

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Valley County Health Department

500 4th Ave South

Glasgow Montana, 59230

This Zoom meeting will allow 100 participants.

*All participants will be muted upon entry to Zoom.

*Participants who comment during public comment will “raise their hand” in the Zoom meeting, state their name, and will be limited to two (2) minutes.

March 9, 2021

Roll Call The regular meeting of the Valley County Board of Health was held Tuesday at 5:15PM via Zoom. Board members present, Chairman Amber Swindler, Clay Berger, Maggan Walstad, Mary Armstrong, Bronwin Hanshew, Darcel Wesen. Others in attendance: Health Officer Mary Nyhus, Lynn Miller RN, Cam Shipp RS, Angela Peterson, Michelle Norcutt, Ella Tweten RN, and Emmaline Keesee Americorps Volunteer.

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting were reviewed, two typos were fixed and Maggan Walstad moved to approve, Clay Berger seconded it and the motion carried. Darcel Wesen moved to approve and move the 12/21/2021 closed session meeting minutes to the regular session minutes, Bronwin Hanshew seconded it and the motion carried.

Public Comment Amber asked for public comment, and hearing none, moved forward with regular Board of Health business.

Board of Health Two board members will be leaving. Amber Swindler’s term expires June 30, 2021 at which point she will continue to be an advocate for VCHD and is open to being available in an advisory capacity. Clay Berger’s term also expires on June 30, 2021. He will remain in the community until December of 2021 at which time he will be retiring and relocating. Commissioner Mary Armstrong thanked them both for their service to Valley County.

Mary suggested that all board members evaluate the gaps that will be left by the exiting board members and suggested that we consider who the community looks up to as leaders to fill future vacancies. Mary Armstrong further suggested that we may want to look to a member with a mental health background either as a board member or in a technical advisor capacity. She pointed out that the board is provided a summary from both Cam Shipp and Lynn Miller and would perhaps benefit from a mental health summary. Amber Swindler will contact Mary Hughes to see if she is interested in serving on the board. Amber will give her an application from the Commissioners’ office if she is interested. Mary Armstrong reported that any applicants will be voted on in June by the Commissioners. The new member would start July 1, 2021.

Amber requested discussion on the Valley County Board of Health Bylaws emailed to the Board members and posted to the public. Members declined to discuss as the Bylaws have been in progress for months. Clay Berger moved to approve the Bylaws. Darcel Wesen seconded it and the motion carried. The Bylaws will be signed by Chairwoman Amber Swindler and then presented to the Commissioners for approval.

Lynn Miller reported that efforts to find a permanent health officer have been unsuccessful. Lynn has one physician to contact, but to date no one has been interested in stepping into the role. Mary Nyhus agreed to six months as a health officer, and her term ends June 30, 2021. If any Board members have ideas on a health officer, please pursue them. Mary Nyhus is available to answer questions or talk to anyone who may be interested in the position.

Sanitarian Report

Cam Shipp R.S. Valley Co. Sanitarian reported that 14 inspections had been completed for this quarter. The inspections ranged from retail food, manufacturing and schools.

Various on-line trainings, in person and conference calls had taken place.

This quarter the following pre-openings took place:

- Feb. 24, 2021- Pre-Opening- Busted Knuckle Tap Room
- March 1, 2021- Pre-Opening- Instaglam Ink by Amanda

Four septic systems permitted in 2020 – still to be installed and follow-up continues on complaints regarding septic systems.

New Deal Farms Subdivision over 20 acres was reviewed for sanitary.

2020 Cooperative Agreement Amendment- Fourth Quarter Report Submitted for final Coop Agreement payment 2020. Valley County is one of only twelve counties who did this. Final payment will be disbursed in a couple of weeks, approximately \$10K-\$12K.

2021 Cooperative Agreement- The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a payment schedule for maximizing the disbursement of funds to the Board of Health to support inspections of licensed establishments and to determine which optional programs the Board of Health will conduct. Board of Health discussed the Cooperative Agreement and which optional programs the Board will agree to conduct. Cam requested approval of the agreement by the Board of Health and signature by Board Chair. Maggan Walstad moved to keep the same inspection practices in place as last year. Darcel seconded and the motion carried. A second motion was needed to approve the co-op agreement in its entirety. Amber moved to approve the entire agreement; Maggan seconded it and the motion carried.

Health Department report

Lynn Miller reported that VCHD Facebook page now has a link to the VCHD website. Emmaline Keesee, Americorps volunteer, has updated and added useful information to the VCHD website.

COVID-19 – With the COVID vaccinations done at the Wednesday mass immunization clinics, the efforts of Walgreens at our long-term care facilities, and the VA here this week, our county is 11% fully vaccinated for COVID-19 at this time.

