



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270
March 22, 2021

Board Members Present

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

Advisory Members Present

Jacquelyn Free, FNP
Brittney Petersen
Julie Brodhead
Jeff Hintz
Stephanie Ler-Sanitarian
Brandon Roth
Heidi Moran –Recording Secretary

Board Members Absent

Kari Johnson
Melissa Boyer

Advisory Member Absent

Janet Christoffersen
John Dynneson

Guests:

* indicates who was present by phone

2:30 PM Duane Mitchell called the meeting to order.

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

Minutes: The February 22, 2021 minutes were approved. Shane Gorder made a motion to approve February minutes, Terry Meldahl 2nd the motion.

Advisory Member Update: Brittney introduced Brandon Roth, DES coordinator, to the Board of Health.

Health Department Administration Report: Brittney reported that there has been one recent complaint via the state online system. Jacklyn Damm, our Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist followed up with the business in person to provide a formal letter and education. The organization is considering their own smoke free policy for their campus.

Brittney reported that a new grant opportunity, County and Tribal Matching Grant for Regional Crisis Stabilization Planning, was released March 18. Brittney has been working to coordinate partners through Communities in Action, our Local Advisory Committee on Mental Health, and Sidney Health Center to identify interest and the best approach to apply for this grant. Counties can apply separately or as a region. Applicants apply for different tiers depending on the current services and resources in their community. The grant requires a match, cash and in-kind. Board members suggested reaching out to Eastern Montana Mental Health Center, Law Enforcement, schools, and Marie Logan at SHC.

Jeff Hintz mentioned that the City of Sidney is doing a Community Assessment and to talk to Jessie at the City for information on the assessment. The grant closes April 22nd and starts July 1, 2021.

As of March 22, 2021, RCHD has given 1,221 doses of COVID 19 vaccinations. RCHD has offered 6 clinics so far in March, including one planned specifically for school teachers and staff. Brittney mentioned that per Governor Gianforte, starting the last week of March, anyone over 18 years of age will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine if they choose. Community members can call 406-433-6947 or to fill out an online form to get scheduled to receive a vaccine. RCHD has been slow to receive the Janssen (one dose) vaccine as the state's allotment has been minimal to date. We have a wait list for the Janssen and will plan a clinic once vaccine supply increases. All COVID-19 vaccine for Richland County is shipped directly to RCHD and then RCHD distributes it to other enrolled providers, including Sidney Health Center and Ag Workers in Fairview. White Drug Pharmacy is exploring how to be either a state or federally enrolled provider.

Policy Discussion/Department Policies: Brittney discussed the activity checklist developed last year per MACO, which reflected current restrictions on activities held in Richland County. The checklist was primarily used for activities held on county properties. Brittney suggested the Board revisit the need for the checklist as there are no current restrictions on events, only that all individuals are encouraged to take personal responsibility and follow CDC guidelines for social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitizing. RCHD reviews and provides feedback on submitted checklists. RCHD does not approve or disapprove events. Shane asked that this item be added to April's BOH agenda for discussion and a vote.

Performance Management: Brittney reported that the PHAB accreditation annual report is due March 31, 2021 and the focus is on improving communication with the public.

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn Free had nothing to report. Shane asked about the smoke Shack in Fairview.

Communicable Disease -Julie Brodhead

New reporting year (2021 Jan 3- Dec 31, 2020)

Report given on March 22, 2021

11 chlamydia

1 gonorrhea

5 Hep C (3 confirmed, 1 suspect, 1 may be old case and not be counted)

5 suspect LTBI LTB : 1 -No disease in lungs so r/o Active, 1 needs to be seen by doc -

Latent Tuberculosis, 1 needs test repeated, 2 exposed but negative after 2nd PPD, (0) taking meds,

171 COVID -19 Cases for 2021 (at # 1208 for total count for pandemic)

3 COVID deaths for 2021

1 Hantavirus suspect case

old Hep A - investigating NOT A CASE

1-animal bite

0 Influenza for 2020-2021 flu season (October 2020- April 2021)

STATE OF MT -0 influenza since October 2020 for the 2020-21 flu season so far

We have been monitoring up to 3-15 contacts since the last meeting. (This means doing daily phone calls or texting to check on them for symptoms and follow up on testing needs). RCHD has had 2 hospitalized persons since last meeting. The automated texting system "SARA" for doing symptom checks by testing is working well.

3/22/2021 CURRENTLY RCHD: 1 active case that will be released Tuesday and 2 close contacts

COVID-19 case numbers on the state map are behind as RCHD works to enter the data into the state system in order for it to show up on the count. RCHD is working hard at catching up in this reporting data area. Fluctuations noticed statewide on the map due to counties getting data entered - not new cases.

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

World-Wide:

1/11/2021 90,475,499 cases 1,938,349 deaths 191 countries

2/22/2021 111,633,620 cases 2,471,494 deaths 192 countries

3/22/2021:123,321,541 case 2,716,990 deaths, 192 countries, Rec 69,902,003

COVID-19 U.S.:

1/11/2021: 22,443,295 cases, 374,572 deaths

2/22/2021 28,168,735 cases, 499,902 deaths

3/22/2021: 29,821,403 cases, 542,382 deaths,

COVID-19 MT:

1/11/2021: 86,653 cases (4,922 active) 1,057 deaths, (total hosp 3,853) current 207, rec 80,674

2/22/2021: 98,810 cases, (2,170 active) 1,341 Deaths, (tot hosp 4,527), c 78, rec 95,299
3/22/2021: 103,060 cases (1,003 active) 1414 deaths; (tot hosp 4,716) cur 49, rec 100,643

COVID-19 ND –

1/11/2021: 94,830 cases (active 1,881) 1,352 Deaths, total hospitalizations 3,656, current 74, 91,597 recovered.

2/22/2021: c 94 ,312 cases, (active 710) 1438 deaths, (tot hosp 3860), current 30, rec 97,164

3/22/2021: 95,764 cases, (702 active) 1461 deaths, (tot hosp 3,910) cur 19 rec 99,538

Vaccinations for State of MT as 3/22/2021

404,866 total shots given; 157,308 persons that have rec 2 doses so fully immunized.

There is a 28 day wait between first and 2nd dose for Moderna, 21 days for Pfizer

Richland County has given 2882 total and 1,122 persons are fully vaccinated in the last 13 weeks

Public Health Emergency Preparedness:

COVID deliverables due 3/31 which included areas on community resilience, incident management and information management, countermeasures and mitigation - Vac planning, and Bio surveillance.

PHEP deliverables ending March 31: due to state on 4/15

Julie has completed the Gap Assessment and will complete a 3-year work plan to address the identified gaps in the public health system for the county.

Julie reviewed the **Communicable Disease Reporting and Transport Protocols** and noted minimal updates. Requests the BOH chairperson and health office to sign off on checklist. Other items due by end of March for deliverables are: AAR for flu clinic in Sept; POD security assessment plan.

Julie continues to meet with the Eastern Regional Healthcare Coalition on purchases that benefit the region with the purchase of PAPrs for all hospitals in the region, also looking at buying H.A.M. radio bases with handheld for hospitals and offer the training.

Sanitarian Report:

Stephanie reported that she signed the Cooperative agreement to be reimbursed for inspections. She has been scheduling appointments for the COVID clinics and has put the information via Facebook and grocery store inserts.

County Attorney Report: Janet Christoffersen absent

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Ray moved to adjourn at 3:25 pm.

Next meeting: April 19, 2021 from 2:30 pm to 4 pm



Duane Mitchell, Commissioner



Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary