

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2023

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

Guests: Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha), Darby Salmond (TCHD), Marcia Quillan (TCHD), Jessie Racicot (TCHD) and Abigail Gray (MSU student nurse).

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Moyer at 8:10 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 June 14, 2023, 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:

Health Department Updates:

Billing for Immunizations:

Melissa reported that Gary now has a DEA number which TCHD can use to bill Medicare Part D for adult vaccines including Hepatitis A and B, Tdap, shingles, and RSV.

Lead Testing:

Jessie reported on the lead testing program for children. TCHD received an \$18,000 grant from the state and is using the money for outreach to parents and schools, and for free lead testing.

Community Health Needs Assessment:

Melissa reported about 100 members of the general public participated in the assessment survey. Another 200 key informants participated and TCHD held 7 focus groups for people difficult to reach. Consultants hired by Benefis will be collating and analyzing the data and then Benefis and TCHD will set priorities for the next 3 years.

Immunizations:

Seasonal Influenza Clinics: Marcia reported TCHD is already getting calls from people wanting flu shots but the high dose vaccine for adults 65 and over has not

arrived yet. TCHD has set a schedule for flu vaccination clinics beginning October 2, 2023, with assisted living facilities and then moving to schools, the general public and Hutterite Colonies throughout the county. They have set up a system which will allow parents of school children to sign the children up electronically rather than having to return paper consent forms to the schools. The electronic system will also facilitate billing.

COVID Vaccine: Marcia reported the COVID vaccine is no longer provided by the government. TCHD must buy it. Therefore, they have ordered only Moderna COVID vaccine because most people have preferred the Moderna vaccine, and it has a longer shelf life. It is approved for use in children 6 months of age and up through adults. It will be given at the flu clinics as well as by appointment at the health department. It is a monovalent vaccine which was matched to the currently circulating strain of COVID.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Vaccine: Marcia reported the RSV vaccine is approved for infants under 8 months of age and adults 60 and older with their doctor's recommendation. Babies over 8 months with high risk factors may also receive it with their doctor's recommendation. RSV can cause serious respiratory problems in young babies and older adults. TCHD has ordered the vaccine and will give it by appointment only. It will not be available at the flu clinics.

PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Plans:

HAN (Health Alert Network): The plan was reviewed. Some of the contacts need to be updated as some medical providers have moved to other clinics.

Truck and Train Wreck Protocol: The plan was reviewed. Austin said he did not expect any changes unless new issues come up during a wreck.

On-Line Diabetes Prevention Program: Melissa reported Breanna is teaching this program in addition to an in-person program. The on-line program was offered so prospective participants living in counties that do not offer the program would have a chance to participate. There are 9 people enrolled from several counties. She hopes to expand participation.

Tobacco Free Events Initiative: Darby is working on this project to possibly get tobacco free parks or tobacco free events, especially those events aimed at youth. She is reaching out to families for their response to tobacco free events. She will work with event planners to help with planning and signage and plans to start with the Trunk or Treat Event this fall.

CONNECT: Jesse reported she is getting more participants to sign on to this referral program in the county and continues to add more.

Trauma Informed Parenting Class: Darby said she is working on this class with a school counselor. It is the Love and Logic Class designed for caregivers of

children who have experienced trauma in their lives. It is also offered 1 on 1 if needed. She hopes to offer it once a year along with the regular Love and Logic Parenting Class which is offered twice a year.

Health Screening at Senior Center: Ken said the EMTs have been doing blood pressure testing at the senior centers. Melissa said TCHD also went along to do capillary blood testing for glucose and lipids testing. Only one person wanted that done. They may offer it once or twice a year if there is interest.

COVID: Elaine asked about the current status of COVID in the county. Melissa said there have been 4 active and several suspected cases in the county recently that have been reported to TCHD but with people testing at home the health department may not be notified. Ken said the ambulance picked up 3 people with COVID, one of whom was a surprise diagnosis. Ken asked if the city was still doing sewage testing. Melissa was uncertain as they had lost their funding for it. Melissa said TCHD still has home test kits available that are good until March, 2024. She advises people who test positive, stay home for 5 days past symptom onset and then wear a mask for 5 more days if out in public. COVID is on the rise in southeast Montana and RSV is on the rise in the southeastern U.S.

Sanitarian Updates:

Austin reported the Power American Legion now has a full restaurant license and Benefis Teton Medical Center has a retail food license so they can now feed the public. He said the old Elk Country Grill has been purchased and the people plan to open it this winter. The 17-lot subdivision located on the big curve south of Fairfield has been approved by the state DEQ. There is an older subdivision in Fairfield that has applied to the state DEQ for a level 2 treatment facility which would be putting wastewater into a lined pit. There is a high nitrate level in the water there.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am by Melissa. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in the Teton County Courthouse Conference Room at 8:00 am and via ZOOM.

Ken Bassmann, Chairman

Elaine Sedlack, Secretary