

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2016

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

Absent: Gayle Harris.

Guests: Health Department Staff: Erin Jones, Sue Schilling, Dawn Baker, Glenn Deuchler, and Lora Wier.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Melissa.

The minutes of the October 19, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Tim moved that the minutes be approved. It was seconded by Randy and approved by unanimous vote.

Elaine requested an addition to "Old Business" to review the situation with the septic systems at the Broken O Ranch as originally discussed at the February 23, 2015 meeting since Corrine (sanitarian) retired before the next meeting of the board.

Old Business:

Trexler Septic Decision of February 23, 2015: A review of the minutes indicates a holding tank variance was granted for the Rock Shop. Randy said while driving by the Rock Shop last fall he saw what appeared to be a drainfield and septic or holding tank being installed. A drainfield and septic system was not approved. Austin reported he has contacted Dave Trexler and he was supposed to call Austin when he was ready to have an inspection. Austin will look into it. Austin said he is doing septic inspections as well as food service inspections.

Broken O: Elaine read the minutes from the February 23, 2015 meeting concerning the septic situation. At that meeting Corrine (sanitarian) reported she had received a complaint on the owner's big house which was being enlarged and would need an expansion of the existing septic system. There were at least 4 other septic issues involving other houses on the ranch occupied by people including 2 failed systems and one with effluent draining down into a coulee. Corrine had sent them an enforcement letter giving them 30 days to get the 2 failed systems fixed and plans made for the other 2 septic systems and the owner's house. Since the board did not meet again until after Corrine's retirement we do not know the outcome. Austin will look through Corrine's records and if he is unable to find out if that situation was remedied he will contact Corrine.

New Business:

Introduction of Board of Health Members:

Randy: owns an excavation company which does excavation work for septic installations, etc, and has been on the board for 15 years. He has valuable knowledge about local soils and septic and drain field issues.

Jim: is a rancher and county commissioner and represents the commissioners on the board.

Tim: is our Health Officer. He was an EMT in Billings on a medical helicopter before returning to school for his master's degree to become a Physician Assistant. He worked in family practice and now is working the ER at the Great Falls Clinic. He has been on the board since 2008 and has been to Alabama 3 times for CDC emergency preparedness courses.

Ken: spent 20 years in the military as communications officer, then did IT work for the VA and CDC. He is currently taking EMT training. He is new to the board and has a desire to give back to the community.

Jane: is in the agriculture field and lives near Dutton. She has been on the board for 15 years and wants to ensure that the health dept. programs continue to serve the outlying towns in the county.

Elaine: always had an interest in public health but wanted to come to it with a varied background because of the wide scope of PH. She worked large and small hospitals, an internal medicine clinic, a nursing home, home health, and did volunteer work in Glacier National Park to upgrade their EMS services and train park rangers. She worked for 22 years for Flathead City County Health Dept. as immunization coordinator, communicable disease investigator, and in emergency preparedness. After retiring from there she moved to Choteau and worked part time in TCHD in the Breast and Cervical Health Program. She has a special interest in food borne/waterborne diseases and zoonotic diseases. She is new to the board although she has been attending board meetings and doing the minutes for several years.

Introduction of Health Dept. Staff:

Melissa: After receiving her bachelor's degree she joined the Peace Corps and served in Peru for 2 years. Her experiences in Peru led to her interest in public health and she returned to school and received a master's degree in Public Health. She was hired by TCHD to work on accreditation and then was appointed director upon Lora's retirement.

Sue: has lived in Choteau for 31 years and has worked at the health department for 28 years as administrative assistant working in the Cancer Control Program, WIC, immunizations, and billing. She and her husband have also owned and operated the Roxy Theater for 27 years.

Erin: worked as a hospital based OB nurse doing labor and delivery and has worked at the health department since June 1, 2015 doing immunizations and the tobacco prevention program.

Glenn: has lived in Choteau for 1.5 years. Previously he worked in telecommunications back east and taught college for 4 years. Taking on a second career he became a health and fitness trainer at a YWCA. He is a certified health coach and senior fitness trainer and has worked at the health department since last July in the Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Program called "Healthy Tracks".

Lora: and her husband were VISTA volunteers in Texas in 1978 which led to her interest in public health. She was director of the Teton County Health Dept. for 36 years and now has contracted with the health dept to update the emergency preparedness plan. She is also the executive director of MPHA.

Austin: studied geologic sciences and natural resources. He was recently hired to be the sanitarian for Teton County. He is currently a "registered sanitarian in training" and needs to take a microbiology class and the registered sanitarian exam within one year. He also has training and skills in GIS mapping.

Dawn: has worked as a nurse in hospitals, nursing homes and the Great Falls Clinic to gain a broad background before entering public health. She has worked at the health dept for 5 years doing immunizations, cancer control and WIC. She is also a certified lactation consultant.

