

TETON COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 22, 2012

Minutes

Present: Randy Morris, Jim Hodgskiss, Corrine Rose, Elaine Sedlack, Lora Wier, April Spaulding, and Tim Sinton.

MTUPP: April reported on MTUPP activities. Teton Medical Center is going to a tobacco free campus with an October 1st target date. Teton Nursing Home is also working toward becoming tobacco or smoke free. Clare Lemke is coming from the state MTUPP on June 4th to meet with both. April also discussed youth activities and showed commercials produced by Fairfield and Choteau REACT groups promoting an end to spit tobacco products.

State Pertussis Situation: Lora discussed the current pertussis outbreak occurring around the state. Since January 1st there have been 206 cases in Montana, beginning in Gallatin County and including Ravalli, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Flathead Counties compared to 56 cases at this time last year. There were 44 cases reported in the week ending May 12th. It starts in areas where there are groups of people who do not immunize their children and then spreads. Those counties experiencing the outbreak have immunization rates below 50% with Lewis and Clark the lowest at 22%, Gallatin at 24%, and Missoula at 28%. Teton County is at 69%. Some reasons people don't immunize their children are they have no experience or understanding of the seriousness of the disease and there is much misinformation on the internet concerning vaccines causing problems such as autism.

Adolescent Immunization Promotion: Lora discussed the health department's adolescent immunization rates which have increased yearly. The rates for Tdap, MMR and Hep B are above the Healthy People 2020 Goal. Meningococcal vaccine is approaching the goal. HPV and varicella are still well below. This year they assessed records, sent letters to the parents indicating the immunizations needed by their children and asking which ones the parents wanted given. Health department staff then went to all the schools and gave the immunizations, which is the easiest way for the parents to have them done.

Communicable Disease Reporting Protocol: Elaine reviewed the communicable disease response/surveillance protocol which needed to be updated for the PHEP grant. The protocol outlines how Teton County Health Dept. will: conduct routine surveillance and respond to reports of a communicable disease or suspected biologic agent; conduct both active and passive surveillance and highly active surveillance activities during an outbreak; the role of the Epi Team, the core members, and expanded members as well as the 24/7 availability of the staff and the functioning of the Health Alert Network (HAN); prevention of secondary transmission; and the specimen transport plan. The checklist for review and approval of communicable disease reporting protocols was

reviewed and the plan approved and signed by Lora Wier, PHN Director, Tim Sinton, PA Board of Health Chairman and Health Officer, and Corrine Rose, RS.

Non licensed hair and makeup business: Lora reported on complaints received by the health dept. of a person conducting a hair and makeup business without a license and with unsanitary equipment. She will report this to the state licensing bureau

Variance Request – Pine Butte: Corrine reported on a variance request for Pine Butte. They currently have multiple septic systems and multiple water wells and are proposing a change to one septic system and one water well (with the possibility of a second) to serve all the buildings which would be a great improvement. Corrine presented their plans with engineer drawings and specifications. The problem is Teton County requires a 600 feet separation between a well and a septic system. The State of Montana requires only a 100 feet separation. The new plan calls for a 450 feet separation so a variance is required. The new septic system would be out of the floodplain and include a dosing system to distribute the waste evenly throughout the drain field. The well will be a deep well. The variance was approved by the Board.

Corrine said the oil and gas meetings in Choteau and Conrad were well attended and other counties have asked her how to contact the speakers and set up their own meetings. She has several requests for tourist homes and trailer parks with the trailer park in Bynum under construction but no approvals given yet.

Licensed establishments receive letters in December and January notifying them it is time to renew their licenses. Then the state sends a list to Corrine and she sends letters in February. Pierres in Dupuyer and the ice cream parlor in Choteau and the Eagles in Fairfield let theirs lapse. The ice cream parlor has made requested improvements and Corrine has inspected them for their new license. Pierres needs many improvements before they can get their license and the Eagles has decided not to apply for a new license.

A general discussion about oil and gas activity and impacts was held. It was noted that you can't change the use of water to sell for oil wells and you can't go beyond historic use levels. The Teton Basin is a closed system.