

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2026

Present: Ken Bassman, Randy Morris, Gary Dale, Carmen Stagmiller, and Barb Shaffer (Online), Melissa Moyer (TCHD)

Absent: Sam Carlson and Lora Wier

Guests: Katie Adams (TCHD), Claire Hodgkiss (TCHD/Online), Van Puckett (Southwest Montana Consulting), Delilah Puckett (Southwest Montana Consulting) and Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha).

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Moyer at 8:02 am in the Teton County Annex Conference Room. The meeting was recorded and live-streamed.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 17, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Gary Dale noted a correction: he recommended the department search for a new Health Officer and Medical Advisor but did not formally resign his board seat at that time.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Board Business:

- **Medical Advisor:** Gary Dale is not seeking renewal for his contracted roles as Medical Advisor and Health Officer. One letter of interest was received from Carmen Staggs-Miller for the Medical Advisor position; County Commissioners will make the formal appointment on March 19. The Health Officer position will be posted separately.
- **Confluence Conference (April 14-15):** The professional public health association conference is in Billings this year. TCHD will fund any board members interested in attending the specialized Board of Health track.

Health Department Updates:

- **Communicable Disease and Immunization:**
 - **Flu and Covid Vaccination Numbers:** TCHD administered 708 flu doses and 395 COVID-19 doses this season. Flu uptake is slightly lower than the historical average of 800+ doses.

- **Communicable Disease Report:** Since Sept 1, there have been 38 COVID-19 cases and 47 Influenza cases. A minor Varicella (chickenpox) outbreak and one Pertussis case were noted. One Rabies PEP recommendation was issued for a feral cat encounter.
- **Immunization Billing/EHR Update:** Katie Adams presented data showing a downward trend in vaccine revenue from \$276,000 in 2024 to significantly lower figures in early 2026. TCHD continues a policy of not using collections for unpaid vaccination fees.
- **PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness):**
 - **Specimen Transport Plan:** Updated contact numbers and generic formatting.
 - **Health Alert Network (HAN) Plan:** Updated to searchable text (removing images) for better usability.
 - **Emergency Medical Countermeasures Plan:** Formatted for consistency across all department plans
- **Behavioral Health/Crisis Diversion:**
 - **Project Updates:** Claire Hodgkiss reported 43 participants at the "Rooted in Resiliency" conference; the next event is **Dec 12, 2026**.
 - **Mental Health First Aid:** A free online adult training is scheduled for **March 31st**.
 - **988 & Veteran Support:** 911 Dispatch signed an MOU with 988. The **Montana Warriors Forward** project (veteran challenge coins) will be presented to the American Legion via Ken Bassman.
 - **Respite:** The "Babysitter's Brigade" at Teton Pass provides evidence-based mental health support for parents.

Contract Sanitarian Update

- Van Puckett (Southwest Montana Consulting) confirmed that spring school inspections are complete. Due to regional cost-sharing (Chouteau, Judith Basin, Jefferson), mileage costs remain manageable.
- The new state reporting system is on "indefinite hold," so paper scans are still used for state database uploads.
- Delilah Puckett is managing land use permitting and septic inquiries.

The meeting was adjourned by Melissa Moyer at 9:00 am. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026, at 8:00 am.

Ken Bassmann, Chairman

Lora Wier, Secretary