

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2022

Present: Ken Bassmann, Barb Shaffer, Sam Carlson, Austin Moyer, and Melissa Moyer, via remote.

Absent: Elaine Sedlack, Tim Sinton, Lin Wright and Randy Morris.

Guests: Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha)

The meeting was called to order by Austin Moyer at 8:05 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 June 15, 2022 meeting were not reviewed due to a lack of a quorum. They will be reviewed at the next scheduled Board of Health meeting in December.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Board Member Terms: The Board of Health is behind on reviewing term limits. Melissa read the Board by-laws related to board member term limits. Melissa proposed reestablishing staggered end of term dates for existing board members going forward as follows: Lin and Randy end of term in 2022, Tim and Barb end of term in 2023, and Ken and Elaine end of term in 2024. Board members present agreed to this, although no vote was made due to and Melissa will discuss it with the county commissioners.

Health Department Updates:

Flu and COVID-19 Vaccinations: The health department is offering drive-thru vaccination clinics at the Choteau Pavilion for bivalent COVID-19 boosters for the next 2 weeks. They will offer routine opportunities for COVID-19 vaccination, and have released a Fall Schedule. TCHD will also be offering both Flu and COVID-19 boosters at all of the mobile clinics they have scheduled in the month of October, which include dates in Choteau, Fairfield, Dutton, Power, and Bynum.

EHR: The health department has selected an electronic health record, called CureMD, which they will implement this Fall. The purpose of the EHR is to simplify the billing process for vaccinations, there are currently 3 people working on billing, and to improve documentation of services provided through the health department. They anticipate this will be a big transition period; training will begin at the end of October. The EHR is county specific, however Melissa is aware of

several county health departments that are in the process of implementing them or considering it. Ken asked if the EHR used by Teton County will be able to communicate with EHRs used by other health departments or the local hospital, and Melissa indicated that it will likely be dependent on the EHR selected by other counties, but that some information will likely be communicated via state-wide registries as an intermediary.

Chronic Disease Programs: Breanna will be offering a Diabetes Prevention Program that will start up next January. She is also offering Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) Program which is a falls prevention program, that will begin in October. In the past TCHD has offered a modified version of the DPP program to Choteau Activities, and Breanna is working on getting that program going again.

Communicable Disease: Between July 1 and September 12, Melissa reports 106 COVID-19 cases, 1 Salmonellosis case, 1 Shiga toxin-producing E. coli case, and 2 Syphilis cases. TCHD currently offers COVID-19 home tests, and rapid antigen tests. The State Public Health Laboratory is generally discouraging send out PCR tests for COVID-19 because it is time consuming and expensive. TCHD did finally receive its rapid PCR testing machine, and now has travel testing available. The cost is currently \$35, but will go up to \$75 when they need to purchase more supplies. There are currently 5 confirmed cases of MonkeyPox in the state. No cases in Teton County. TCHD is monitoring the situation, and keeping healthcare providers informed of signs and symptoms. At this time there is very limited MonkeyPox vaccine available, but TCHD can work with larger counties to obtain a vaccine for a Teton County resident who has been exposed or is at high risk.

PHEP Plans: Melissa sent out 3 PHEP Plans. The Truck Wreck Protocol has not changed in several years. It was last majorly updated in an After Action Review. There were no comments or changes from the board members. The Pandemic Influenza Plan was changed to be less technical, and make more user friendly. No comments from the board. The Emergency Medical Countermeasures was also overhauled and simplified. The board had not comments.

Sanitarian Updates: Austin reported that there are a few businesses opening or recently opened, including the Dollar Tree in Choteau and a mobile food vendor in Fairfield. Austin has sent out a couple of cease-and-desist letters to unlicensed businesses in the last board meeting including one to the candy store in Choteau (in July), and one to a tattoo facility that was operating out of someone's house (this week). There is still a lot of building going on in the county, and Austin is reviewing several septic permits. There are a few lots in the county that people want to build on but that have nitrate levels that

are 2 to 3 times the EPA water drinking limit, and 6 times as high as you are allowed to pollute to. Sometimes individuals can address the issue with a level 2 treatment system which will do more treatment to the wastewater before it goes into the ground water. These systems cost \$10-15k. If nitrates are about allowable pollution levels, but below drinking levels, they can install a non-discharging system, which can cost \$90k. The state may be doing a review of their non-degradation criteria in the near future. Ken asked if there were updates from the Wagon Wheel, and Austin reported they had reached out to him about a year prior and were planning to do a full kitchen but their progress had been slow. Melody asked for more information on the candy shop. Austin said the two biggest issues were serving ice cream and unpackaged candy. The retail food license requires a ware washing station and plumbing to the ice cream scoop, so the shop owner opted not to sell ice cream any longer. Additionally, sale of bulk candy requires a retail food license. This can be avoided by selling only pre-packaged items. She was also selling homemade baked good, which requires a cottage food license. The retail food license cost \$80, but the challenge for this business was getting plumbing to the correct location in the building to install a three-compartment sink. Additionally, a cosmetic microblading facility opened in Fairfield. DPHHS does inspections of cosmetic/tattoo facilities in Teton County, because there are very few of them. Regarding the tattoo parlor that was operating out of someone's home, Montana law prohibits this type of business from operating in living or sleeping quarters. Both situations were brought to the Sanitarian's attention by complaints sent to Austin via the DPHHS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am by Austin. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 14, 2022, in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room in Choteau at 8:00 am or via ZOOM depending on the COVID-19 Pandemic situation.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Moyer.

Tim Sinton, P.A., Health Officer

Elaine Sedlack, Secretary