

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2024

Present: Melissa Moyer, Austin Moyer, Gary Dale, Sam Carlson, Ken Bassmann, Randy Morris, and Elaine Sedlack.

Absent: Barb Shaffer and Carmen Staigmiller.

Guests: Marcia Quillen (TCHD), Katie Adams (TCHD), and Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha).

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Moyer at 8:00 am in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 13, 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:

Health Department Updates:

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): Melissa reported on the status of the CHNA. Benefis Teton Medical Center is finishing up their plan which deals with what the hospital needs to do to meet community needs. Public health is looking at what the community identifies as its needs. The assessment is still in draft form but almost finished. Using information from key informants and community members as well as input of state and federal data provided by the state health department, the report will be presented to the community to determine what areas to concentrate on. Mental health and substance abuse are high on the list, the same as identified during the last assessment. New in this assessment is a high concern about obesity. Community meetings will be coming up to discuss ways to collaborate and address the issues.

Communicable Disease: Marcia reported that since December there have been 52 influenza cases reported to TCHD and the numbers are declining. One individual was hospitalized. RSV is not a reportable disease, but a few families have called in to report their kids have it. There have also been 17 positive COVID cases reported and 1 syphilis case. TCHD does not have any more COVID home test kits, but they may be available in pharmacies. CDC has changed the recommendations for isolation of individuals diagnosed with COVID. They now recommend that individuals testing positive for COVID isolate themselves until they have been free of fever and any symptoms for 24 hours. Marcia also reported the latest vaccination recommendation is for adults 65 and

over to receive a booster dose if it has been 4 months since their last dose. If they are 65 and older and are immunocompromised, they can receive a booster dose if it has been 2 months since their last dose. TCHD has the vaccine and will give immunizations by appointment at the health department. Melissa noted they need a new order signed by Gary for the new COVID recommendations. TCHD also has RSV vaccine available. Marcia said it has been popular with adults. Those 60 and older can get it any time and a booster every 2 years may be recommended in the future. The RSV Vaccine is recommended for kids until March and will be given again before the next RSV season.

PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness): The board reviewed the checklist for the Specimen Transport Plan and found the plan inclusive and signed off on the checklist.

Lead Program Update: Marcia reported TCHD has a 3-year grant to test children 12 and 24 months of age and children under 6 years if they have not previously been tested. Pediatricians also do a hemoglobin test with lead testing. TCHD has the capability to do both lead and hemoglobin capillary blood testing. So far, they have only tested 3 children. Marcia said they need to do a lot more outreach to parents and medical providers.

MTUPP: Melissa said Breanna is working with youth again on tobacco use prevention. There was a talk at the Choteau Schools for grades 5 and 6 and 9 – 12 to discuss truths about vaping and tobacco products. She would like to do a follow-up with those students. She hopes to get the REACT youth group going that was disbanded during the COVID Pandemic.

Immunization Billing and Electronic Health Records: Katie reported there has been a 14% increase in overall billing collections since January. She said it takes about 3 months for payments to come in. Her target goal is a reimbursement rate of 85% and then work on increasing that. She said the Electronic Health Records program now talks to the state immunization program so immunizations no longer have to be entered separately into both systems, a huge time saver.

Sanitarian Updates:

Pendroy Community Church Holding Tank Variance: Austin reported there currently is no bathroom in the church which is extremely inconvenient. The church would like to install a bathroom but there are wells nearby which prevents them from installing a septic system. They would like to install a holding tank but require a variance from the board of health to do that. Ken moved that the board approve a holding tank variance for the Pendroy Community Church. Randy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Inspections: Austin reported DeBruycker Meats now has a license to sell its meats. Food trucks are now required to have a Type 1 ventilation system with fire

suppression capabilities beginning in May. This is the same requirement as for a brick and mortar building and may be prohibitively expensive for some. They are inspected by the fire marshal. Austin has been checking in on the Wagon Wheel Bar and Grill and said they have a big kitchen up to date and up to code. He visited La Mia Cucina Café and Bakery several times as they prepared to open.

Sam reported the elevator in the courthouse is out of service and may be for several weeks. They have set out a table with a phone at the entrance and folks unable to climb the stairs can call any office in the building and they will send someone down to help them with whatever they need to do in the courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am by Melissa. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, 2014, in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room at 8:00 am and via ZOOM.

Ken Bassmann, Chairman

Elaine Sedlack, Secretary