moving to the State fiscal year cycle. The grants are being extended from July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021 with the new grant cycle starting October 1, 2021.
- CCHD applied for additional funds for the Montana CONNECT position. The State has incorporated additional funding for the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) within the grant. The CHA and CHIP had previously been funded by the health department.
- Approximately \$100,000.00 in reimbursement was received for the COVID-19 community clinics. The Montana Primary Care Association reimbursed for each vaccination administered. Funds have been disbursed amongst agencies that participated in the community clinics.
- Ms. Gardner will meet with the County Commissioners on May 17, 2021, for 3rd quarter and next year's initial budget review.

• Administration

- Alluvion Health has moved into the building and offering services.
- Section II of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Annual Report was submitted and accepted by PHAB. CCHD is awaiting PHAB's feedback on the report.
- The Annual Report is in development. The report will include 2019-2020 information since CCHD did not prepare a report in 2020 due to the pandemic.

• Several Montana Legislature bills that impact public health were reviewed including:

- **HB 702 – AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON'S VACCINATION STATUS OR POSSESSION OF AN IMMUNITY PASSPORT; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION AND AN EXEMPTION; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.**
- **HB 121 – AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH; REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN RULES, REGULATIONS, AND FEES BE PROPOSED BY A LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY; ALLOWING A LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH TO ADOPT RULES TO IMPLEMENT A REGULATION ADOPTED BY A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY; ALLOWING A GOVERNING BODY TO AMEND A DIRECTIVE, MANDATE, OR ORDER GIVEN BY A LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH DURING A TIME OF EMERGENCY OR DISASTER; ALLOWING A GOVERNING BODY TO AMEND AN ORDER GIVEN BY A LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER DURING A TIME OF EMERGENCY OR DISASTER; PROVIDING FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM; REVISING PENALTIES ALLOWED FOR THE VIOLATION OF A LOCAL BOARD RULE; REVISING AND PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING**

SECTIONS 50-1-101, 50-2-116, 50-2-118, 50-2-124, AND 50-2-130, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

- **HB 257** – AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PROHIBITING ACTIONS THAT IMPEDE A PRIVATE BUSINESS'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS; PROHIBITING CERTAIN TYPES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; PROHIBITING AN EMERGENCY PLAN OR PROGRAM THAT RESTRICTS THE ABILITY OF A PRIVATE BUSINESS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS; PROHIBITING A LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER FROM CERTAIN ACTIONS THAT RESTRICT THE ABILITY OF A PRIVATE BUSINESS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS; AMENDING SECTIONS 7-1-111, 7-1-2103, 7-1-4124, 7-5-103, 7-5-121, 7-5-4201, 10-3-301, 50-2-116, 50-2-118, 50-2-123, AND 50-2-124, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE.
 - **SB 199** – AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MONTANA LOCAL FOOD CHOICE ACT; EXEMPTING CERTAIN HOMEMADE FOOD PRODUCERS FROM FOOD LICENSURE, PERMITTING, CERTIFICATION, PACKAGING, LABELING, AND INSPECTION REGULATIONS AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS; REVISING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 30-12-301, 50-31-104, 50-31-106, 50-31-108, 50-31-201, 50-50-301, 81-2-102, 81-2-105, 81-9-201, 81-9-218, 81-21-101, 81-21-102, 81-21-103, 81-22-101, 81-22-102, 81-22-201, 81-22-303, 81-22-304, 81-22-401, 81-22-405, 81-22-412, 81-22-413, 81-22-416, 81-22-420, 81-22-421, 81-22-503, 81-23-103, 81-23-401, AND 81-23-405, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.
- The Quality Improvement Report was reviewed with the Board.
 - The Strategic Action Plan Report was reviewed with the Board.
 - The Board congratulated Ms. Gardner on graduating from the Professional Development Academy through MACO.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Member Comments

Mr. Briggs apologized for the technology issues at the start of the meeting.

Mr. Robinson thanked the County Commissioners for use of the Commission Chambers for the BOH Meeting.

Mr. Robinson is not running for reelection. His term on the City Commission expires at the end of the year. He encouraged members to start thinking about future leadership on the Board.

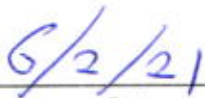
Adjournment

Mr. Robinson called for a motion for adjournment. Dr. Geyer moved to adjourn and Dr. Martin seconded the motion. 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Owen Robinson – Chair



Date