

**Board of Health
Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, January 20th, 2021
Via ZOOM**

Members Present:

Owen Robinson
Terry Barber
Ray Geyer, DO
Amanda Ball
Jane Weber
Tom Moore
Matt Martin, DDS

Staff/Visitors Present:

Trisha Gardner–Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight–County Attorney, Rachel Doran–CONNECT Coordinator
Kyler Baker–Admin Assistant Board of Commissioners, Albert Grobe, Phd– Environmental Health Division
Manager, Anna Attaway–Communications and Community Planner, Sarah Cozino– Public Health
Preparedness/Communicable Disease Program Manager, Jo-Viviane Jones– Family Health Services– Division
Manager, Anna, Bethany Kramarich, Cristal Ariel, Dan Mickealson, klander, Greg Schoby, Tom Heisler, Sandra
Thares, jhays165@gmail.com, Robert Wienholz, Jesse Slaughter–Sheriff Slaughter, Tracy Rosenbaum, Colter
Anstaett, Cassandra Soto, Shawn, Ben Spencer, Tyler H, Kevin Langkiet, Jim Larson, Dianna Olson, Randy
Gilbertson, Lanni Klasner, Wade Stout, Laura Brusky, Lael Humble, Clay, Colter Anstaett, Carmen Perry, Deb
Wagner, Dianna Olsen, Elizabeth Whittemore, Jan Cahill, Jenn Rowell, Jim Larson, jmonroe, Julie Thomas, Kalie
Jean, Kevin Langkiet, kkoteskey, klander, Lexi Jones, Lucas Cyr, Megan Heimel, Melissa, Pam Beck, Randy
Gilbertson, Rebecca Engum, Sandy Noble, Shawn, Sandy Johnson, Susan, The Electric, Tom, Wade Stout

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Dr. Geyer exited the meeting from 9:20 a.m. to 9:24 a.m.

Mr. Robinson opened the meeting with an explanation there would be four different motions reviewed and the Board would request to hear the Health Officer’s recommendation on each motion.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Occupancy

Motions for consideration included:

“I move the Local Board of Health and Public Health Officer

- a) ***Rescind*** any additional local control measures and allow all businesses to operate at 100% of their capacity.”
- b) ***Adopt and Implement*** current local control measures in place and allow businesses* to continue to operate at 50% of their capacity.”
- c) ***Adopt and Implement*** local control measures to allow businesses* to increase their operations to 75% of their capacity”.

The Board asked for the recommendation of the Health Officer. Ms. Gardner endorsed that the Board Adopt and Implement recommendation c) *Adopt and Implement local control measures to allow businesses* to increase their operations to 75% of their capacity*. Mr. Barber motioned that the Board approve this recommendation. Mr. Moore seconded the motion.

Public Comments

*The floor was opened for public comment. Public comments were provided by the following attendees:
Megan Heimel and Robert Wienholz*

After public discussion the Board voted on the motion. The motion passed with all board members voting in favor.

2. **Operating Hours**

Motions for consideration included:

"I move the Local Board of Health and Public Health Officer

- a) **Rescind** any additional local control measures and allow all businesses to operate under normal businesses hours.
- b) **Leave** current local control measures in place and allow businesses identified in the previous health order** to continue to close between the hours of 10pm and 4am.
- c) **Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow businesses identified in the previous health order** to close between the hours of 12:30AM and 4AM.

**Exceptions to Occupancy and Operating Hours:*

Schools - local school districts and school boards for all school-related activities, both academic and extracurricular School Events, both academic and extracurricular.

Childcare facilities, in recognition of their critical role in supporting a necessary workforce.

Food service establishments that serve a population that depends on it as its sole source of food – university dining facilities, cafeterias in K12 schools, hospital and care facilities, room service I hotels, crisis shelters or similar institutions, airport concessionaires, and any facilities necessary for the response to the emergency, all of which may continue to operate using necessary-only personnel.

