

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
Commission Chambers Room 105, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls MT 59401
and Via Zoom Webinar

Members Present:

Matt Martin, DDS
Tom Moore
Amanda Ball
Mayor Bob Kelly
Commissioner Joe Briggs
Dr. Geyer, DO

Staff/Visitors Present:

Bowen Trystianson–Interim Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight–County Attorney, Phoebe Marcinek–County Attorney, Sandy Johnson– Superfund Site Coordinator, Melanie McKinzie Swartz–Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Ben Spencer–Communications & Privacy Officer, Colin Campbell–Preparedness & Community Planner, Sarah Cozino–PHEP Program Planner, Rachel Doran–MT CONNECT Coordinator, Laura Brusky–Sanitarian, Caleen Tacke–Oral Health Educator, Joey McDermand–Accountant, Abigail Hill, Nicole Girten, Wade Stout, Lacey Gallagher, Rebecca Pulley

Dr. Martin opened the meeting at 11:39 a.m. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from March 2, 2022, BOH Meeting: Dr. Martin

Mayor Kelly made a motion, “...to 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
 - 16 new cases
 - 19 active cases
 - 64 cases (past 3 weeks)
 - 0 deaths (past 2 weeks)
 - 2.8% daily case rate
 - No reports of variant BA.2
 - COVID-19 Community Levels remain low. CDC recommends staying up to date on vaccines, testing if symptomatic and mask usage if sick or testing positive.
- COVID-19 at home tests available at CCHD.
- CCHD is working with Montana State DPHHS to secure PCR testing equipment for travel between Montana and Canada.

3. BOH Governing Body Update: Commissioner Briggs

Commissioner Briggs provided the BOH “governing body” update.

- Temporary agreement is in place between the City and County through June 30, 2022.
- City Commissioner McKenney and Commissioner Briggs continue to meet to work on the new agreement.

4. Health Officer Hiring Process Update: Dr. Martin

Dr. Martin reported on the Health Officer hiring process.

- Eight applicants for the position.
- Screening tool provided to the BOH. Return scoring sheets to Ms. Haight.
- The BOH screening tool will be used to identify candidates to be interviewed.
- A list of interview questions will be provided for the BOH to review.
- Interviews will be recorded on Zoom, and BOH members will receive an invitation.

5. **Family Health Services Report: Ms. Doran/ Ms. Tacke**

Ms. Doran provided a MT CONNECT update.

- CONNECT is a statewide bi-directional referral system used for provider-to-provider referrals.
- Ms. Doran started as the CONNECT Coordinator in October 2019. She onboarded approximately 63 agencies during the pandemic.
- The State conducted a legal review of CONNECT in November 2021.
 - CONNECT is changing from an MOU agreement to a per user basis.
 - The State interviewed Alluvion, Benefis and CCHD regarding the new changes.
 - A statewide meeting will occur April 20, 2022, and the new program will be relaunched.

Ms. Tacke provided a report on the Oral Health Program.

- Ms. Tacke provides face to face oral hygiene classroom education.
- Oral health education classes are offered to children in grades 2 and 4 in Cascade County schools. Each student receives a toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss.
- Kindergarten “Brush-In” toothbrushing demonstrations were completed last February.
- Ms. Tacke presented an oral health story and activities at the Great Falls Public Library’s Children’s Story hour. Dental assistant students from the college helped with the lessons. The kindergarten students received toothbrushes, toothpaste, and a story book.
- School dental screenings are back in the schools.
 - 21 volunteer dentists.
 - 34 school dental screenings to date.
 - Screenings held for grades 1, 3 and 5.
 - Results from the screenings provide parents the status of their child’s oral health. Children in need of oral care are referred to a dental provider.
- 4,791 students have benefited from the Oral Health Program.
- The program continues to seek funding to offset the cost of essential supplies
 - Received \$1,000 from Benefis through the United Way.
 - Discovery Grant application has been submitted.
- Ms. Tacke was invited to join a Great Falls Public Schools Board Meeting and provide an Oral Health Program update.

6. **Environmental Health Report: Ms. Johnson**

Ms. Johnson provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- Staffing
 - 1.5 Sanitarian positions open.
 - 1 Environmental Health Division Manager open.
- Program Restructuring
 - Rabies Program transitioning to Prevention Services.
 - 62 Bite reports year to date.
- Ms. Johnson and Ms. Brusky are managing land use, building, and subdivisions.
- 16% (28) licensed establishment inspections completed year to date, target is 25%.
- QI project to streamline plan review implemented for 2022.