

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

Members Present:

Matt Martin, DDS
Tom Moore
Amanda Ball
Mayor Bob Kelly
Commissioner Joe Briggs
Dr. Geyer, DO

Staff/Visitors Present:

Bowen Trystianson–Interim Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight–County Attorney, Phoebe Marcinick–County Attorney, Melanie McKinzie Swartz–Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Rachel Doran–MT Connect Coordinator, Ben Spencer–Communications & Privacy Officer, Jo-Viviane Jones–Family Health Services Division Manager, Sandy Johnson–Superfund Site Coordinator, Lora Mehaffey, Kendal Nagel, Wade Stout, Nicole Girten, Jenn Rowell, Pat Frisch, Lacey Gallagher, Christy Buttler-Nelson, Sydne Fletcher, Lindsay McDonald, Heidi Brelsford, Britt Henneford, Ericka Taylor

Dr. Martin opened the meeting at 11:37 a.m. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from February 2, 2022, BOH Meeting: Dr. Martin

Mayor Kelly made a motion, “...that we approve the minutes from our last board meeting [on] February 2, 2022. Dr. Geyer seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With all board members voting in favor, the minutes were approved.

2. COVID-19: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the COVID-19 Report.

- COVID-19
 - 223 new cases – a slight increase.
 - 153 active cases – significantly reduced from previous weeks.
 - All cases entered/updated, and backlog cleared. This may slightly increase case counts next week.
 - Anticipate cases will continue downward trend.
- CCHD is distributing COVID-19 home test kits on site and to local businesses. Positive results can be reported to DPHHS by scanning the test kit QR code or online at hometest.mt.gov.
- Hospitals experiencing relief with decreased case counts.
- CDC is reporting COVID-19 Community Level (Low/Medium/High) at the local county level.
- Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS)
 - 7 active cases within the school district.
 - CDC is no longer requiring students and others to wear masks on school buses.

3. BOH Governing Body Update: Commissioner Briggs

Commissioner Briggs provided the BOH “governing body” update.

- An agreement is in place between the City and County through June 30, 2022.
- City Commissioner McKenney and Commissioner Briggs met last week to informally discuss a pathway moving forward to start the process of discussing the overall structure of the BOH and long-term MOU. City Commissioner McKenney and Commissioner Briggs will be briefing their fellow commissioners.
- The City moved forward with court action regarding the make-up of the governing body.

- The County responded to the declaratory petition and provided a copy to the City Attorney.
- Judge Best is still assigned to the case, but delays could be experienced if she opts to recuse herself or decline jurisdiction.
- Ms. Haight will notify the BOH with any updates.

4. **Health Officer Hiring Process Update: Dr. Martin**

Dr. Martin reported on the health officer hiring process.

- Five candidates have submitted applications.
- Screening tool will be forwarded to the BOH to review and make comments.
- Screening tool will be used to score candidates and select those to be interviewed.
- Screening will occur first with applications going to BOH members then forwarded to the County Commissioners.
- County Human Resources will provide interview materials.
- Interview questions will be provided to BOH members in advance for input and suggestions.
- The County Commissioners will conduct the interview.
- BOH will attend the interviews via Zoom. Interviews will be recorded.
- BOH members may provide input prior to hiring of a health officer.
- The County Commission will make the final candidate selection.

5. **Family Health Services Report: Mr. Trystianson**

Ms. Jones provided the Family Health Services Report.

WIC

- Infant formula recall has created major disruptions to WIC and clients over the last two weeks. Parents have been frustrated and concerned trying to find replacement formula to feed their children.
 - WIC requested participants return recalled formula they were issued and attempted to issue replacement formula if available.
 - The State sent a list of replacement formulas that participants could purchase at the stores with their WIC EBT card; however, UPC codes were not working when WIC participants were checking out.
 - An additional challenge was limited supplies in retail stores due to supply chain issues; therefore, making it difficult to find replacement formula.
 - Staff encouraged participants to call the WIC office while at the store to help identify formulas to choose (available on the shelf) as well as walk clients through the checkout process since store clerks are not always familiar with the recall issues and allowable replacements under WIC.
- WIC continues to work under the waiver issued in March 2020 and in place through end of June 2022. The waiver allows remote appointments, waives height and weight metrics, and enables WIC to issue formula remotely. An update will be received by end of March on status of the waiver. Waiver will be in place until 90 days after the pandemic is officially declared over.

Home Visiting

- The division is seeing consistent referrals to our home visiting programs including the Foster Child Health Program. The division manager reviews the referral list monthly with assigned staff. The majority of referred clients have issues with domestic violence and drug use. Most referrals are from Child and Family Services Division. Seeing a lot of high-risk clients and do not see that changing.

Oral Health

- The Oral Health Educator, Ms. Tacke, completed in person dental hygiene education to kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grade classes in February 2022.
- The Oral Health program educates more than 5,000 children each year in county/city/parochial schools.