***Businesses identified in previous health order: Restaurants, Food Courts, Cafes, Coffee Houses, Bars, Brew Pubs, Taverns, Breweries, MicroBreweries, Distilleries, Wineries, Tasting Room, Special Licensees, Clubs, and Casinos, Gyms, Movie Theaters*

Mr. Robinson asked for Ms. Gardner's recommendation. Ms. Gardner recommended the Board adopt measure c) *Adopt and Implement local control measures to allow businesses identified in the previous health order** to close between the hours of 12:30 a.m. and 4a.m.* Ms. Weber motioned and the board approve this recommendation. Dr. Geyer seconded the motion.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for public comment. Public comment was provided by the following attendees: Robert Wienholz

Ms. Weber read the current **Exceptions to Occupancy and Operating Hours* in its entirety for the record. With all board members voting in favor, the motion passed.

3. **Maximum Assembly at Events**

Motions for consideration included:

"I move the Local Board of Health and Public Health Officer

- a) **Rescind** any additional local control measures and allow gathering sizes of any number when social distancing can be achieved.
- b) **Leave** current local control measures in place limiting gathering sizes to 25 people or less, indoor, or outdoor, regardless of ability to social distance.
- c) **Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow gathering of up to 50 people anywhere, gatherings of 50 – 250 indoors with the approval of an Event Plan Packet, and gatherings of 50-500 outdoors with the approval of an Event Plan Packet.

Mr. Robinson asked for the recommendation from the Health Officer. Ms. Gardner recommended Measure c) *Adopt and Implement local control measures to allow gathering of up to 50 people anywhere, gatherings of 50 – 250 indoors with the approval of an Event Plan Packet and gatherings of 50-500 outdoors with the approval of an Event Plan Packet.* Mr. Barber made a motion to approve the recommendation. Dr. Martin seconded the motion.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for public comment. Public comments were provided by the following attendees: Tracy Rosenbaum, and K. Koteskey

The Board discussed adding a variance request for venues that can maintain social distancing with gatherings of more than 250 indoors/500 outdoors. The Board determined to vote on the initial motion and discuss a variance after discussing the fourth motion (Duration of Order).

After public comment and board discussion, the Board voted on the motion. With all board members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Once the Duration of Order topic was reviewed (next topic), the Board returned to discuss motions for the allowance of a variance request for venues that can maintain social distancing with gatherings of more than 250 indoors/500 outdoors and also discussed 75% capacity. The Board determined to rescind the motion. Mr. Moore moved to “rescind the previous motion in maximum assembly at events 3c to be altered with a new motion.” Dr. Geyer seconded the motion.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for public comment. Public comments were provided by the following attendees: Robert Wienholz and Tracy Rosenbaum

Ms. Weber advised she would vote in opposition to the motion, as she agrees with the initial motion. Mr. Barber agreed with Ms. Weber. Dr. Martin asked if the discussion could be tabled in order to have/collect examples that could be reviewed. He would vote in opposition.

Mr. Robinson called for a vote. The motion failed with one board member voting in favor (Mr. Moore) and the remainder of the board members (Mr. Robinson, Mr. Barber Dr. Geyer, Ms. Ball, Ms. Weber, and Dr. Martin) opposed; therefore, the original motion (listed below), 3c remains in place.

- c) **Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow gathering of up to 50 people anywhere, gatherings of 50 – 250 indoors with the approval of an Event Plan Packet, and gatherings of 50-500 outdoors with the approval of an Event Plan Packet.

Mr. Robinson confirmed that the topic could be revisited at a future BOH meeting.

4. Duration of Order

Motions for consideration included:

“I move the Local Board of Health and Public Health Officer adopt and implement the above agreed upon control measures effective:

- a) **Immediately** and these measures will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is 25 per 100,000 for four consecutive weeks.”
- b) **Immediately** and these measures will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is 25 per 100,000 for two consecutive weeks.”
- c) **Friday January 22, 2021 at 5am** and these measures will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is 25 per 100,000 for four consecutive weeks.”
- d) **Friday January 22, 2021 at 5am** and these measures will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is 25 per 100,000 for two consecutive weeks.”

