

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Commission Chambers Room 105, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls MT 59401
and Via Zoom Webinar

Members Present:

Matt Martin, DDS
Bob Kelly
Joe Briggs
Tom Moore
Amanda Ball

Staff/Visitors Present:

Bowen Trystianson–Interim Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight–County Attorney, Phoebe Marcinick–County Attorney, Melanie McKinzie Swartz–Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Albert Grobe, PhD–Environmental Health Division Manager, Erik Haivala–Preparedness and Community Planner, Ben Spencer–Communications and Privacy Officer, Rachel Doran–MT Connect Coordinator, Jordan Crosby, Kendal Nagel, Abigail Hill, Carrie Nyssen, Megan Torres, Nicole Girten, John Firehammer, Penny Paul, Jenn Rowell, Wade Stout, Beth Morrison, Kristin Page-Nei, Barbara Bisette

Dr. Martin opened the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Dr. Geyer was excused.

Mayor Kelly exited the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from December 1, 2021, BOH Meeting: Dr. Martin

Mr. Moore moved to “...approve the minutes from the December 1st meeting.” Mayor Kelly seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With all board members voting in favor, the motion carried.

2. Election of Officers: Dr. Martin

Mr. Moore provided an update on the Nominating Committee’s (Dr. Martin and Mr. Moore) discussion. The Nominating Committee recommended waiting to appoint officers until the Board is fully seated. The Board discussed the matter in detail with the following points highlighted/recommended:

- The County Commission fill the vacant County representative position, then elect officers.
- Mr. Briggs advised the County Commissioners will not replace the vacant County Representative position until the Interlocal Agreement with the City is finalized in June 2022. The new agreement may impact the structure of the BOH including a separate BOH for both the City and County, or a combined BOH composed of the County and City that also incorporates other cities and not just Great Falls.
- The final determination was to proceed and appoint officers. Dr. Martin volunteered to be Chair and Mr. Moore volunteered to be Vice-Chair.

Mr. Briggs made a motion to “...nominate Dr. Matt Martin to be Chair and Tom Moore to be Vice-Chair of the BOH.” Ms. Ball seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

3. Orientation for New Board Member: Dr. Martin

Mayor Kelly was appointed to the BOH as the representative of the City Commission. Mr. Trystianson and Mayor Kelly will schedule a time to complete New Member Orientation. This will include a tour of the facility, review of the BOH Manual, and completion of the BOH Member Orientation Checklist.

4. Totem Beverages Litigation Update/Approval Settlement Agreement: Jordan Crosby

Ms. Crosby reviewed the Mutual General Release and Settlement Agreement between Totem Beverages Inc. d/b/a The Do Bar and Cascade City-County Board of Health. The settlement will resolve the ongoing litigation with a mutual release of all claims, withdrawal of Cascade City-County Health Department's Abatement Notice, and a \$5,000.00 payment by the BOH to Totem Beverage. Ms. Crosby recommended approval of the settlement and execution by the BOH. Mr. Briggs made the following motion. *"I move that we accept the negotiated settlement Mutual General Release and Settlement Agreement with Totem Beverage doing business as the Do Bar."* Mayor Kelly seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The Board thanked Ms. Haight and Ms. Crosby for their work to achieve resolution of the litigation. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

5. COVID-19: Bowen Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the COVID-19 Report.

- The community is seeing an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.
 - Hospital and Walk-in services are seeing increased utilization.
 - COVID-19 hospitalizations have decreased.
- Cascade County Statistics
 - 6 Omicron cases identified
 - Current cases are a 50% mix of Delta and Omicron variants
 - 142 new cases
 - 245 active cases
 - 174 per 100,000 case rate (High)
 - 6.1% Positivity Rate
 - 8 Deaths
 - 48% Vaccination rate
 - Ages 12 and up can receive the Pfizer vaccine booster.
 - Isolation and Quarantine guidelines have changed for the general population.
 - Home isolation for 5 days. If symptoms have improved and there is no fever (without fever reducing medication), days 6-10 can discontinue isolation and wear a mask.
 - Quarantine is not required for those fully vaccinated and boosted unless symptomatic.
 - If symptomatic, quarantine and testing for COVID-19 is recommended.
- A report from Israel indicates a case of coinfection with both Influenza and COVID-19.

6. BOH Governing Body Update: Mr. Briggs

Mr. Briggs notified the Board that he and Mayor Kelly will begin negotiations on the make-up of the governing body.

Public Health Officer Position

- One local application has been received.
- An additional two applications are pending.
- Board members should provide feedback to Dr. Martin on the interview process.
- The County Commissioners make the final hiring decision for the Public Health Officer taking the Board's recommendations into consideration.
- Mr. Trystianson confirmed he is not in the pool of applicants.

7. Family Health Services Report: Bowen Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Family Health Services Report.

- WIC Clinic is still operating under the federal waiver for in-person appointments through April 2022.
- WIC Clinic is scheduling appointments and all scheduled appointments have been in-person.

