

## **TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**

**December 15, 2021**

Present: Barb Shaffer, Ken Bassmann, Sam Carlson, Elaine Sedlack, Tim Sinton via phone, Austin Moyer, and Randy Morris (late arrival).

Absent: Lin Wright.

Guests: Lora Wier, Marcia Kelly, Mandy Naylor, and Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha).

The meeting was called to order by Austin Moyer at 8:02 am in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room in Choteau.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 15, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Sam moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Ken and approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** The minutes of the June 16, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Ken moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Sam and approved unanimously. They had not been approved at the September 15, 2021, meeting due to lack of a quorum.

### **New Business:**

#### **Health Department Updates:**

Staffing: Marcia reported the health department has hired Mandy Naylor, RN to replace Dawn Baker who retired last summer. She also reported the AmeriCorps Volunteers have both left and are missed. They were very helpful during their time here.

COVID-19 Update: Marcia reported on the COVID-19 pandemic status. There has been a recent uptick in the number of cases in Teton County probably due to Thanksgiving travel and gatherings. The drive-up clinics worked well. Fifty-five doses were given last week at the health department including some first doses. Including all eligible county residents (age 5 and up), 47% have been vaccinated compared to 51% statewide. The health department has been going to each school in the county to vaccinate children aged 5 and older with the pediatric dose of Pfizer vaccine. They vaccinated 6 students in Fairfield last week.

Injunction: Marcia said they planned to do a pediatric COVID vaccine clinic in the Choteau school Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> but both the school and TCHD were served with an injunction filed by a local resident requesting the clinic be moved to another site off the school campus. The resident felt it would cause stress on the children and perhaps lead to bullying if the clinic were held in the school.

Both the county attorney representing the health department and the school's attorney feel there is no grounds for the injunction as the school is a public building, has been used for years for public flu clinics, and the school has had no participation in the clinic other than use of the building. Parents wanting their children vaccinated had to contact the health department for information and consent forms and return them to the health department. Lora reported she went to the school board meeting and that board said it is a public building available for public use and they saw no problem with the vaccination clinic. Marcia said they plan to do the clinic but are awaiting the judge's decision. (Note: later on December 15<sup>th</sup> the judge denied the injunction request).

PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Plans:

Health Alert Network (HAN) Plan

CHEMPACK Plan

Lora said both plans were reviewed but unchanged except for some name changes due to staffing changes.

Sanitarian Update:

Cooperative Agreement: Austin reported on this agreement between Teton County Board of Health and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services regarding reimbursement for state required inspections conducted by Austin for the board of health. In addition to required inspections there are optional inspections which Austin can choose to conduct or leave to the state to conduct. Austin has chosen to do pool, spa, and body art establishment inspections but has declined doing new body art establishment plans and peer to peer training. Ken moved the cooperative agreement plan as written by Austin be approved. Barb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tourist Home Licensing: Austin has been working to inspect and license Airbnb and VRBO and similar establishments. The city of Choteau has been very helpful in giving him the physical addresses. They only need inspection upon opening and if he receives any complaints. The inspections only take about an hour and cost \$40. The associations have standards although they may differ from state requirements. He said 95% of the places inspected were good and a few needed some updates.

New Restaurants: Austin said the "Hot Dang Ninja" Restaurant has opened on Main St in Fairfield. It has a bakery, restaurant and serves Puerto Rican Sandwiches.

Work continues on the old Wagon Wheel Bar in Choteau which will become a bar and restaurant. Part of the building has been torn down and a basement is being

dug. Apparently, part of the building was an old rural one room school in the county.

Handle With Care Program: Ken asked about the program and how successful it has been. The program allows emergency personnel to notify a school if one of their students has had a family member involved in some trauma or incident which could affect the student's behavior. Marcia said Dawn Gunderson oversees that program and it has been used 3 times that she was aware of. Sometimes email messages were ending up in the school junk mail but that problem has been fixed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 am. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, 2022 in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room in Choteau at 8:00am or via ZOOM depending on the COVID-19 Pandemic situation.

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Tim Sinton, P.A., Chairman

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Elaine Sedlack, Secretary