

**FLATHEAD CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
 DECEMBER 19, 2019  
 CONFERENCE ROOM A & B / 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
 EARL BENNETT BUILDING  
 1035 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE WEST  
 KALISPELL, MONTANA**

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Others</u>
Bill Burg, CPA (1:11pm)	Pam Holmquist, Commissioner	Ashleigh Bailey
Wayne Miller, MD	Ronalee Skees	Cliff Bennett
P. David Myerowitz, MD		Nikki Bishop
Mike Nicosia, PhD		Brock Boll
Roger Noble, PG		Jillian Boll
Tamalee St. James Robinson		Lisa Dennison
Kyle Waterman, City Representative		Lindsey Douglas
		Lauren England
		Mandie Fleming
		Malia Freeman
		Justin Frunz
		Colin Gaiser
		Jesse Green
		Courtney Gwiazdon
		Hillary Hanson
		Shawna Himsl
		Christine Hughes
		Heather Murray
		Kerry Nuckles
		Danielle Peirce
		Jen Rankosky
		Jake Rubow
		Mary Sterhan
		Angela Tamburelli
		Kirk Zander

Call to Order

Chairperson P. David Myerowitz called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

Attendance

Approval of Agenda

**MOTION Bill Burg to approve the meeting agenda.**

**SECOND Tamalee St James Robinson**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2019 Regular Meeting

**MOTION Burg to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting.**

**SECOND Roger Noble**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Public Hearing: Flathead County Rabies Control Program

The Department has made proposed amendments to the Flathead County Rabies Control Program (Control Program). The Control Program was originally adopted in April 2015 and amended in June 2018. The purpose of the hearing is to give interested persons the opportunity to present their views to the Board of Health concerning the modifications proposed for the Flathead County Rabies Program.

- There were no comments for proponents of the amendments.
- There were no comments for opponents of the amendments.
- Hillary Hanson indicated that she had received no comments in writing or via email concerning the amendments and that the changes would be up for vote at next month's Board Meeting.

2020 Food and Consumer Safety Cooperative Agreement

This is an annual update to the Cooperative Agreement between the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Flathead City-County Health Department for our Food and Consumer Safety Program which will need to be signed by the Board Chair on the Board's behalf.

**MOTION Burg to approve the 2020 Food and Consumer Safety Cooperative Agreement**

**SECOND Kyle Waterman**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Departmental Reports

Community Health

Lisa Dennison reported for Community Health

- The outbreak graph of the Communicable Disease report has been reformatted to show a running list of outbreaks since January 2015 as well as an illustration of which facilities are having the outbreaks.
- There were no facility outbreaks in November.
- The November hospitalized influenza case was an unvaccinated individual over the age of 65 with underlying health conditions diagnosed with influenza type A.
- As of last week there were 17 reported cases with over 50% being influenza type B. This is unusual since influenza type B is usually seen later in the flu season. However, this trend is being seen both state and nationwide.
- We are now at a point in the season where Montana has reached the 10% positivity in all PCR flu tests indicating enough confirmed flu circulating to rely on the rapid flu test results. These results will now be counted in the weekly influenza count.
- There has been an increase in Hepatitis A cases statewide. In the last year Montana reported 14 cases with 9 cases reported since mid-October. The majority of these cases have been identified in the high-risk population such as IV drug users and homeless. There were two cases reported in Flathead County.

- Latent TB infection (LTBI) will be reportable beginning January 1, 2020. Local providers will be receiving new material concerning the rule change, reporting guidelines and resources.
- Dennison expressed her appreciation for Myerowitz and Wayne Miller's work within the Board of Health.

### WIC

Nuckles reported for WIC

- WIC numbers are holding steady.