8. Environmental Health Report: Albert Grobe, PhD

Dr. Grobe provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- The division achieved 90% or better in most categories for licensed facility inspections and will receive 100% reimbursement in those categories.
- For categories with less than a 90% inspection rate, reimbursement will be on a per-inspection fee schedule.
- Over 300 Location Performance Permits were reviewed by Environmental Health in 2021.
- Over 200 Septic Permits were issued in 2021.

Cooperative Agreement Between DPHHS and the Board of Health

- Dr. Grobe presented the agreement to the Board and recommended approval by the County Commission.
- Environmental Health will opt-out of Pool and Spa inspections due to resource and staffing limitations. This will be corrected on the document submitted to the County Commissioners.
- Fee reimbursement for inspections are dictated by the State and are artificially low.
- The division spent additional time with follow-up inspections with food establishments in 2021 after not completing in-person inspections in 2020.

Mr. Briggs moved, "...that we recommend to the County Commission the acceptance of this Cooperative Agreement with the change indicated by Albert that we will not be doing pool and spa inspections." Mayor Kelly seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With all members voting in favor the motion carried.

Septic Variance Request – Dresch

Dr. Grobe reviewed the septic variance request with the Board and recommended approval.

- Variances of this type have been approved in Monarch and Neihart and have been working well.
- The ECOJOHN is an option for property owners that cannot meet standard septic regulation guidelines.
- This would be the first ECOJOHN variance approved for (presumably) a full-time residence. Previous approvals have been for cabins or occasional part-time residences.

Mr. Moore moved to approve the variance as written. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Mayor Kelly abstained from the vote. The motion carried with the remaining members (Mr. Briggs, Dr. Martin, Ms. Ball, Mr. Moore) voting in favor.

9. Prevention Services Report: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Prevention Services Report.

Communicable Disease Report

- 20 Seasonal Influenza cases
 - Current cases confirmed by a positive PCR sample.
 - As Influenza numbers increase and are confirmed by PCR tests, the State will begin shifting from PCR tests to accepting positive rapid tests as confirmed cases.
 - Influenza season normally starts with an increase in cases Thanksgiving through Christmas, a peak in February–March, then a decline in cases afterwards.
- 139 RSV cases (417 YTD)
 - Hospitals are indicating more activity in adults.
 - Normally RSV is seen in children and the elderly.
- CCHD will release messaging to the public for appropriate use of hospitals and walk-ins, to ensure health systems are not overwhelmed.

Tobacco/Cigar Bar Update: Wade Stout

Mr. Stout provided an update to the Board and requested their attention in maintaining the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA). Highlights included:

- The Omerta Cigar Lounge, a private cigar bar, opened early November in Great Falls.
- Although the lounge has a \$50,000 ventilation system, it cannot make the air safe.
- There is a concern with businesses finding and exploiting loopholes in the CIAA.
- Mr. Stout requested the Board's guidance to put a stop to private cigar bars and keep the CIAA whole.
- Board discussion included:
 - The issue of private cigar bars has gone before the District Court but not the Montana Supreme Court.
 - The matter needs further analysis, discussion, and consideration of the CIAA and the Board's local regulation.
- The Board heard public comment in support of maintaining the integrity of the CIAA from Kristin Page-Nei – American Cancer Society, Beth Morrison – Substance Abuse Prevention Manager for Alliance for Youth / Prevention Specialist for Cascade County, and Barbara Bissette.
- The matter could/may be addressed through City and County zoning versus a health regulation.
- Prevention Services Division will draft a report on employee/public access to the building occupied by the lounge and present in the next BOH meeting.
- Once the Board knows the parameters of impact, options can be reviewed.

10. Administration Report: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Administration Report.

Finance

- Immunization revenues are starting to arrive from immunization funds.
 - Immunization clinics for July – November payments have not posted.
 - Currently working on entering September – December 2021 Influenza/COVID-19 clinics.
- The Immunization program received an additional \$777,290.00 in grant funding.
- CCHD is audited annually during the County's audit. Due to the complexity of CCHD's budget, an accountant is located on-site that meets monthly with Division Managers and the Health Officer.

2022 Strategic Action Plan

Mr. Trystianson presented the 2022 Strategic Action Plan for the Board's review and approval.

- The plan aligns with Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards and measures.
- The agency continues learning while planning and implementing the Annual Strategic Action Plan.
- Goals are selected and shaped based upon a *root cause analysis*.
- Quarterly reports are provided to the Board on the plan's progress.

Mr. Moore made a motion, "...that we accept the strategic plan for 2022 as Bowen has outlined it for the BOH." Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With the following BOH members voting in favor (Mr. Briggs, Dr. Martin, Mr. Moore, Ms. Ball) the motion carried.

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

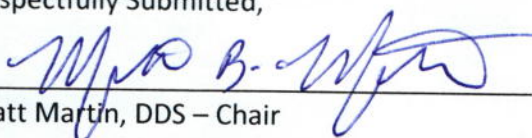
12. Member Comments

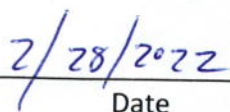
There were no member comments.

Adjournment

Dr. Martin adjourned the meeting at **1:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,


 Matt Martin, DDS – Chair


 Date