- People can now sign up online (Formstack) to complete the vaccination medical questionnaire. VCHD staff will call each person to schedule the COVID-19 vaccine at the next vaccination clinic. We are still following the phases set by the Governor, currently 1B, 1B+, and 1C.
- Maggan inquired about COVID-19 vaccine willingness. Lynn reported that so far people are grateful and happy to get the vaccine. Amber said that the VCHD has done a great job keeping the public informed and sharing information.

Teri Long is working on a contest to get student artwork on the bench outside of HiLine Homes to promote the MTUPP program of tobacco use prevention and awareness. We are looking forward to getting back into the schools to do more presentations on this matter.

CARE Coalition – Lynn is the treasurer for the CARE Coalition and has been managing the AMDD grant with Katrena. Eligible persons in need due to COVID can request financial assistance from Katrena. These funds are then paid by the County and will be reimbursed back to the County by DPHHS through this grant.

- The CARE Coalition has planned a community meeting March 23 at 5:30 pm at Evangelical Church.
- Americorps volunteers Emmaline and Sarah Schmidt are working on the revitalizing the CARE Coalition with Mary Hughes and Katrena Palmer, both from Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center. We appreciate our volunteers so much for helping our community and being so willing to dive into every needed project.

Lynn is still working on PHEP, which has numerous pieces to each project, and all with varying deadlines. We hope to divide much of the responsibilities up between staff so that it is not so much of an undertaking in the future. The next report is due 4/15/21.

Family Planning – We have signed the contract with DPHHS to function as a telehealth Title X clinic.

- This will involve new billing duties for Michelle, a med cart and pharmacy changes, and telehealth appointments available to all clients.
- We plan to get back in the schools next year to provide education and awareness of our programs.

	2019 1 st quarter June/July/Aug	2019 2 nd quarter Sept/Oct/Nov	2019/2020 3 rd quarter Dec/Jan/Feb	2020 4 th quarter Mar/Apr/May	Total
Family Planning	47	40	39	33	159
New Moms	14	10	15	10	49
Animal Bites	14	8	4	8	34
Oral Health	10	6	6	3	25
Immunizations	631	1238	584	427	2880

	2020 1 st quarter June/July/Aug	2020 2 nd quarter Sept/Oct/Nov	2020/2021 3 rd quarter Dec/Jan/Feb	2021 4 th quarter Mar/Apr/May	Total
Family Planning	33	30	Total visits: 34, total clients: 29		63
New Moms	24	9	19		33
Animal Bites	5	5	4		10
Oral Health	8	2			10
Immunizations	Total: 675	Total: 1394 Non-flu: 369	Total: 278 COVID: 936 vaccines to 712 people		2069

coverage rate for 24-36 months (4DTap,3IPV,1MMR, UTD Hib, UTD Hep B, 1VAR, UTD PCV13)			72%		
Flu Vaccine	0	High dose – 596 Regular - 429	COVID		

Immunizations

- Michelle Norcutt and Ella Tweten are organizing 6th grade vaccinations at the Glasgow Middle School, utilizing Formstack for parent permission forms.
- Our coverage rate for 24-36 months (4DTap,3IPV,1MMR, UTD Hib, UTD Hep B, 1VAR, UTD PCV13) is 72%

Cardiac Ready – We have 5 AEDs to place in the community and several expired batteries to replace. Jan continues to work on this in between COVID contact tracing and immunizations.

Ella reaches out to all families with newborns in the area to establish our immunization relationship and provide education. Ella also follows up on all animal bites for rabies prevention.

Oral Health – We continue to struggle with the application of fluoride varnish for children under age 6 as our time is incredibly taxed. Phillips, Sheridan, and Daniels Counties are experiencing the same. At VCHD, we hand out flyers on brushing tips and safety toothbrushes for small children.

Formstack summary – Formstack is an online product that we are using for several purposes to decrease the workload of our staff.

- Event planning
- Consent for 6th grade vaccines given at school
- COVID vaccine medical screening for phases 1B, 1B+ and 1C,
- Other ideas – year-long subscription

Montana Telecommunication Access Program – Lynn shared this information and application if anyone might be interested. Lynn will forward to Vicky at the Senior Center, Michelle at the Group Home, FMDH audiologist, Wes at Valley View, and Amber at Prairie Ridge.

Unscheduled matters/concerns Mary Armstrong reminds us that the CARE Coalition Community Meeting is March 23 at 5:30 at the Evangelical Church. A sack supper will be provided. Mary discussed HB121 which is in the legislature right now. This bill revises the authority of the local Boards of Health statewide, specifies that quarantine cannot prevent attendance at a place of worship, and specifies that quarantine is only allowed for known, and not just suspected, exposure to infectious disease.

Adjourn Maggan moved to adjourn the meeting, Darcel seconded and meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 5:15 pm.

Amber Swindler, Chairman

Date

Approved at 6/8/2021 meeting