Teton County Public Health Program Updates:

Environmental Health and Sanitation: Austin reported he is taking FDA classes on line and working with a Cascade County Sanitarian. He has completed 76 inspections.

Cooperative Agreement: Austin presented this proposed agreement between the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Teton County Board of Health for one year from Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2016 with respect to payments and responsibilities for inspections for licensed public establishments. Under this agreement Austin would take on the inspections of pools and spas, and tattoo, body piercing and body art establishments which are

currently done by the state. The state sets the fees and pays for the training. Austin is currently learning pool and spa inspections. Tim made the motion to approve the cooperative agreement and Randy seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Authority Agreement: Austin presented the authority agreement which designates the Teton County Sanitarian as the authorized representative of the Teton County Health Officer and describes the powers and duties of the sanitarian. Tim made the motion to approve the Authority Agreement. It was seconded by Ken and passed unanimously. Ken requested that in the future copies of any agreements, etc be sent to the board of health members prior to the meeting.

Austin also proposed fees for temporary food licenses which are proposed as \$40 for 1-3 days, \$115 for 4 days or longer, and \$85 to \$115 if there are more than 2 employees. This will not affect "not for profit" organizations. The board agreed to put this on hold until we can find out what the current fees are.

Influenza Season and Communicable Disease: Melissa reported the influenza season started a month earlier than usual but so far Teton County has not had any diagnosed cases. The health department gave more doses of flu vaccine than usual partly because the hospital did not receive any vaccine so sent patients to TCHD.

Tobacco Use Prevention: Erin is working to have Choteau Schools become a "Tobacco Free School of Excellence". The school system is very close and just needs some policy changes but Superintendent Gameon is too busy to work on it so TCHD took the policies and made some changes and gave them to Bev Yaeger and the REACT group to introduce. Erin reports that 70 to 75% of schools in the state are "Tobacco Free Schools of Excellence" and it is possible that in the future grants may only be accessible to schools with that designation. Dutton needs someone to take the lead there. Jane pointed out that Dutton has a new principal so they should approach them again. Fairfield did not apply for a mini grant.

Erin is distributing a questionnaire about drug and alcohol use among students and then will work on how to fix any problems identified. Quit Kits have been distributed to the bowling alley, dentist offices, clinics, etc and she is always looking for more places to put them.

When health dept. clients have smoking related habits, patient guidance is given and the form filled out and entered into the data base. Appropriate information is given as needed and they are helped to access treatment.

WIC: Dawn reported the program serves pregnant, postpartum, and nursing women, infants, and children ages 1 to 5. It is a nutritional supplement program. Grocery stores have to sign an agreement with the state and are required to stock certain foods. The clients get WIC checks that list the foods they are eligible for. WIC will be changing to EBT type cards soon. Grocery clerks have to be trained to ensure the checks are only used for the allowed foods. Sue is trained as a LARC (local agency retail coordinator). WIC also has an agreement to immunize children as needed when they are in the office for WIC appointments. They are now going to Augusta every 3 months to see WIC clients and have space in the fire hall.

There are more WIC eligible women who do not participate. Dawn tries to encourage women to participate by placing posters and ads, offering gas cards, bring a friend, etc. The Office of Public Assistance and Neighbors Helping Neighbors also refer women.

Dawn is seeking a regional breast feeding peer counselor who can contact nursing mothers through phone calls, text messages, home visits, etc to offer encouragement and advice. The program will begin in October of 2016.

Healthy Tracks: Glenn reported on the Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Program. It is a 12 month program which includes nutrition, physical activity, and stress management. To qualify for the program a person must have a BMI of 24 or higher, be 18 years of age, and have one other qualifying factor such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, or high glucose. Nineteen people started the program last year and by the end of the year 13 were left. The program will begin this year on January 26th and 23 people are enrolled so far but he may have 25. There are weekly classes for 6 months, then monthly classes. He will also be leading twice a week exercise classes and enrollees can sign up for any other fitness program offered in the area such as the pool or the hospital PT center.

PHEP: Lora reported on the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan for Teton County. She presented the updated Pandemic Influenza Plan and explained all the plans will now have the same format including a signature page for the Health Dept. Director, Commissioner on the board of health, chairman of the board, and others as needed such as the DES director, medical officer, etc.; a Record of Revisions page; and a Distribution page. Lora explained the pandemic influenza plan is similar to the previous plan with a few minor upgrades and in the new format. Tim made a motion to accept the Pandemic Influenza Plan as written and Jim seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Lora also reported there will be a POD (Point of Dispensing) exercise on April 15, 2015 during which the POD will be opened and set up with people coming through to simulate a real event. She could use volunteers to be victims. The POD is a large refrigerator sized unit that holds all signage, color coded vests, identification badges, forms, and non-medical equipment needed to dispense medications during an emergency.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm by Melissa.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2016.



Tim Sinton, Chairman



Elaine Sedlack, Secretary