

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2018

Present: Tin Sinton, Jim Hodgskiss, Melissa Moyer, Ken Bassmann, Austin Moyer, Elaine Sedlack, and Randy Morris.

Absent: Barb Shaffer. There is currently a vacancy for the Fairfield representative.

Guests: Lora Wier.

The meeting was called to order in the Teton County courthouse conference room at 5:30pm by Melissa Moyer.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 16, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Tim moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Randy and approved unanimously. Elaine requested that Melissa sign the minutes as acting secretary.

Old Business: Zoster vaccination orders: Tim reported he has been researching the Zoster vaccine with Dr. Geyer. It is approved for use in adults age 50 and over but is more effective if given at age 60. Melissa reported there is a new Zoster vaccine made by Merck which is supposed to be more effective. It is given as a 2 dose series even if a person has had the original Zoster vaccine. TCHD has not ordered any of the old vaccine and is waiting for the new vaccine to be available. Medicare Part D will pay for the vaccination and TCHD will bill Medicare.

Choteau School Drug Testing Policy: Melissa reported the school board voted against drug testing of students.

New Business:

Environmental Health and Sanitation Updates:

Power Pole Bar: Austin reported the bar has not had an inspection since 2013. The bar is only open intermittent hours. Austin sent the owner a letter in November and the owner agreed to meet with Austin between Christmas and New Year's but then the owner canceled the meeting. The bar was not re-licensed and the owner will call Austin when he wants to reopen. There is an issue with the liquor license since the bar is not open so Austin contacted the Liquor Board at the MT Dept. of Revenue. Austin also reported that the owner of Les' Bar in Power is doing a lot of upgrades.

Cooperative Agreement: The agreement between Teton County and DPHHS concerning inspections done by the county sanitarian was renewed for 2018. Tattoo parlors will be inspected by Austin but people wanting to set up a new tattoo business will have to talk to the state as he does not have the expertise to

do that. The only tattoo parlors currently in Teton County are beauty salons that do permanent makeup.

Safe Serv Classes: Austin said there have not been any classes nearby so he had to rescind his order that all food serving facilities have someone certified by the end of 2017. He said the tests are designed to trick the person so they have to retake it and pay again. There will be a class in Conrad in March taught by the extension service which will be better. The extension service has also offered to proctor the test if someone takes it online but he feels the online class is not good. All the senior centers have a certified person now.

Teton County Public Health Program Updates:

Influenza Season: Melissa reported that influenza is widespread across the United States and Montana but not as bad here as nationwide. Initially only PCR confirmed cases were accepted but as the flu increased rapid tests were accepted. The week between Christmas and New Year's was the worst here. There has been 1 county resident hospitalized. The vaccine is not very effective, especially against the H3N2 strain, but may help prevent serious complications and hospitalization. TCHD still has flu vaccine available and it is not too late to get the vaccine.

Closing OPA and the Role of Public Health:

Melissa reported on the problems likely to result in the closing of the local Office of Public Assistance (OPA) and its effect on the health and well-being of the community. The office is the local source to sign up for the SNAP program, food stamps, temporary assistance, and Medicaid. Where will people be able to go for help? She has discussed this problem with the county commissioners. They feel the local non-profits and TCHD will get hit to fill the gap. Many people may gravitate to the TCHD WIC program. Ashley (the current local OPA employee) will train TCHD employees and local food bank volunteers and some Benefis Teton Medical Center employees about resources available and how to access them. The state wants people to access resources via the HELP line which currently has a 4 hour wait time or on-line which means people have to be able to scan in documents. A problem with the Hot Line is it does not refer people to local resources. Ashley kept a handout of all the local resources to share with people and Melissa gave out copies to the board. Ashley has about 150 clients per month and sees about 50 people per week in her office. There is no way TCHD can handle that volume of people.

Ken asked if there were grants available to hire someone a couple days a week. Melissa replied that the Montana Healthcare Foundation has grants but the current grant cycle ends February 23rd and they can't make that deadline but maybe can for the next cycle. The grants also contain a sustainability clause so the project must be able to continue after the grant is gone. The OPA is unlikely

to open again locally. The grant can never fully replace the office because they won't be able to do approvals. The grant could cover a navigator position possibly. TCHD and other local groups will keep track of the number of people requesting assistance for future use in securing grants and for the county commissioners. Jim said if Melissa can figure out something the county commissioners will try to back it up.

Jim said the county commissioners stepped in to provide office space in the courthouse for the Center for Mental Health counselors a couple days a week when they lost their local office. Otherwise the local area would have lost the mental health services.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness:

Emergency Medical Countermeasures: Lora presented the plan which was reviewed as required yearly and signed.

Health Alert Network: Lora presented the plan which was reviewed as required yearly and signed. Elaine indicated a change and addition to the local veterinarians.

Health Department Strategic Plan:

Melissa reported meetings were held in November to develop the plan. TCHD staff and Ken worked together on the plan. Melissa gave board members a summary of the strategic planning meetings with the vision to achieve public health accreditation by 2025. The mission, guiding principles, and priority areas were included. These will be used to develop the final plan.

Healthy Tracks Diabetes Prevention Program:

Melissa reported on the program since Glen is at the first meeting for the new year. Summary for last year's program included 30 people initially enrolled with 19 still active at the end. There were 19 weekly meetings and 6 monthly meetings along with exercise sessions twice a week. Glen introduced informal biweekly support group meetings from July through December. He also added an A1c measurement at the conclusion of the program. This gives a more accurate reading of blood sugar over a 3 month period.

For 2018 there are currently 32 people enrolled including 10 from Fairfield. Most found out about the program by word of mouth and many are repeats. That is not the goal. The goal is a sustainable lifestyle change but people feel they need support and accountability. This year Glen is dividing the group into teams to help encourage mutual support. Reporting of physical activity will be required at weekly weigh ins. A1c measurements will be offered at the beginning and the conclusion of the program. The state of Montana has expanded the program beyond CDC requirements and Teton County has expanded it to include people

with Type II diabetes. TCHD is looking into doing its own lab work to save money.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. The next meeting will be April 16, 2017 in the Teton County courthouse conference room at 5:30 pm.

Tim Sinton, P.A., Chairman

Elaine Sedlack, Secretary