

Fergus County Board of Health Meeting
May 16, 2022 6:30 p.m.
Sheriff's Office Basement Complex

Present:

Jordan Robins, BOH Chair
Lisa Robinson, BOH member
Laurie Ray, BOH member
Amanda Rouse, DIS-Staff
Sean Hill, Sanitarian
Marlo Thomas, Staff
Rick Vaughn, Public

Donna Vantassel, BOH Vice Chair
Courtney Moline, BOH member
Heather Thom, FCNO Director
Sue Irvin, Family Planning Director
Sandy Youngbauer, County Commissioner
Ron Hrubes, City Representative

Jordan Robins, Board of Health Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Agenda approved as presented.

Public Comment on any agenda items:

There were no comments.

Approval of March 21, 2022 Board Minutes:

Courtney Moline moved and Donna Vantassel seconded the approval of the minutes as presented.

Public Hearing:

No Comments

Personnel Announcements:

Currently, there are three open positions within the Fergus County Health Department.

Public Health Officer – Part Time
Family Planning Nurse – Part Time
Sanitarian in Training – Full Time

Sandy Youngbauer asked the Board about having a Public Health Officer that resides outside of the county. Lisa Robinson made a motion to open the discussion of the Health Officer. There was discussion about exploring the possibility and the involvement of the Health Officer. Donna Vantassel expressed interest in the Health Officer position. There was discussion of the possibility of a Board Member serving in that role as well. Additional information and legal advice will need to be obtained. The discussed was tabled until the next meeting.

Announcements/Reports:

- Introductions were made by all that were present at the training prior to the meeting.
- Heather Thom, Director of the Fergus County Nurses Office, provided a written report for the MCH (Maternal Child Health), IZ (Immunizations), PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) and Communicable Disease reports including a financial information. The staff have been busy attending required trainings, conducting in-office and outreach clinics and doing communicable disease reporting. It was noted that along with the communicable diseases listed the staff did work with two backyard bird flock owners that had their herds affected by the Avian Flu. As far as the human side, there was no

health concerns. There had been an article recently in the local newspaper about what the Health Department has been doing since January 1. Heather Thom requested that if the Board ever heard or saw information about the office to please ask for clarification.

- Sue Irvin, Director of the Family Planning Office, reported that she has been to several trainings recently, continues to do STD investigations and the booth at the Health Expo was well attended. The Tobacco Prevention Program has been busy planning and promoting events around the community. She has been working on the Task orders for the Chronic disease program, including starting a walking program. She gave an update on the Title 10 funding that now will be administrated by Bridger Care Clinic instead of DPHHS. Due to this transition, this was the reason for upgrading to the new EHR program that is shared between the two offices. In 2024, the Family Planning office will be 50 years old. The office recently turned six counties Pink for Pink Ribbon month. With help from Sandy Youngbauer, a Dermatologist from Billings provided a free skin check clinic for 34 clients. He would like to come back in the future. A financial report was also provided.
- Sean Hill, Contract Sanitarian, reported that he did six licenses today. With the summer approaching, he is hoping to be in Fergus County one to two times per month. He is able to do most of his work via the internet. He is working at contracting help. Barb Kingery recently provided an information meeting to local septic installers. Barb has a new cell number for questions about septic permits. Sean also reminded that with warmer weather people are cleaning out their properties and to be aware of animals that are known to carry rabies.
- It was requested to have the department and financial reports provided to the Board via email prior to the meetings to allow the Board time to review.

Discussion/Action Items:

- Approval of Board of Health By-laws:
 - There was discussion if Delegation of Authority needed to be in the By-laws. It may be covered under the Montana Statutes. If it is deemed necessary to add to the By-laws an amendment will be made.
 - Courtney Moline moved to approval the By-laws with correction of two grammatical errors. Laurie Ray seconded.
- There was discussion on when to schedule the board meetings. The City of Lewistown holds their meetings the first and third Monday. There is interest from the City to be involved with the Board of Health. There was discussion to change the Board of Health meetings to the second or forth Monday. It was agreed to change meetings to the fourth Monday of the first month of the new quarter. The next two meetings will be held Monday, July 25th and Monday, October 24th.
- McKenzie Morgan, Fergus County Prevention Specialist, has recently partnered with the Family Planning to help with the Tobacco Prevention Program and also works closely with the Youth Challenge Task Force. She has applied for a five year grant for Drug Free Communities on behalf of the Youth Challenge Group. This grant would be for \$125,000 per year. Heather Thom is also involved with the Youth Challenge group and feels like this grant would benefit our communities and also help with the drug issues that were noted as concerns from the recent Community Health Assessment Needs Survey.

Public Comment on Non Agenda Items:

No Public comments

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held in July 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Donna Vantassel made a motion to adjourn. Courtney Moline seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Marlo Thomas, FCNO

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Secretary: _____ Date: _____