

# TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

**September 24, 2018**

Present: Jim Hodgskiss, Tim Sinton, Melissa Moyer, Ken Bassmann, Lin Wright, Barb Shaffer, Austin Moyer, Randy Morris, and Elaine Sedlack.

Guests: Lora Wier, Annie Olson, and Dawn Gunderson.

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

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Tim moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Barb Shaffer and approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** Medication Drop site: Annie Olson, Public Relations, Benefis Teton Medical Center reported that BTMC applied to DEA and received a disposal license in order to apply for a grant to establish a drop off site for medications. They received the grant to purchase an \$850 medication safe with 4 liners and also purchased enough liners for a year. There are specific requirements for siting the safe. It has to be in view at all times or in a locked area. BTMC has not yet determined where it will be located within their facility. When the 38 gallon bags are full they are sealed and shipped out. No sharps can be placed in the bags, only unused medications.

“Stop The Bleed” campaign: Annie also reported on this nationwide campaign. BTMC received a \$1,000 grant to purchase “Stop the Bleed” kits with the goal of putting them with the 68 AEDs located around the county. The kits contain a tourniquet and clotting cloths. Ken Bassmann will be teaching a class Tuesday at 6 pm. Ken will also be training sheriff’s deputies, ambulance personnel, first responders, etc. in their use.

## **New Business:**

Teton County Public Health Program Updates:

New Hire: Substance Use Prevention Coordinator: Melissa introduced Dawn Gunderson as the substance use prevention coordinator. She is currently working part time for Easter Seals. The health department has a 12 month grant from the MT Healthcare Foundation to hire a ¼ time person to work within an evidence based framework to assess the community’s needs and plan how to meet them. She will also be looking for future funding. Great Falls Gateway Recovery will do training here. This is not a treatment program. It is looking at the local needs and possible ways to meet the need by formulating an intervention/prevention program possibly centered in the schools.

Upcoming Flu Season: Melissa reported CDC has updated 2 of the strains this year. DPHHS recommends waiting until October to vaccinate people unless they

are high risk. Elaine said she heard there were confirmed cases in Lewis & Clark County and Melissa said she had also heard that from some others but nothing official from DPHHS yet. Last year the flu spiked in March which is late and maybe why the recommendation is to wait until October to vaccinate people because the vaccine protection does wain over time. Melissa said the Flu Mist has been approved again. She has ordered some but doesn't know when it will arrive. The health department also has high dose flu vaccine for older folks. They have scheduled clinics beginning October 8<sup>th</sup> in Power, Dutton, and Brady schools and New Rockport Colony. On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> they will be working with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Caravan. The flu clinic in Choteau will be October 16<sup>th</sup> and they will open the POD box for the clinic. Melissa also reported they have the new Shingrix shingles vaccine but there is currently a nationwide shortage of that vaccine so she doesn't know when they will be able to get more.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Lora reported on the Pandemic Influenza Plan. The plan underwent a major revision last year and she wanted the board members to review and refresh their understanding of the plan.

Legislative Priorities and I-185: Lora reviewed the legislative priorities of the MT Public Health Association (MPHA), the MT Environmental Health Association (MEHA) and the Association of MT Public Health Officers (AMPHO). They include: unsafe (raw) milk, Medicaid expansion, substance abuse, mental health crisis response, and tobacco use prevention. They have hired a lobbyist. Lora said for every dollar the state puts into Medicaid expansion the federal government puts in two. It is a life line for low wage workers who do not get healthcare through their employers. I-185 seeks to raise the tax on tobacco to fund Medicaid expansion, fund tobacco use prevention programs, etc. Lora said previous tobacco tax raises resulted in significant drops in tobacco use. This tax would also affect vaping products the use of which is increasing in youth. I-185 is being opposed by the tobacco industry which is outspending proponents 8 or 9 to 1.

Environmental Health and Sanitation Updates: Truck Wreck Protocol: Austin said the truck wreck protocol was rewritten last year after confusion over jurisdiction after a truck wreck when the contents were moved to another county.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Teton County Courthouse conference room.

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Tim Sinton, P.A., Chairman

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Elaine Sedlack, Secretary

