

**Board of Health
Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Via ZOOM**

Members Present:

Owen Robinson
Terry Barber
Ray Geyer, DO
Amanda Ball
Joe Briggs
Tom Moore
Matt Martin, DDS

Staff/Visitors Present:

Trisha Gardner—Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight—County Attorney, Rachel Doran—CONNECT Coordinator, Corey Reeves—Undersheriff, Don Ryan, Chantelle Galloway, Randy Gilbertson, Kirk Hindoi, Farrah McGregor, Laura Brusky, Erin Keim, Janine Hieb, Lynn Pitts, Gordon Whirry, Brenda Archambault, Megan Heimel, Steven Doner, Andrew Nedens, Todd Ramsted, Catherine Shaw, Teresa Appelwick, Melissa Foley, Valerie Fowler, John Hayes, Andrew McCoy, Anna Attaway, Philip Becker, Nikki, Joseph Murphy, Mike Whitney, Michael Bowman, Brandi Lyon, Bonnie Fogerty, Mary Moe, Chuck Anderson, Jennifer Clark, Dianna Olson, Reuel Plaisance, Hugh Galloway, Lael Humble, B. Crawford, Lanette Hetrick, Elizabeth Whittemore, Rae Shore, Colter Anstaett, Erik Ingman, Melissa Gaspar, Lanni Klasner, Rick Cummings, Kim Ochsner, Donna Williams, Scott Elledge, J. Lewis, Dan, Sandra Thares, Pamela Beck, Nicole Girten, A.J. Rouse, Chad Molen, Katie Richmond, Tina Mann, Spencer Quinn, Mark Finnicum, Berna Demalignon, Bridget Brennan, Dena Johnson, Danielle Funseth, Dena Schoolcraft, Devin Zech, Joey McDermid, Becky Smith-Dobbins, Charles Turoski, Jan Wenaas, Shane Etzwiler, Renee Russell, Sherie Young, S.B., Daneil Summers, Meridith Depping, Bob James, Susan Shannon, William Smith, Lynn Ensley, Brian Shepherd, Robert Wienholz, A. Korin, Melissa Zech, Jodie Traxel, Danielle McNew, Penny Paul, Lucas Cyr, Shelli Lavinder Schwalk, Teresa Shiner, Michelle Sullivan, Randy Dempsey, Brenda Keller, Hanna Trebas, Bowen Trystianson, Carolyn Craven, Jacob Monroe, Tasha Hetrick, Laurie Glover, Elijah Collins, Paige Turoski, Rick Miller, Samantha Plaisance, Lee Dresch, Shyla Patera, Sarah Cozino, Alan Recke, Rhonda Knudsen, Terry Bailey, Russ McDaniel, Lori Badgley, Steve King, Tabetha Otheim, Tyler Haffner, Lain McGregor, Scott Lukkason, David Saslav, Brooke Carlson, Ashley Peterson, Jo-Viviane Jones, Lee Evatt, Jill Brubaker, Amy Brooks, Ben Spencer, Becky Amaral Miller, Carla Bubb, Ryan Ball, Jan Cahill, Rebecca Engum, Kerry K. , Bethany K., Sandy Johnson,, Carmen Perry, Peggy Plummer, Laurie Brennan, Greg Fagenstrom, Kristy Te Slaa, Sarah Elledge, CMSGT Chris Wilson, Tiffany Fairbanks, Laurie Holcomb, Leigh Spencer, Angel Turoski, Great Falls Elks Lodge #214, Cody Burroughs, Elizabeth Teini, Bonnie Huestis, Tanner Ripley, Susan, Travis Grove, Maria Grow, Jayson Olthoff/The Olthoff Group, Becky Zeledon, Roy Alexander, Jenn Rowell, Dave Marzolf, Lisa Kunz, Michealin Mulcahy

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm. A quorum was present.

Dr. Martin joined the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **COVID-19 in Cascade County and Local Measures **: Owen Robinson**

Ms. Gardner provided a Cascade County COVID-19 Update.

- Cascade County
 - New Cases - 7
 - Case Rate - 25 per 100,000 (rate met for 4 consecutive weeks)
 - Case Rate - 15 per 100,000 (February 11th – 17th)
 - Positivity Rate - 7.3% (target is 5%)
 - Total Cases - 7,545
 - Active Cases - 117
- Montana State
 - Total Cases - 97,900
 - Active Cases - 2,532
- Cascade County Vaccinations
 - Community Clinic Vaccinations - 3,918
 - 1st Dose - 12,749 individuals
 - Fully vaccinated - 3,514
 - February 17th Community Clinic (not included in prior numbers)
 - 484 - 2nd Dose
 - 350 - 1st Dose
 - Future Community Clinics anticipate vaccinating an additional 3,300 individuals through February 27th. This includes two additional Saturday clinics.
 - Continuing to schedule individuals on the COVID-19 Vaccination List.
 - State Vaccine Program - Allocation of vaccine to jurisdictions is being funneled through one central point.
 - Federal Vaccine is not received through CCHD.
- The BOH is meeting due to previous Health Officer/BOH Orders tied to the 25 per 100,000 case rate have been met and are no longer in effect.

UNIVERSAL MASKING

Mr. Robinson read the UNIVERSAL MASKING motion options for consideration.

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

A) Adopt and implement a local order for Cascade County requiring universal masking except if the following conditions apply:

- *Children under the age of five. All children between the ages of two and four, however, are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. Children under the age of two should not wear a face covering;*
- *Persons consuming food or drinks in an establishment that offers food or drinks for sale;*
- *Persons engaged in an activity that makes wearing a face covering impractical or unsafe, such as strenuous physical exercise or swimming;*
- *Persons seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired; or persons giving a speech or engaging in an artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical performance for an audience, provided the audience is separated by at least six feet of distance;*
- *Persons temporarily removing their face covering for identification purposes;*
- *Persons required to remove face coverings for the purpose of receiving medical evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment; or*

- *Persons who have a medical condition precluding the safe wearing of a face covering.*
- B) Do not Adopt and Implement** any local control measures regarding mask usage in Cascade County.