### Home Visiting

Holly Jordt reported for Home Visiting

- Jordt expressed her appreciation of Myerowitz and Miller's understanding of their role in overseeing public health and using evidence based practices to guide decisions.
- Parents as Teachers caseloads are holding steady.
- SafeCare has seen a slight increase in numbers with 3 new clients added.
- The Asthma Program has enrolled two new clients.
- The Healthy Young Parents Program is holding at 100% caseload. The group activities at Linderman are doing well. The college group had 7 families participate earlier this month and 12 families RSVP'd for the December 18<sup>th</sup> group.
- Referrals haven't decreased with 34 received for November.
- The Health Department was successfully awarded a grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation to work in collaboration with Linderman Educational Center, Kalispell Regional Hospital, Flathead Community Health Center and Intermountain to support students who are interested in referrals and further support services. The Health Department's role in the grant will be to offer Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) and Motivational Interview Trainings in the community.
- Healthy Montana Families team attended Perinatal Mood Disorder training in November to better identify perinatal mood disorders.
- The Health Department hosted the Housing Mapping meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The group mapped out Prevention Services, Outreach, Intake and Assessment, Emergency Shelter Services, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing and Permanent Affordable Housing. The exercise showed there was not enough transitional housing slots available compared to the need. The next step will be to establish priorities and set an action plan.
- Working with Lake, Lincoln, Sanders and Flathead Counties to increase the number of CONNECT users.

### Environmental Health

Christine Hughes reported for Environmental Health

- Hughes thanked Miller and Myerowitz for their service on the Board and their support of Environmental Health.
- Food and Consumer wrapped up end of year inspections.
- 14 subdivision applications were received with 7 remaining at the Health Department.
- There will be an Environmental Review subcommittee in January to discuss the time study.

- There were 28 wastewater applications received and 86 final septic inspections completed.
- Environmental Health is hiring a full-time Technician who will perform tasks which do not require a Registered Sanitarian, such as septic finals, complaints and air quality.

#### Flathead Community Health Center

Mary Sterhan reported for Flathead Community Health Center

- The financial system conversion is being completed.
- There has been an increase in visit volume over the last 3 months.
- The Community Health Center (CHC) will be seeking approval for a new position focusing on the revenue cycle starting with patient admittance through the billing process. This person will also help with grant compliance.
- Federal funding for the CHC will be available through December 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a move to separate CHC's and other social services into a separate funding bill which will allow for a 5 year funding cycle.
- The CHC received a grant from Montana Healthcare Foundation and will be working with Intermountain to initiate outpatient behavioral therapy services starting in schools. With this program they are hoping to add primary care services in Kalispell and Evergreen by the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020.

#### Family Planning

Mandie Fleming reported for Family Planning

- Fleming thanked Miller and Myerowitz for all of their hard work and their interest in Family Planning.
- Family Planning submitted a proposal for \$80,000 through the State Family Planning Program for supplemental funding. If awarded, they plan to purchase and stock a large volume of Long Acting Reversible Contraception's (LARCS), increase advertising efforts and purchase clinical supplies and instruments.
- Patient visits dipped during November, possibly due to the holidays and providers taking time off. Visits were 20% higher this November compared to last year.
- The syringe exchange program had 6 new participants and 33 visits in November. They provided 7 referrals to substance use and treatment services, 24 to healthcare services and conducted 3 HIV and Hepatitis C tests. They are currently at a 70% return rate.

#### Health Promotion

Jennifer Rankosky reported for Health Promotion

- Rankosky thanked Myerowitz and Miller for their service.
- The Warming Center will be opening on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Their hours will be 7am to 7pm with a 10pm curfew, Although, Law Enforcement will be able to access the center after hours when needed.
- Hillary, Jen and Lisa visited to Jordan Owen, the new EMS manager, and the Emergency Support Function 8 group to discuss the Health Department's roll in a mass casualty situation.
- On October 8<sup>th</sup>, Governor Bullock announced an emergency rule prohibiting the sale of flavored e-cigarette products within the state of Montana due to the increased use of these products among the youth and an outbreak of e-cigarette related lung injury/illness. This rule, which includes the online sale of these products, came into effect on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Home Health

Courtney Gwiazdon reported for Home Health

- There were 40 consults in November with 6 referrals declining. December has been busy with 19 consults thus far. Active patient census as of today is 78 with 2 pending referrals.
- The total number of visits for November was 682.
- Referrals remain widespread through assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities, MD offices and hospitals.

