Call to Order
Chairperson Tamalee St James Robinson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

Attendance

Update on replacing vacant board position
Holmquist: Fourteen applications were received. The commissioners are vetting applications and will appoint by the end of June.
MOTION Waterman to recommend a second doctor of medicine for the Board of Health.
SECOND Bukacek
MOTION CARRIED

Amend the Agenda
Holmquist
MOTION Holmquist to approve agenda with the omission of item 5 (which is not ready).
SECOND Ardis
MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda as Amended
Holmquist
MOTION Holmquist
SECOND Waterman
MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2020 Regular Meeting
MOTION Burg to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020 meeting.
SECOND Waterman
MOTION CARRIED
Citizen Comment
Citizen comment given verbally (summarized below):
- Dr. Anna Lang Ofstad: I am a research engineer who does disaster mitigation for state level and municipal governments and serves on FEMA’s National Advisory Council. It’s hard to say when you don’t know the answer to something. I want to encourage you to seek science, medicine. It’s imperative to adopt a mandatory face mask policy for all businesses in Kalispell and the county. This would protect businesses and retail workers who have to risk losing customers and struggle to implement the policy. Science says masks help prevent the transmission of the virus and I think we should be proactive in adopting a mask requirement.

Nuckles read public comment submitted by email (summarized below):
- Karlene Osorio-Khor: First, I would like to thank Mrs. Skees for reading into last month’s board meeting the Mission Statement. When we have spikes in diseases of which vaccinations could prevent; then, incoming businesses become discouraged if employees have not availed themselves of vaccines. Employees not working is lost income for all. Currently, health workers are a finite resource. There is significant competition to secure those health workers because of the impact of COVID. I noted one of your board members stated they had not served on a board previously nor had they ever made a resolution. I think the board member meant to say a motion. However, service on this board is not a springboard to elective office and as I previously cautioned board member’s passions or causes must be left at the door before they take their seat on this board. I would advise the board member with no board experience to review Roberts Rules of Order which is on line and is cited in the City/County Health Board bylaws as the means to run their meeting; to attend the conflict of interest seminar run from time to time by the County Attorney’s office for the benefit of board members and to keep an open positive mind. I hope the Board will consider returning to Zoom which allows more participation from citizens and I also would remind the Board if and when a vaccine for COVID is available; they will vote for its availability to our citizens.

Thanks for Dr. Chris Holdhusen
Sterhan: Dr. Holdhusen is retiring and we want to share our many thanks for his work and for helping to found the Flathead Community Health Center. We appreciate you.

Departmental Reports

Community Health (Lisa Dennison and Holly Jordt presenting)
- Communicable Disease has had non-COVID-19 work keeping them busy as well.
  - June 1st was the end of the Influenza season, there were over 1200 cases, 45 hospitalizations, and zero deaths
  - The rabies program is picking up. There are 4 bats tested so far, all negative.
- COVID-19 update: Saturday the 13th started seeing cases pick up- 9 cases being monitored so far (45 cumulative).
  - St. James Robinson: where they symptomatic? Dennison: some were symptomatic and some were cases.
Bukacek: Any hospitalizations? Dennison: Yes, two.
Burg: Are the cases quarantined? Dennison: Yes, they are isolated until their infectious period has ended. Contacts are followed up with daily.
Burg: What happens if someone violates quarantine? Hanson: Law enforcement and the county attorney’s office would be engaged but we have not had that issue.

- Immunizations clinic’s numbers have dropped down in May. Only needed services are being conducted and nursing capacity is limited. Priorities are kids going back to school, our immune-compromised populations, rabies prophylaxis, and tetanus treatment. All patients are screened
- WIC: Visits are still virtual and staff are mostly teleworking.
- Home visiting has not slowed down and have been delivering some services in person because they serve high risk families. Referrals have changed to more domestic violence related issues. Healthy Young Parent program’s funded ends at the end of June. Home visiting budgets were cut- we are cutting one position and will be eliminating the Safe Care model to allow us to serve as many families as we can. All services we offer are voluntary. Referrals have not slowed down.

Environmental Health (Christine Hughes presenting)
- Septic applications have not slowed down compared to 2019.
- The Environmental health tech is now taking on the majority of finals, air quality, and as many complaints as her schedule allows.
- There is an influx of subdivision submittals. One subdivision sanitarian can realistically complete 3 to 4 subdivisions per month. We received 26 in May.
- Food inspections were limited to pre-opening inspections during COVID. This week, inspections have returned with safety measures and as much social distancing as possible.
- Hanson: the cooperative agreement which was delayed and removed from this month’s agenda will go forward next month. It will allow us to receive reimbursement for modified inspections. The state will allow outreach to facilities (including virtual visits) to count for reimbursement purposes.
- High phone volume in May and still in June

Flathead Community Health Center (Mary Sterhan presenting)
- Patient numbers are back up to normal with the exception of the dental program which will take a while to get back to where it was.
- Participating in asymptomatic community snapshot testing: in West Glacier and Whitefish now. Looking at Columbia Falls and Bigfork and developing pop up testing for different populations like county employees. So far the process is going well but test results take about 7 days to get back as they going on to Quest. The swab is self-administered and that part is moving quickly and easily. An average number of 30 people are being tested a day.
- The state is providing the tests and PPE and Montana Primary Care Association is supporting staffing.