Mr. Robinson asked for the recommendations of the Health Officer. Ms. Gardner recommended c) **Friday January 22, 2021 at 5am** and these measures will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is 25 per 100,000 for four consecutive weeks.” Dr. Geyer moved, “...that we adopt IV C) as written.” Ms. Weber seconded the motion.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for public comment. There were no public comments.

After the public comment period, the Board voted on the motion. With all board members voting in favor, the motion passed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: The BOH also recommends these additional measures:

Ms. Weber read the following recommendations of the Board for the record.

1. *When possible and operationally feasible, Cascade County employers encourage and allow employees to work remotely (telework).*
2. *Whenever possible, Cascade County residents limit their number of close, non-household contacts to no more than six (6) persons per week, as well as limiting the duration of close, non-household contacts to less than fifteen (15 minutes).*

3. *Whenever possible, Cascade County residents utilize contact-free services of businesses, including but not limited to drive-through and take-out food services, non-contact delivery options, and the like.*
4. *When Cascade County residents must leave their homes, residents should minimize the number of trips, locations, and time of interaction, AND practice the safety protocols of wearing a mask, social distancing, following surface sanitation procedures, and washing their hands upon return home.*
5. *Cascade County residents shall stay home when sick.*
6. *The public notify health officials of violations of COVID-19 directives by calling the Cascade County Health Department at 454-6950 or using the local website at Health@cascapecountymt.gov. Also, complaints can be directed to the state's Consumer Complaint Form on the state website at: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/FCSS/ConsumerComplaintForm>. Concerns submitted through this website will be sent to the local Health Department for investigation.*
7. *All public meetings conducted by, staffed by, or held in the facilities of the city, the county or the school district will comply with the state and local guidelines for indoor gatherings. Those with medical, religious, or other reasons for not wearing masks will be provided the opportunity to participate through telephonic or electronic means.*
8. The BOH also recommends continuing educational effort on the following:
 1. *General guidelines for maintaining safe work and home environments through mask wearing, social distancing, following sanitation procedures and washing hands.*
 2. *Educate business owners of their ability to deny service to patrons who refuse to comply with the Governor's mask order or social distancing requirements. Businesses may summon law enforcement for those who do not comply, and the patron can be removed for trespass.*
 3. *Informing citizens in Cascade County of when and how masks should be worn when in dining and drinking businesses. Masks should be worn at the dining table when not eating/drinking; patrons should reapply masks when simply socializing at a table, masks should be worn when walking through the business, when taking a seat or departing the business, as well as when using the restroom.*

6. Public comment on any public matter that is within the Board of Health's jurisdiction MCA 50-2-116.

Public comments were provided by the following attendees: Lexi Jones, Megan Heimel, K. Koteskey, Robert Wienholz, Tracy Rosenbaum, and Sandra Thares

Ms. Gardner advised the Cascade County case rate is 27 per 100,000. The County is very close to the 25 per 100,000. If the community continues to work together and doing what needs to be done the County will achieve the 25 per 100,000 quickly, and things will loosen up even more. She thanked the businesses willing to work with CCHD and through the situation.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Robinson thanked Jane Weber for all that she has done on the Board. She will be missed. Appreciate all that she has done. Mr. Robinson advised that Mayor Kelly said some very nice things about her on the City Commission Meeting last night.

Mr. Robinson thanked the Board for coming in for the Special Meeting.

Mr. Robinson recognized the work of Ms. Gardner, Dr. Geyer, and Mr. Moore. He stated that, "People that volunteer their time to make the community better, really make Cascade County and Great Falls great."

Adjournment

*Ms. Weber moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robinson adjourned the meeting at **10:18 a.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Owen Robinson – Chair

Date