

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

**March 15, 2023**

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

Absent: Sam Carlson and Lin Wright.

Guests: Marcia Quillan (TCHD), Jesse Racicot (TCHD), Darby Salmond (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 December 16, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Ken moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Randy and approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** None.

### **New Business:**

New Health Officer: The board welcomed Gary Dale, MD as our new Health Officer.

Board of Health Training Needs and Review: Melissa e-mailed a copy of the up-to-date (2022) version of the Board of Health Guidebook to all board members prior to the meeting. She said she could have someone come up to do a training session for the board if we wanted it. Ken said we needed time to read it and suggested we decide at the next meeting if we want a training session. Melissa agreed. She also said changes to the by-laws were made to comply with new state laws and would need to be reviewed in the next year.

### **Health Department Updates:**

Chronic Disease Prevention: Marcia reported on the Diabetes Prevention Program which she is leading during Brianna's maternity leave. Twenty people have signed up. They can attend the classes either in person or on-line. Marcia may offer 2 cycles this summer, one totally on-line and the other in person. Many attendees are repeat enrollments but they also have several new people this year including some from Fairfield.

Maternal Child Health: Jesse is an RN working part-time with grant funding while Brianna is on maternity leave. She is doing communicable disease prevention as well as some other projects including one involving refugees. TCHD is notified by the state if anyone in Teton County signs up to sponsor refugees (humanitarian parolees). So far a dozen people in the county have signed up to financially

sponsor refugees. Whether any will be located in the county is unknown but TCHD needs to be ready to serve them with immunizations, etc.

CONNECT: CONNECT is a resource referral system with agencies and non-profit groups signing up to accept and give referrals to people in need. The system had started with 40 agencies signed up, but then stalled out during the COVID Pandemic. It is up and running again. Ken inquired about the "Handle with Care" program and if that is still in operation. Melissa said it is used quite a bit in Fairfield and some in Power this school year. She said schools are notified by dispatch and EMS but needs reminders.

LOVE and LOGIC Curriculum: Melissa reported that Mandy Naylor from TCHD along with a school counselor is helping teach parenting classes in Power under a DUI task force grant obtained by former school counselor Cherie Peterson and some funding from TCHD. Eleven parents attended the Power classes. Besides the classes, dinner and childcare are provided. The classes have been provided twice in Choteau and now are presented twice a year in spring and fall around the county.

Behavioral Health: Darby Salmond is working on a substance abuse program for the schools this spring. They are planning a "Ghost Out" mock accident with some students painted white and not allowed to talk or interact with others. Deb Coverdell is planning a trauma exercise with the schools and EMS regarding Narcan use. Ken said EMS did Narcan training with school teachers before the start of school last fall.

Bike Fair: Melissa said the bike fair returns this year on May 17<sup>th</sup>. All the county schools except Dutton are bringing their 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Dutton comes every other year. Last year the bike fair did 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to cover those children who missed the bike fairs because of the COVID Pandemic.

Adolescent Immunizations: Marcia reported the TCHD staff will be going to all county schools in May to give immunizations to students as needed. TCHD will be working with the Blue Cross CARAVAN.

PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Plans:

Communicable Disease Response Plan: Marcia reported this plan has been updated.

Pandemic Influenza Plan: Melissa said this plan was extensively updated to be more user friendly. Marcia did a lot of work updating it.

Rabies Plan: Melissa said the Rabies plan was also updated. Austin will work with the owner of the animal involved in a biting incident and Melissa will work with the victim and their medical provider. They will work closely with the sheriff. The victim's medical provider along with the victim

determine the need for post exposure prophylaxis. Melissa said feral farm cats are often a problem.

Sanitarian Updates: Austin reported he has been working on subdivision/land use issues. The Power American Legion is working on a kitchen remodel as they plan to expand their menu. He reported Mike's Club in Power is closed.

New County Building: Melissa said the county commissioners have proposed building a new building to house the health department, EMS offices and training room and ambulance barn. It would include a separate lactation room available for all county employees. The building would be located on county land south of the sheriff's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 am by Melissa. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, July 19, 2023 in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room in Choteau at 8:00 am and/or via ZOOM depending on the COVID-19 Pandemic situation.

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Gary Dale, MD, Health Officer

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Elaine Sedlack, Secretary