Family Planning (Mandie Fleming)
- Back to normal for about the past month and normal numbers of patients and did some telehealth. April and May are usually busy months in the schools and we created virtual presentations as an alternative.
- Needle exchange is back upstairs. In May, more needles were collected back compared to during COVID. The return rate locally is much higher than the national average.
- The National Family Planning Training Center did a spotlight on our Teen Clinic to inspire other sites to consider the model.

**Health Promotion (presented by Jennifer Rankosky)**
- Screenings decreased in April but increased in May as mammograms opened up again. Breast and Cervical program is a hub for other counties and will be adding Mineral County as a supported site.
- A tobacco presentation was given to the schools as in-person presentations in the school were not possible. There was good feedback from the teachers.
- Alive at 25 and Responsible Alcohol was slower in April but there is a class scheduled tonight. Car seat inspections are picking back up (but this program never closed down).

**Home Health (presented by Courtney Gwiazdon)**
- March through May numbers decreased but are picking back up in June. The assisted livings are allowing nursing and now physical therapy so some patients on hold are now getting back in.
- Some short term and some long term waivers- PAs and APNs can now sign home health, not just physicians.
- Still struggling with accessing PPE.

**Animal Shelter (presented by Cliff Bennett)**
- Dog numbers are increasing. Cat numbers have also increased in part because of a legal case (which means they cannot be adopted out). There have been some litters of puppies with Parvo and it’s been difficult to find the PPE to care for them.

**Mosquito**
- Written presentation was submitted. Mosquito is very busy right now.

**Financial Report (presented by Kirk Zander)**
- Looks pretty good, May tax receipts have been received.
- We will see future revenue decreases as the Immunizations clinic has been only minimally open. Accounts receivable is down a bit but will continue to drop.
- The CIP broiler costs of $50k is paid
- Home Health is doing ok with a case balance of approx. $210k.
- The process of year in closing is starting.

**Health Officer Report**
The report was written before the COVID cases had returned and it looks different now.
- The Incident Command team continued but at a small staffing level. Now that structure is ramping up for contact tracing and monitoring. Last time, we closed health department
functions but this time the programs are maintaining. We are bringing in temporary staffing to assist.

- Working with Glacier National Park and the testing centers.
- Schools are still working on planning. A governor’s group is working on guidance for schools.
- Many events being submitted for health dept. feedback. We’re trying to respond within 3 business days. We are not approving events but reviewing for whether it meets the governor’s directive.
- Bukacek: How do define a hotspot? Hanson: We don’t use that terminology as it doesn’t have a precise definition. We do look at where cases come from and whether there is a common source.
- Bukacek: Are there guidelines for when you would institute more lockdowns? Hanson: We’re looking at the community’s ability to handle more cases. Do we have adequate PPE? Are the hospitals able to function? Biggest concern with these cases is the high number of contacts compared to the cases in March.
- Bukacek: It would be useful to specify how many of the cases are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. I’ve always objected to the word case because it sounds like somebody is sick. Hanson: So far in Flathead County, no asymptomatic cases have tested positive. We’ve updated our Flathead county dashboard to show out of state residents who tested locally. Contacts are tested that are reported as pre-symptomatic and the symptoms occur later.
- Waterman: What are the recommendations on whether masks should be mandatory? Hanson: It is recommended to wear masks in public when you cannot social distance. There is no information from the state that they are moving to a mandatory mask policy right now (but we’re not part of what the state may be considering).

Personnel Committee Report
Waterman: The health officer application has closed. The committee did a first round of interviews on June 10th by zoom. Three finalists are moving to a second round in-person interview on the 29th. The last part is a presentation and the board, commissioners, and some community members are invited. The personnel committee will meet on the 30th to decide next steps but background checks, etc. would take additional time.

Last Comments
Bukacek: I wanted to comment about the community member who gave verbal comment. I agree we need to do things by science. When she went into wearing masks is somehow based on science- that is absolutely false. Up until the beginning of March, many organizations recommended the same thing about masks- that masks should be worn by people who are sick or if you are visiting someone who is sick. It has never been recommended that healthy people walk around the community wearing masks. Even during this time of alleged crisis, the Surgeon General has flip flopped on that, Fauci has flip flopped on that. So the science is absolutely not there. A WHO official came out last week and said the transmissibility of COVID-19 is very very low. There have been large events with hundreds of people with no social distancing in the Flathead and there were no cases. Observational studies show no one is getting sick. The citizenry aren’t getting their information just from mainstream media and the CDC. People think
for themselves and do their own research. Our credibility as a board if we don’t do things that are science based- well the community isn’t going to be favorably impressed.

Waterman: I’ve been watching different information sources regarding masks. I appreciate the businesses who are working on this. If there were a mandate there would need to be evidence backing us up. I would be curious to hear more about what the science says and what business recommendations would be if we see a spike to help business stay open and respond to the health crisis. Now we have more testing and know more.

St. James Robinson: COVID-19 reminds me of HIV in the early days when we didn’t know much. There would be one recommendation but then more information would come out. It can be a moving target based on the information we have at the time. If we see a spike, it would be better to talk about wearing masks as a step instead of closing businesses down or more lockdowns. Anything we can do to mitigate the spread will help people run their businesses.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:28pm

Transcribed by Kerry Nuckles