

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

**March 19, 2025**

Present: Sam Carlson, Ken Bassmann, Gary Dale, Barb Shaffer (via remote), and Carmen Staigmiller (via remote), Melissa Moyer, Austin Moyer

Absent: Randy Morris, Lora Wier

Guests: Katie Adams (TCHD), Claire Hodgskiss (TCHD), and Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha).

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Moyer at 8:03 am in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room. The meeting was recorded as required and live streamed.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 18, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Sam moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Ken and approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Board Business:

Lora Wier was appointed by the Teton County Commissioners to fill Elaine Sedlack's vacancy. Sam proposed that Lora also become Secretary, Barb seconded the proposal, and it was passed unanimously.

There will be a training on Board of Health responsibilities on April 8-9<sup>th</sup> in Helena. Two board members are attending and there is more space available.

Health Department Updates:

Melissa gave an update on Health Department staffing. Marcia Quillan is no longer at the health department, so staff are currently shifting around responsibilities and Dawn Baker has been hired as a part time nurse. Claire Hodgskiss was introduced and has been working at the Health Department since the summer.

Melissa gave an update on how changes at the federal level may impact the Health Department. Health Department has diverse funding sources and hasn't had tangible changes yet, but the diabetes prevention program, cancer screening, and WIC were identified for potential impacts.

Teton County is currently in peak flu season, with Influenza A being the primary strain. No outbreaks yet in long term care facilities, but there have been three

hospitalizations with two of those being children. Seven Covid cases have been reported since the beginning of the year, two STDs, and one case of Varicella.

No measles cases in Montana since 1990, though Montana is a vulnerable state due to unvaccinated pockets of people throughout the state. Some people vaccinated between 1963 and 1967 who did not receive the attenuated vaccine may be recommend for a booster and should contact the Health Department about any questions. Health Department is helping schools and health care providers prepare for a potential outbreak.

Roughly 800 people in the county were vaccinated by the Health Department for flu, and another 300 for Covid.

Katie Adams discussed immunization billing, which is looking good based on October's numbers and no corrections.

Katie Adams discussed changing Marcia's name to her own in the Lab + Specimen Transport Plan and the Communicable Disease Plan.

Melissa informed that the Community Health Assessment is completed and available on the county website, and the Community Health Improvement Plan is almost ready to be published after two community meetings which identified mental health and family support as two priority areas.

Melissa also discussed the Pathways Program, describing it as a slimmed down program for accreditation. It began at the start of the year and the Health Department receives about \$30,000 to be part of a cohort of multiple counties.

Claire Hodgskiss discussed a training opportunity for first responders dealing with adults with a mental health crisis, and is meeting with schools to evaluate their needs for crisis diversion and mental health support for students. The monthly CARES meeting was mentioned for March 20<sup>th</sup>, with the topic being positive childhood experiences. Screening for behavioral health flagging may be available at schools in an opt-in system from the Rural Behavioral Health Institute for grades 6-12, and may connect flagged cases with resources within 24 hours.

Melissa provided a brief update on maternal and child health, saying a Mothers and Babies course will likely be available in the summer and that the WIC program remains busy.

## Sanitarian Updates

Austin informed the board that there wasn't any changes to program funding, but the USDA is now taking fewer responsibilities regarding truck wrecks involving food.

State changes to exemptions will increase the number of pressure dosed septic systems we see, and a new subdivision in the county will require level 2 treatment systems, which the county only has approval for one so far.

The American Legion was reported to have hosted an unlicensed tattoo pop up, and Ken requested Austin look into the vehicle accumulation of Dershner Automotive. Austin warned that as a vehicle repair shop they were likely in compliance with the junk vehicle rules as they are granted some exceptions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 am by Melissa. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 18<sup>th</sup> in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room at 8:00 am and via ZOOM.

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Ken Bassmann, Chairman

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Lora Wier, Secretary