



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270
December 8, 2020

Board Members Present

*Loren Young- Commissioner
*Duane Mitchell – Commissioner
*Shane Gorder – Commissioner
*Terry Meldahl
*Ray Trumpower
*Kari Johnson

*Melissa Boyer

Board Members Absent

Advisory Members Present

Jacquelyn Free, FNP
Brittney Petersen
*Julie Brodhead
*John Dynneson
Stephanie Ler-Sanitarian
Heidi Moran –Recording Secretary

Advisory Member Absent

Jeff Hintz
Janet Christoffersen

Guest:

* indicates who was present by phone

2:00 PM Duane Mitchell called the meeting to order.

Reviewed Agenda: The agenda was approved. Ray Trumpower made a motion to approve the agenda and Terry Meldahl 2nd the motion.

Minutes: The November 10, 2020 minutes were approved with the change of the word I to in. Kari Johnson made a motion to approve November minutes with the change, Melissa Boyer 2nd the motion.

Health Department Administration Report:

Brittney reported that we hired a new part time Disease Intervention Specialist, his name is Quirino. His first day was December 1. Quirino will be working in our Communicable Disease program. Ashley VandeBossche has accepted a new position in the area and her last day at RCHD is December 23rd. Over the past three years, Ashley has done great work within the Chronic Disease Program to link women and men to cancer screenings, develop and grow worksite wellness in both Richland and Dawson Counties.

Last week the CDC issued new options to reduce the quarantine period for contacts. At this time, RCHD will be doing the following: Quarantine for close contacts can end after Day 10 without testing AND if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. After release from quarantine, individuals should continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 through day 14. If symptoms develop, they should self-isolate and contact their local public health department or health care provider.

Brittney reported on the COVID-19 vaccine information as of 1 pm today. The State has no allocated vaccine beyond the 9750 doses set to get to the 10 big hospitals. RCHD is enrolled as a COVID vaccine provider. To our knowledge, other Richland County providers enrolled are the pharmacy at SHC and Ag Worker Health and Services in Fairview. There may be others we aren't aware of. We have received limited information. We are in discussion about how we will operate clinics for COVID vaccine including billing, data entry required within 24 hours, and daily inventory reporting. The personal health information is entered into the statewide Immunization System upon consent of the clients. It can be entered as anonymous if someone doesn't consent. What is reported to the CDC does not include name, address, etc. only date of birth, gender, and vaccine information. Terry asked if there will be a charge for the vaccine and Brittney mentioned that there will be no charge for the vaccine itself but there may be a charge for the administration fee.

Each year as part of our policy review, we review our department's performance improvement and quality improvement plan. We made minor changes to the document this year. This is our tool to ensure that we are continually improving our processes and programs to meet our strategic plan goals. Heidi will send out a copy with the meeting minutes and Brittney will send the Board Chair a copy to sign.

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn Free reported that MonDak Clinic has received the BinaxNow kits. They will be focusing on Fairview School to get teachers tested if needed and this is a 15-minute test. She also mentioned that they are testing for flu.

Communicable Disease -Julie Brodhead

Communicable Disease report for Richland County as of Dec 8, 2020:

24 Chlamydia (showing a decrease in chlamydia cases state wide)

1 Pertussis

8 Hep C Chronic

3 LTB (no one on meds)

1 HIV

3 Gonorrhea

1 Crypto

1 Malaria

29 Dog/Cat Bites

1 Ecoli

1 salmonella

1 Strep Pneumonia
0 Influenza
STATE OF MT -0 influenza

944 COVID-19 (up 449 since last meeting) (domestic & out of state travel, close contact, gatherings such as weddings, celebrations, group gatherings, travel to large events held in other states) 9 deaths

We are monitoring 150- 200 people each month. (This means doing daily phone calls or texting to check on them for symptoms and follow up on testing needs). RCHD has seen an increase of hospitalized persons in these last few months.

The automated texting system for doing symptom checks by testing is working well. Binax (rapid test for symptomatic people) Testing is available at SHC and MT Migrant Council/AG Worker Health

COVID numbers on the state map are behind as we have to enter the data into the state system in order for it to show up on the count and RCHD is working hard at catching up in this reporting data area.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worldwide: Johns Hopkins Map:

World-Wide:

10/13/2020: 37,965,809 cases 1,083,040 deaths, 189 countries

11/9/2020: 50,913,451 cases 1,263,089 deaths, 190 countries

12/8/2020: 68,010,230 cases 1,533,025 deaths, 191 countries

COVID-19 U.S.:

10/13/2020: 7,825,329 cases 215,439 deaths,

11/9/2020: 10,110,552 cases, 238,251 deaths

12/8/2020: 15,087,418 cases, 285,218 deaths

COVID-19 MT:

10/13/2020: 19,611 cases (7,774 active) 217 deaths (total hospitalized- 911 with 294 currently); 11,620 recovered

11/9/2020: 40,053 cases, (15,771 active) 457 deaths, current hosp- 470, total 1,492 23,825 rec; total tested 540,913

12/8/2020: 69,346 cases, (17,449 active) 763 deaths, current hosp. 479, total 2,902 51,135 rec; total tested 696,878

COVID-19 ND –

10/13/2020: 28,245 cases, 4,600 active, (total hosp. 1,126, current 206) 357 deaths, recovered 23,288

11/9/2020: 55,458 cases, (10,865 active), 644 deaths, total hosp. 1,906, current 254, 43,949 recovered

12/8/2020: 83,342 cases, (4,758 active), 1,022 deaths, total hosp. 2,896, current 304, 77,562 recovered

Emergency Preparedness:

Continue to work on COVID Response in the county.

Attempting to work on the Gap assessment workbook to address the capabilities from last year - due 12/31

Julie reminded group that the Regional Healthcare Coalitions are pleased to announce an opportunity for all Healthcare Providers/members int each region to apply for a "Regional Healthcare Coalition

COVID mini grant. It is open from October 1 and goes through December 22, 2020. It has to be submitted no later than December 20, 2020. Here is the link for this grant

: • https://pheap.formstack.com/forms/rhcc_grant_application_copy [pheap.formstack.com]

Sanitarian Report:

Stephanie updated the Board on the Eastern Montana Meats wastewater holding tanks. The Board had agreed to accept the Floodplain permit for the property rather than hold a variance hearing. The floodplain permit was approved and the holding tanks were installed.

County Attorney Report: Janet Christoffersen- Absent

Old Business: None

New Business: Heidi mentioned that she had emailed a 2021 Board of Health Calendar to everyone. She spoke with Stephanie Verhasselt and she marked down the dates on the Commissioners calendar. If a Board of Health date needs to be changed please get ahold of Heidi as soon as possible and she will make that change.

Public Comment: None

Shane Gorder motioned to adjourn at 2:30 pm.

Next meeting: January 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM



Duane Mitchell, Commissioner



Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary