

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, October 6, 2021
Commission Chambers Room 105, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls MT 59401
and Via Zoom Webinar

Members Present:

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

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, Jo-Viviane Jones–Family Health Services Division Manager, Erik Haivala–Preparedness and Community Planner, Jenn Rowell, Traci Rosenbaum, Tom Wylie, McHailey King, Laurie Glover, Beth Price Morrison, Ali Grubb, Lauren Wassmann

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

Tom Moore was excused.

AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Dr. Martin moved to, "...approve the minutes from September 1, 2021, BOH meeting." Dr. Geyer seconded the motion. There were no public comments. 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
 - 100 per 100,000 case rate
 - 14.9% – Positivity rate
 - 5 – Deaths
 - 49% – Fully vaccinated individuals in Cascade County (Ideal is 70-80%)
 - 35% - 12-17 years of age have received at least one dose.
 - 33% - 20-29 years of age have received at least one dose.
 - Cases are primarily in unvaccinated individuals 50 years of age and younger.
 - Local, State, and surrounding state hospitals are at capacity.
 - Both local hospitals are administering monoclonal antibody infusions.
 - There is less than a 5% hospital return rate for individuals receiving the infusion.
 - Primary care providers must refer and submit orders for monoclonal antibody infusions.
 - Infusions are limited and being administered as received.
 - Infusions are an effective intervention.
 - Pfizer is fully approved for a third vaccine booster dose for the following:
 - Persons 65 years or older.
 - Persons working in a setting that places them at increased risk or conditions.
 - Booster vaccines are available at pharmacies, Alluvion, CCHD, and VA.
 - Emergency authorization use for Pfizer and Moderna booster vaccines is still in place for those severely immunocompromised.
 - Moderna and Johnson and Johnson have requested FDA approval for their booster vaccines.
 - Mixing vaccines is not recommended.

- Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Briggs for appearing in a local television commercial and recommending the COVID-19 vaccine.

3. **BOH Governing Body Update: Joe Briggs**

County Commissioner Briggs provided an update on the BOH “governing body” discussion between the City of Great Falls and Cascade County.

- The County Commission approved an agreement establishing the County as the governing body which it submitted to the City Commission for review.
- Upon review, the City Commission rejected the County Commission’s agreement. The City Attorney’s Office drafted a Declaratory Relief Petition naming Cascade County as a Defendant and provided it to the County Attorney’s Office for review with the County Commission. City Commissioner Robinson indicated the City is ready to move forward with filing the Petition but has been waiting to hear back from the County. Ms. Haight advised that with the County Commission unavailable discussions with the County Commission have been delayed but she anticipates providing a response to the City shortly.
- The Board was advised by Commissioner Briggs that the cost of running the health department has increased.
 - An additional \$385,000.00 of County resources was placed into the CCHD budget for this new fiscal year.
 - The County’s portion of CCHD’s budget is over \$1,000,000.00, paid by the people that live outside the city limits. The City contributes \$250,000.00 of capital for CCHD’s budget for those that live inside the city limits.

4. **Family Health Services Report: Jo-Viviane Jones**

Ms. Jones provided the Family Health Services Report

- The division is fully staffed.
- An additional WIC Dietitian was hired 6 weeks ago and is seeing clients.
- An additional Nutrition Educator has been hired. The division will discontinue using the State’s Registered Dietitian by the end of October.
- The Healthy Montana Families (HMF) award letter was received.
 - The total amount of the award is \$226,344.00, nearly a 50% decrease from last year.
 - The division is only able to fund staffing with the awarded amount.
 - The Maternal Child Health (MCH) grant is absorbing utilities and supplies cost of the contract.
 - The division anticipates additional amendments coming from the State to offset expenses.
 - The HMF grant runs for 7 years. Funding is used to serve 96-137 clients. Priority populations for the grant include low income, pregnant women under 21 years of age, those with histories of child abuse/neglect/interactions with child welfare, those with a history of substance abuse and tobacco use in the home, children with low student achievement/developmental delays/disabilities, and current/former members of the armed forces.
- WIC Program
 - Additional funding (\$35.00 per person) was awarded for fruit and vegetable benefits through September 30, 2021. An extension was received through December 31, 2021. Updated monthly amounts range from \$24.00-\$47.00.

5. **Environmental Health Report: Albert Grobe, PhD**

Dr. Grobe provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- 50%+ – Licensed facility inspections completed. The division hopes to meet the 90% minimum inspection rate for DPHHS full reimbursement by the end of the year.
- 169 – Septic permits issued
- 286 – Location Conformance Permits reviewed

- The division is down 1.5 FTE.

6. Prevention Services Report: Ms. Cozino

Ms. Cozino provided the Prevention Services Report. Highlights included:

- COVID-19 continues to consume the majority of Prevention Services staff resources.
- RSV cases are increasing, which is not unusual this time of year.
- Chlamydia/Gonorrhea case numbers will increase on next month's report due to delays in inputting new cases (Communicable Disease staff members working mass flu clinics in October).

7. Administration Report: Ms. Gardner

Ms. Gardner provided the Administration Report.

- CCHD requested additional funds for the Health Department budget due to COVID-19 and additional workforce required for pandemic response.
- The budget is currently on track and there are no grants of concern other than the HMF grant which contributed to the need to request additional funds from the County. Revenue is coming in slower due to the start of a new fiscal year.
- CCHD receive notification of a workforce development award in the amount of \$130,000.00 from The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The additional funds will create one new position for two years. Official notification is pending.
- Staffing
 - 1 – Public Health Nurse Immunizations position open.
 - 1 – Public Health Nurse Communicable Disease position open.
 - 1 – Registered Sanitarian position open
- Flu Clinics
 - Mass Walk-In Flu Clinic – 200 vaccinations provided
 - Mass Drive-Thru Flu Clinic – 325 vaccinations provided.
 - Mass Flu Clinics are used as an exercise to test CCHD capabilities for a mass medication distribution site in the event of an emergency. The exercise was successful.
 - Local Business Flu Clinics are being scheduled and conducted. COVID-19 boosters are available at these clinics or can be scheduled separately.
- CCHD is scheduling vaccination appointments and accepting walk-in appointments. Individuals can schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments at MTreadyclinic.com.

8. Totem Beverages Litigation Update: Ms. Haight

Ms. Haight advised conversations between Ms. Crosby and Mr. Smith have not been finalized. Ms. Crosby will join the BOH meeting next month and provide an update once discussions are complete.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

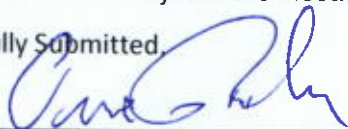
10. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

Adjournment

Dr. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Owen Robinson – Chair



Date