

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Commission Chambers Room 105, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls MT 59401
and Via Zoom Webinar

Members Present:

Matt Martin, DDS
Bob Kelly
Dr. Geyer, DO
Amanda Ball

Staff/Visitors Present:

Bowen Trystianson–Interim Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight–County Attorney, Phoebe Marcinick–County Attorney, Melanie McKinzie Swartz–Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Laura Brusky–Environmental Health, Rachel Doran–MT Connect Coordinator, Kendal Nagel, Abigail Hill, Carrie Nyssen, Katie Brewer, Nicole Girten, John Firehammer, Wade Stout, Beth Morrison, Kristin Page-Nei, Barbara Bissette, Meghan Haynes, Emily Hovland, Katelynn Lombard, Matthew McGuyer, Brianna Olson, Samantha Payne, Kristina Rauscher, Emma Simpson, Stasha Sokolowski, Olesia Soldyshev, Serenity Wolfe, Christy Buttler Neson

Dr. Martin opened the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Tom Moore and Joe Briggs were excused.

Ms. Ball joined the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

A quorum was established at 11:49 a.m.

Agenda Item #1 was taken out of order.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from January 5, 2022, BOH Meeting: Dr. Martin

Mr. Kelly made a motion, “...that we accept the minutes as entered and approve the minutes.” Dr. Geyer seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With all board members voting in favor, the minutes were approved.

2. COVID-19: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the COVID-19 Report.

- COVID-19 continues to be widely spread throughout the community.
- Case numbers have slightly decreased.
- The Montana Department of Public Health and Human services (DPHHS) altered COVID-19 reporting process. The State now opens a case when a positive COVID-19 result is received versus the local jurisdiction opening the case. The local jurisdiction continues follow-up and investigation. The new method provides a more accurate picture of COVID-19 daily case numbers.
- CCHD received free at-home COVID-19 test kits from the State.
 - Test kits are distributed daily from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - CCHD is distributing test kits to individuals, and to local businesses/organizations to improve community access to kits.
 - Mr. Trystianson will coordinate with Cascade County Department Heads to distribute test kits for County employees.
- Local health care facilities continue to see high utilization of services.

3. BOH Governing Body Update: Ms. Haight

Ms. Haight provided the BOH “governing body” update.

- The County received declaratory relief paperwork from the City Attorney’s office.
- Ms. Haight will be acknowledging the declaratory relief.
 - The acknowledgement starts the County’s clock to respond to the declaratory relief action.
 - There have been no discussions while awaiting the resolution outcome.
 - The current agreement, which appoints the County as the temporary “governing body”, is effective through June (end of fiscal year).
- The declaratory relief petition is filed with Judge Best in the District Court.
 - Judge Best has the right to decline to accept jurisdiction on the case.
 - If needed, the temporary “governing body” agreement could be extended.

4. Health Officer Hiring Process Update: Dr. Martin

Dr. Martin inquired if there were any updates on potential Health Officer applicants. Ms. Haight is in contact with County Human Resources and is unaware of any additional applicants.

- Dr. Martin and Ms. Haight will request Commissioner Briggs add hiring of the new Health Officer to the County Commission meeting agenda.
- Dr. Martin and Mr. Briggs have not had a chance to discuss the Board’s applicant interview process recommendations.

5. Family Health Services Report: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Family Health Services Report.

- A WIC Nutrition Aide position is open and will be posted due to a resignation within the division.

6. Environmental Health Report: Ms. Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- The division is down 2.5 full-time employees.
 - 1 - Environmental Health Division Manager position open due to resignation of Dr. Grobe. His last day was January 28, 2022. The position, which also acts as a working Sanitarian, will be posted.
 - 1 - Sanitarian position remains open and posted.
 - .5 - Sanitarian position is vacant due to an individual reducing hours to part-time.
- Division and Program Responsibility Review
 - The division reviewed cutting back on services not required by the State due to staffing levels. The following services will be discontinued:
 - Pool Inspections will be returned to the State.
 - Subdivision review will be returned to The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
 - The division is reviewing ways to streamline work including:
 - Reducing time spent on temporary food events.
 - Shifting rabies bite investigations to Prevention Services.
 - The DEQ Air Quality contract is under review for a reduction in time allotted to the contract.
- The division must maintain licensed establishment inspections and septic permitting.
- 2021 – Licensed Establishment Inspections
 - 87% - Overall licensed establishment inspection rate. The State provides full reimbursement if a 90% inspection rate is achieved and a per inspection rate if the 90% is not achieved. Swimming pool inspections impacted overall results.
 - 90% - Licensed Food inspection rate was achieved.
- Septic Installer Training occurred on January 27, 2022, with a total of 16 participants.
- Farmers’ Market
 - The division will attend the Spring Vendor Meeting in March and speak with participating vendors regarding regulatory requirements.