

# TETONCUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2016

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

Absent: Tim Sinton and Barb Shaffer.

Guests: Nursing Students Catie Powers and Audrey Schadt

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Melissa in the courthouse conference room.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Ken moved they be approved as written and Gaye seconded the motion. They were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: None. No members of the public were present.

**Old Business:** Austin commented that the owners of the JARR Wrecking Yard had put up a new fence and are now in compliance. It would be better if it was higher in places but it is adequate.

## **New Business:**

Jim reported Barb Shaffer of Dutton has replaced Jane DeBruycker on the board of health. Jane's term has expired. Barb was unable to attend the meeting due to prior obligations.

Teton County Health Dept. Updates:

Influenza Immunizations: Melissa reported that the health department staff has given over 600 flu shots so far. Clinics were held in Choteau, Fairfield, Dutton, Power, Greenfield School, and at the Hutterite Colonies. Five cases of lab confirmed influenza have been reported in the state already which is early for Montana. They were reported in Lewis and Clark County and Missoula County and were not travel associated. Last year influenza in Montana caused 433 hospitalizations and 33 deaths.

Breast Feeding Peer Counselor: Melissa reported the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) program received 5 applications from 4 counties for this position. They will be interviewing the applicants on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Breast Feeding: Melissa reported that Caitlin Gray Avci, an MSU student nurse, did a breast feeding survey in Teton County last summer. She interviewed 15 women. Many of the women said they consulted friends or family members who had breast fed their babies for help and information. Caitlin made the following recommendations: 1) a peer counselor would be very helpful; 2) information disseminated should be culturally sensitive; 3) it is helpful for women to establish breast feeding goals before the baby is born; 4) outreach to work sites and employers is needed to assure that breast feeding women who return to work have the time and private space to breast feed or pump; and 5) more public outreach is needed to achieve a more acceptable response to breast feeding in public places.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Lora presented 2 updated plans for the board's review and approval.

Truck Wreck Protocol: This includes the necessary steps involved in dealing with an accident involving a truck carrying food, medicine, or cosmetics to ensure the items are accounted for and handled according to the protocol to protect the public's safety. Following discussion Elaine made a motion to approve the protocol as written. Ken seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Emergency Medical Countermeasures Plan: This plan includes the necessary steps to set up a dispensing site for vaccines or other pharmaceuticals in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease or exposure to a harmful substance. A POD (Point of Dispensing) exercise had been scheduled for last spring but a storm related power outage forced its cancellation. Lora hopes to set up a POD exercise again next year. After some discussion it was determined that this is a clerical update to the plan that was approved last year and does not need board approval again.

Suicide Prevention: Catie reported that Montana has one of the highest suicide rates in the country and suicide among teens is twice the national average. Guns are the method of choice. In response, the Center For Mental Health is bringing Jason DeShaw, a musician who has dealt with personal mental health challenges, to perform for the Choteau Junior High and High School students on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will also be counselors on hand for any students wanting to discuss their own problems. Gun locks are also available and a discussion ensued about how to get them where they are most needed. Among the suggestions were to give them to school counselors, the mental health center and families with teens who are seen at the health dept.

Caitie is working with the schools on suicide prevention focusing on 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders. She is preparing handouts and will be talking to the students as a follow-up to Jason DeShaw's presentation. She will talk about depression, the signs and symptoms, and what to do if you or someone you know is feeling depressed. She will be passing out cards that include the signs of suicide, apps on suicide prevention, and phone and text numbers for help.

Tobacco Use Prevention: Audrey has been working with the REACT group at Choteau High School and their leader Bev Yeager. The group devised and distributed a questionnaire on tobacco use to the students at CHS at the beginning of the school year. The students surveyed felt that students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades needed the most information on tobacco use prevention, grades the DARE program used to target. But that program is gone. Students often deny use but report that their friends and family use tobacco. The REACT students talk to other students about tobacco use prevention and will be coming to talk to the board of health in the future.

Environmental Health and Sanitation:

R.S. Licensing Update: Austin reported he took and passed the test to become a registered sanitarian and is now waiting for the Board of Sanitarians to meet and approve his application.

Non-Compliance in Facilities Discussion: Austin has a problem with facilities that are not in compliance with sanitation rules such as a place in Power that does not have a handwashing sink in the kitchen and keep making excuses. He has decided the best way to handle this is to not relicense them for the following year until they are in compliance. They cannot operate without a license. This is acceptable unless the non-compliance is an imminent threat to the public's health. The other problem involves the 8 hour Safe Serv Food class. Every food service establishment must have at least one person certified and that includes the senior centers. The class costs \$85 to \$150 and the test is \$45 and it is good for 3 years. Austin has decided to give them all of next year to comply. If they don't comply they get 2 notices and then he contacts the state. It is considered a misdemeanor and the county attorney would need to take action.

Junk Vehicle Update: Austin, as previously reported, says the JARR Wrecking Yard is now in compliance. The county has put up a new fence around their junk vehicle lot.

Prairie Heritage Farm holding tank variance request: Austin reports they apparently have a septic system which predates the permit requirement. The pumper they called in to pump their tank reported it was not a holding tank but was a septic tank.

Jim reported the Opportunities Inc. group is meeting at the senior center on October 28<sup>th</sup>. They need a representative to replace Schoonover from Dutton if anyone is interested or knows someone who may be interested.

Gayle asked about the Chronic Disease Self-Management Course. Melissa said it started last week and although 9 people signed up for it only 4 showed up at the first meeting. Jane Woolery from the Teton County Extension Office and Glenn Deuchler who does the cardiovascular disease prevention program and his wife were teaching the class.

Jim reported the courthouse will have its new standby generator in place by Election Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2017 in the courthouse conference room.

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Tim Sinton, Chairman

Elaine Sedlack, Secretary