### Animal Shelter

Cliff Bennett reported for the Animal Shelter

- Bennett stated that it has been an honor and pleasure working with Myerowitz and Miller.
- Over the last 30 days the shelter has received 3 large bequests (2 from estate settlements, one from a very generous and private donor) totaling approximately \$660,000. The Shelter is working on a multi-faceted plan which contains elements of capital improvements, medical equipment and a couple of programs meant to help the pet-owning citizens of Flathead County.

### Mosquito District

No report available for the Mosquito District

### Financial Report

Kirk Zander reported on the Financial Report

- Zander stated he appreciated working with Miller and Myerowitz.
- At the end of November the General Health Fund cash balance is just over \$1.09 million. Tax revenue of \$651K was received this month which largely contributed to the overall increase from last month.
- Revenues and expenses are currently in line with the budget. Revenues in Immunization and Environmental Health continue to be strong. Expenses were affected by a third payroll in the month and several vaccine payments.
- The Health Department has budgeted for various capital projects through June and remains on track to fund those projects as outlined in the County's CIP budget.
- Home Health cash balance is just over \$179K. This represents a cash balance decrease of approximately \$41K since the start of the current fiscal year. Accounts Receivable balance was \$298K at the end of November.

### Health Officer's Report

Hanson reported on the Health Officer's Report

- Grant proposals are being written that would allow for a Preliminary Engineering Report to be conducted on the topic of septage disposal in Flathead County. The grants will need to be submitted by Flathead County (with the approval of the Commissioners).

### Follow-up Items

Nuckles reported on the Follow-up Items

- Nuckles discussed the Strategic Planning Process and changing the timeline so that it aligns with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Health Department

worked on the creation of organizational values (collaboration, compassion, community driven).

- The Health Department in conjunction with some Board of Health members established strategic themes for the plan: Responsive Organization, Community Convener, Branding & Marketing, Innovation, Efficiency, Resilience and Policy.
- Staff and management brainstormed ideas for programs and for the organization as a whole.
- The final plan will be before the Board of Health next month for approval.

#### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

#### Other Business

There was no other business.

#### Board Member Comments

- Waterman stated that the City Council was very appreciative of the conversations concerning homelessness and that with new Council members this issue will become a priority. They also want to make sure that, with the changes happening within the United Way, those programs using their facility will continue to have a home for their programs.
- St James Robinson thanked Myerowitz and Miller for their service and that it would be hard to replace their knowledge and abilities.
- Noble wanted to recognize that there would be a huge institutional void with Miller and Myerowitz leaving the Board and that there would be difficulty in filling their shoes.
- Burg stated that it had been a pleasure and an educational experience working with Miller and Myerowitz.
- Mike Nicosia thanked Miller and Myerowitz for their willingness to face and deal with difficult issues correctly during their time on the Board.
- Myerowitz provided a statement that he requested not be summarized or changed in any fashion.
  - DEPARTMENT NOTE: A copy of the full statement has been added to the public documentation for the December 2019 Board of Health Meeting and is available upon request.
- Miller stated that he was appointed to this Board of Health 12 years ago, he had one goal which was to promote public health in Flathead County. He stated concerns that the recent Board appointments were made with no public discussion by the County Commissioners and that the appointments lack the qualifications to be on the Board of Health. He said it was unfortunate to see the Board of Health become vulnerable to politics. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and that he hoped he could continue to provide support, encouragement and leadership to this body.

#### Election of Acting Chair (January 1 – January 16, 2020) – ACTION REQUIRED

Miller nominated St James Robinson for Acting Chair

**MOTION Burg to approve the nomination of St James Robinson for Acting Chair**

**SECOND Noble**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:04.

Transcribed by Nikki Bishop