Mr. Briggs made a motion, "...that the local Board of health and public health officer do not adopt and implement any local control measures regarding mask usage in Cascade County." There was no second to the motion. The motion failed.

Dr. Geyer asked that an exception be added: *Persons who can maintain social distancing when outside their home or place of employment.*

Dr. Geyer made a motion for option A. Ms. Ball seconded the motion.

Public Comments:

The floor was opened or public comment. Public comments were provided by the following attendees: Charles Turoski, Meigan Heimel, Melissa Gaspar, Laurie Brennan, Laurie Glover, Jennifer Leslie, Dena Schoolcraft, Russ McDaniel, Bridgett Brennan, Hugh Galloway, Shane Etwiler, Randy Dempsey, Jan Wenas, Linda Madsen, Rae Shore, Cory Reeves, Mike Plummer, Jennifer Clark, Renee Russel, Shelli Lavinder Schwalk, Roy Alexander, Tiffany Fairbanks, Lee Evatt, Chad Molen, Melissa Zech, Jo-Viviane Jones, Ashley Person, Peggy Plummer, Lucas Cyr, Charlotte Galloway, Donna Williams, Jason Oltoff, Tanner Ripley, Lanette Hendrick,

The Board discussed the motion. Highlights include:

- The enforceability of a mask mandate. Montana Law allows for enforcement of Health Officer and BOH orders; however, local law enforcement does not have the resources to enforce a mask mandate.
- Potential adjustment of the language in the motion to "recommend" masks versus "require" masks.
- The board discussed Ms. Ball revoking her second of the motion to replace verbiage to make the mask mandate a "recommendation versus a requirement."
- Consideration that individuals may not comply with a "recommendation" to use masks and the State Basketball sporting event bringing in individuals from outside the community.

Mr. Robinson called for a vote. The motion passed with five members voting in favor (Dr. Martin, Dr. Geyer, Amanda Ball, and Terry Barber) and two members voting against (Joe Briggs and Owen Robinson).

MAXIMUM ASSEMBLY AT EVENTS:

Mr. Robinson read the MAXIMUM ASSEMBLY AT EVENTS motion options for consideration.
"I move the Local Board of Health and Public Health Officer

- A) Continue** current local control measures in place limiting gathering sizes to 250 people or less indoor or 500 people or less outdoor, regardless of ability to social distance."
- B) Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow gatherings of up to 1000 people or less indoors or 2500 people or less outdoors regardless of ability to social distance.

- C) Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow gathering of up to 50% of a venue's capacity or 2500 people (whichever is less) regardless of ability to social distance."
- D) Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow gathering of up to 75% of a venue's capacity or 2500 people (whichever is less) regardless of ability to social distance. "
- E) Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow gathering of up to 50% of a venue capacity when social distancing can be maintained. Events over 50% capacity will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the submission of an event plan to CCHD "
- F) Adopt and Implement** local control measures to allow gathering of up to 75% of a venue capacity when social distancing can be maintained. Events over 75% capacity will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the submission of an event plan to CCHD "
- G) Do not Adopt and Implement** any local control measures regarding maximum assembly at events in Cascade County.

Mr. Robinson asked for Ms. Gardner's recommendation. Ms. Gardner recommended option E.

Mr. Briggs made a motion for option G. There was no second to the motion. The motion failed.

Dr. Geyer made a motion for option F. Mr. Barber seconded the motion.

Public Comments:

The floor was opened or public comment. Public comments were provided by the following attendees: Hugh Galloway, Melissa Gaspar, Megan Heimel, Lucas Cyr, Brooke Carlson, Rebecca Engum, Robert Weinholz, Kerri Koteskey, Shane Etwiler.

Board members discussed the motion.

Mr. Robinson called for a vote. The motion passed with five members voting in favor (Mr. Robinson, Ms. Ball, Dr. Geyer, Terry Barber, and Dr. Martin) and two members voting against (Mr. Moore and Mr. Briggs).

DURATION OF ORDER

Mr. Robinson read the DURATION OF ORDER options. 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 CDC no longer recommends the use of non-pharmaceutical mitigations strategies to decrease the transmission of COVID-19"
- B) Immediately** and these measures will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is 10 per 100,000 for four consecutive weeks."
- C) Immediately** and these measures will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is 10 per 100,000 for two consecutive weeks."

Mr. Robinson requested that the motion include, "in Cascade County".

Dr. Geyer made a motion for option C. Dr. Martin seconded the motion.

Public Comments:

The floor was opened or public comment. Public comments were provided by the following attendees: Brooke Carlson, Megan Heibel, Melissa Gaspar, Hugh Galloway, Nate Fairbanks, Rae Shore, Kerri Koteskey, Shane Etwiler Corey Reeves.

The BOH discussed the motion.

Mr. Robinson called for a vote. The motion passes unanimously.

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

The following attendees provided public comment: Andrew McCoy, Hugh Galloway, Brooke Carlson, Megan Heibel, Amy Brooks, Melissa Gaspar

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Robinson welcomed Mr. Briggs to the Board. He apologized for the long meeting but is encouraged by the Board's desire to do what is right.

Mr. Barber commented that he feels conflicted with the threat of COVID-19 and impact to businesses. He further indicated he took a position on the BOH to protect this community from public health problems and must look at that first taking politics aside and protecting the community.

Adjournment

Dr. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



03/03/2021

Owen Robinson – Chair

Date