

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

**June 14, 2023**

Present: Melissa Moyer, Austin Moyer, Sam Carlson, Ken Bassmann, Gary Dale, Elaine Sedlack and Barb Shaffer (via remote).

Absent: Randy Morris and Lin Wright.

Guests: Marcia Quillan (TCHD), Jesse Racicot (TCHD), Darby Salmond (TCHD via remote), Mandy Naylor (TCHD via remote), Breanna Lindgren (TCHD via remote) and Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha).

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Moyer at 8:05 am in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 15, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Ken moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Sam and approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Election of Board Positions:

Chair: Ken moved that Gary be chairman but he declined due to lack of experience with the board. Gary moved that Ken be chairman. The motion was seconded by Sam and passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair: Sam said he would be willing to be vice-chairman. Gary moved that Sam be vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Ken and passed unanimously.

Secretary: Elaine said she would be willing to continue as secretary unless someone else was interested. Ken moved that Elaine be secretary. Gary seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Health Department Updates:

Community Health Needs Assessment: Melissa reported the health department, which is required to do an assessment every 5 years, is working with Benefis Teton Medical Center which is required to do an assessment every 3 years, to complete a new community health needs assessment. Based on the hospital's schedule. They hope to have it finished by fall. Benefis has hired out-of-state consultants (PYA Consultants) to do the health needs assessment. They are currently doing the assessment and data collection and hope to finish that by August. Past assessments focused on key informants such as teachers and medical providers. This assessment will also include a more general population

survey through QR codes, social media, newspapers and at community activities like Fairfield swim days and Choteau 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. They will also be talking to focus groups of 6 or so including senior citizens, high school students, people with chronic health conditions, people with behavioral health conditions, and young adults aged 18 to 26. After the data is collected and collated, they will determine where the need is and what they want to focus on. The current plan will be compared to the previous plans and their effectiveness.

#### Immunizations:

COVID vaccine: Marcia reported that CDC now recommends another COVID bivalent booster dose for people 65 years of age or older if it has been 4 months or more since their last booster. People who are immunocompromised should get another booster if it has been 2 months or more since their last booster. People can call the health department to make an appointment for the shot. This fall a new COVID strain vaccine will be available but must be ordered by the health department since it is now privatized (not provided by the federal government). They hope to have about 400 doses available. Gary asked about the shelf life of the new vaccine since after a multi-dose vial is opened it has a short shelf life. Marcia said she thinks the new vaccine will be in single dose vials so that will not be a problem.

Medicare Part D Billing: Melissa reported the health department can bill Medicare Part B for influenza, pneumonia and COVID vaccines but cannot bill Medicare Part D for Hepatitis A and B, Shingles, or Tdap vaccine. They can bill private insurance. Billing Part D requires a DEA number which the health department does not have. Consequently, they have been referring people to Aluvion Health, but it is frustrating to turn people away. The health department's new electronic health records system won't allow them to bill Medicare Part D either, but they are trying to get that changed. They need to find a provider to share their DEA number. Gary said he does not have a DEA number but would be willing to investigate getting one.

Adolescent Clinics: Marcia said they did adolescent vaccination clinics at all the county high schools with the Blue Cross/ Blue Shield CareVan and plan to work with them again in the fall.

#### Maternal Child Health Initiatives:

Mothers and Babies Program: Mandy Naylor reported WIC program enrollments have been increasing especially in Teton County and they are working on increasing enrollments in other counties. She reported that they are assessing mothers for postpartum depression and have found that half of their mothers have a problem with that. They are trying a mother and babies' group. It will meet weekly for 6 sessions beginning in July and will focus on managing stress,

scheduling pleasant activities, positive thoughts, and maintaining contact with others. Gary said some new mothers have extreme depression.

**Portable Breast Feeding Tent:** Melissa reported on the health department's acquisition of a tent, specifically for breast feeding mothers, which can be loaned out for community events. It will allow breast feeding mothers a private space to nurse their babies. They hope to have the bright green tent available in time for Choteau's 4<sup>th</sup> of July events and it can be used anywhere in the county for community events.

**Lead Poisoning Prevention:** Jesse reported that babies of mothers enrolled in Medicaid's WIC program are required to have their blood lead levels checked at 12 and 24 months. The health department will do the capillary blood test here with a finger stick and if it is elevated the baby will be referred to their health care provider for a venous blood draw. Lead paint is prevalent in homes built before 1978 and babies can be exposed to lead if the paint is chipping, or the home is being remodeled. The challenge is the kits cost about \$10 each and outdate quickly so the health department is looking for other counties to share with. They are currently using block grant money to buy the kits. The health department offers support to families testing positive by suggesting actions that can reduce the effects of lead such as covering old chipping paint and making some nutritional changes.

**Chronic Disease Updates:**

**CONNECT:** Jesse reported she is working on contacting agencies and organizations offering services to become part of the CONNECT system for cross-referring people in need. The system can include local, state, and national services. She hopes to have it completed in a year.

**Montana Cancer Control Program (MCCP):** This program primarily helps uninsured or underinsured women access breast and cervical health screenings. The highest enrollment is in the Browning area and Jesse will be doing a special event there to enroll women. She is also trying a QR code and coffee sleeves to advertise the program. Teton County Health Department (TCHD) is the hub for Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Liberty and Teton Counties. The state is taking away money for helping women navigate the program, but we are doing it anyway. They are prioritizing getting low-income women enrolled and are trying electronic enrollment. They are also encouraging women enrolled in the program to get the HPV vaccine if they have not been vaccinated.

**Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP):** Breanna is planning a readiness event and is working toward tobacco free events and eventually tobacco free parks.

**Sanitarian Updates:**

Austin reported he has been busy inspecting seasonal businesses. He discussed the home food seller program. Home food can be sold at events but must be identified as being made in a home kitchen that has not been inspected. No meat products are allowed. There are no labeling requirements, but the buyer must be informed they are buying food prepared in an uninspected kitchen. A cottage food license, on the other hand, is made in a kitchen inspected by Austin for \$40 and must be labeled. Austin said farmer's markets prefer sellers to have cottage food licenses.

Power Pole Bar in Dutton: Austin reported the bar is not open although it still has a liquor license and is apparently trying to sell it to a family member. Technically it can not retain the liquor license if it is not operating but the state has not enforced that law. The building has numerous building code violations also and is behind in taxes.

Box R Bar in Pendroy: Previously the Rose Room but now under new ownership. Austin said it has been remodeled and is open again but so far is only serving bar food. They may expand their menu in the future.

Wagon Wheel Bar in Choteau: Austin said it will probably not open until September. It has new owners and has been extensively remodeled – mostly an entirely new building.

Construction: Austin reported new construction has slowed down. People now are interested in building second homes on their property. The problem in Fairfield is the high nitrate level in the ground water which can lead to nitrate poisoning in babies. He suggests people have their wells tested before making plans to build. He has water test kits available in his office. If wells have high nitrate levels the water would need to be treated.

Melissa introduced Nicole Maykuth, a student nurse who is working on an accelerated nursing program through Montana State University and is doing her public health section at TCHD.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 am by Melissa. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, September 13, 2023, in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room at 8:00 am and/or via Zoom depending on the COVID-19 Pandemic situation.

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Ken Bassmann, Chairman

Elaine Sedlack, Secretary