

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

**June 17, 2026**

**Present:** Ken Bassman, Sam Carlson, Gary Dale, Carmen Stagmiller (Online), Barb Shaffer (Online), Melissa Moyer (TCHD)

**Absent:** Lora Wier, Randy Morris

**Guests:** Katie Adams (TCHD), Claire Hodgkiss (TCHD), Van Puckett (Southwest Montana Consulting), Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha)

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the March 18, 2026, meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes. A motion was made by Gary, seconded by Ken, and approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

#### **Board Business:**

**Health Officer (ACTION):** Melissa Moyer reported she was the only applicant for the Health Officer position. The Board discussed the appointment process and made a recommendation to forward to the Board of County Commissioners. A motion was made by Gary, seconded Ken, and unanimously approved to recommend Melissa Moyer for the Health Officer position.

### **Health Department Updates**

- **Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA):** Teton County is beginning a new Community Health Needs Assessment aligned with hospital requirements on a three-year cycle. A Key Informant Survey has been launched and distributed to approximately 470 community stakeholders and will remain open through June 30. This year's process will include more targeted, in-person outreach rather than traditional focus groups. Partnerships include Benefis Health System, Teton County CARES, and MSU Extension. Goal is to complete the assessment by the end of September 2026. Survey design incorporates a "Science of the Positive" approach.

- **Communicable Disease Report:** Communicable disease activity remains relatively low with no major outbreaks. Approximately 53 influenza cases reported this season, along with sporadic cases of chickenpox, pertussis, STIs, and Campylobacter. Occasional COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care settings were noted. Tick identification resources are available through the state, though pathogen testing is not offered.
- **Immunization Program Updates:** School-based adolescent immunization clinics were held in April in partnership with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Care Van. Vaccines included Tdap, HPV, and meningococcal vaccines. A quality improvement project using postcards and QR codes did not result in increased participation. Participation levels remained consistent with prior years.
- **Immunization Billing / EHR Update:** Billing reimbursement rates remain in the low 90 percent range. Approximately \$3,000 net revenue was generated from immunizations last fiscal year. Overall vaccine utilization has declined, partially due to vaccine hesitancy trends.
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):** Plans reviewed included Communicable Disease, Pandemic Influenza, and Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention Plans. Minor updates were discussed, including correcting contact information and improving formatting. Staff are working to consolidate appendices to improve consistency and reduce duplication.
- **Spring & Summer Outreach Activities:**
  - The health department continues to offer free lead testing for children ages 6 and under. They are offering an incentive of a free movie pass and Roxy box and the Roxy Theater for children who come in for testing.
  - The Chalk the Walk event on May 29<sup>th</sup> included youth participation in crosswalk art and strong community engagement, along with survey data collection regarding community-built environment efforts.
  - 5 Fentanyl watch parties have been held with approximately 54 participants, focused on education and discussion. On June 4<sup>th</sup> one was held at the Roxy Theater with a panel of experts for the discussion that included deputy sheriff Mark Grove and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Chris Borst.
  - Narcan distribution expanded to the Choteau Senior Center, with more locations planned.
  - Mothers & Babies Walking Group launched with positive early participation and runs through July 23.
  - Ongoing outreach includes tobacco prevention at events, a monthly activity calendar, and first responder training.

**Contract Sanitarian Update**

Approximately 40 percent of inspections have been completed and are on track for the year. Upcoming inspections will focus on county fair vendors. Complaint levels have remained low.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:48 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2026 or as otherwise posted.

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Ken Bassman, Chairman

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Lora Wier, Secretary