

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023

John Dorr, Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

Members Present: John Dorr; Carol Beam; Debbie Davis; Brent Cromley; Anne Giuliano (phone-in); Jim Harris; Bea Ann Melichar; Lionel Tapia; Steve Wahrlich (phone-in); Casey Wheeler; K.C. Williams

Members Absent: Michael Dennis; Don Jones

Staff Present: John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer; Jonathan Forte, President & CEO; Bob Janicek, Chief Information Officer; Carrie Ludwig, Executive Assistant; Eric Owen, Vice President – Public Health Services & Clinical Operations; Shelli Ritz, Executive Vice President & CFO; Tani Sanchez, Administrative Assistant – Organizational Innovation; Barbara Schneeman, Vice President, Communication & Public Affairs / Public Information Officer / RiverStone Health Foundation Executive Director

Guests Present: Jeana Lervick, Yellowstone County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dorr called the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Dorr invited members of the public to address the Board. Upon hearing no comment, Chairperson Dorr proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Dorr introduced RiverStone Health's new President and CEO, Jonathan Forte and new Board of Health member Carol Beam, RiverStone Health Foundation Board Liaison. Jonathan and Carol spoke briefly about their respective backgrounds before Board members introduced themselves and welcomed them to the Board of Health.

APPROVAL

December 8, 2022 meeting minutes: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the December 8, 2022 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Williams), seconded (Cromley), and unanimously carried, it was

**VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 08, 2022
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED**

January 26, 2022 Consent Agenda: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** (copy on file) of the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting that was previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Melichar), seconded (Cromley), and unanimously carried, it was

**VOTED: TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF THE JANUARY 26, 2023
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED**

CEO REPORT

Jonathan Forte provided updates and answered questions related to the CEO “HELP” report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

- The number of COVID-19 related deaths in Yellowstone County have declined. Through the end of December 2022 there have been a total of 603 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Yellowstone County since the onset of the pandemic.
- We have created a new Security, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness Director position as one of the initial steps in implementing the security recommendations of the recent comprehensive safety and security assessment of RiverStone Health and its main campus. Response to the opportunity has been positive with five candidates identified to advance to the next step in the process. The successful candidate will be tasked with implementing enhanced staff training, improving emergency response procedures, and making campus enhancements such as improved lighting and the addition of security cameras with greater resolution.
- RiverStone Health’s 2022 Holiday Care Program was a great success. More than 1,200 gifts were wrapped for the program’s 172 referrals during our annual gift-wrapping party that was held on Friday December 9. The Holiday Care Program offers an opportunity for staff to provide gifts for homeless / at-risk students in School District 2, and some of our own patients and clients who may otherwise not receive gifts during the holiday season. An annual gift-wrapping party is organized in conjunction with the Holiday Care Program where staff and volunteers come together to wrap gifts that were purchased for referrals of the program.
- After a long break due to the pandemic, the annual joint boards dinner meeting has been scheduled on February 21, 2023. The meeting is a gathering of the BOH, CHC Board, MFMR

Board, and Foundation Board that provides an opportunity for board members to interact and represents a chance to express our gratitude to them for volunteering their time as board members. Dinner will be served at 6 PM followed by a short presentation from Clark Stirgus, Senior Director - Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, on the JEDI work undertaken thus far.

- Two Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) Board positions have recently changed; Dr. Megan Littlefield will replace Dr. Lionel Tapia as the RiverStone Health physician representative, and Jonathan Forte will replace John Felton as RiverStone Health's administrative representative.
- The Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) was awarded a five year, \$500,000 per year grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to expand training for our resident physicians to treat mental health and substance use disorders in children, teens and young adults.
- RiverStone Health recently received a \$75,000 "Communities That Care" grant to focus on youth opioid prevention, specifically within rural school districts surrounding Billings.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

John Felton provided updates and noted highlights of the Health Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

- COVID-19 cases in Yellowstone County are on the decline. We will continue to see case numbers fluctuate as new variants arrive.
- Influenza has hit Yellowstone County hard with the total number of cases currently over 2,000, a higher number of cases than most years.
- HB121, enacted during the 2021 Montana Legislature, states that a "local governing authority" is required to enact certain actions previously within the province of the local board of health and local health officer. A memorandum of understanding to implement HB121 by and between Yellowstone County, the City of Billings, and the City of Laurel has been finalized. A five-member local governing authority has been created and members have been appointed as follows: Yellowstone County has appointed Commissioners John Ostlund and Mark Morse, the City of Billings has permanently appointed the Mayor and Vice Mayor, currently Bill Cole and Mike Boyett, and the City of Laurel has appointed Casey Wheeler. We will work to schedule an initial organizing meeting to be held as soon as schedules allow.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

Chairperson Dorr provided highlights on behalf of Megan Littlefield, on the Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file) that was distributed at the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting.

Montana Family Medicine Residency highlights:

- Wrapping up interviews.
 - Interviewed a little over 100 candidates
 - Match list is due in early March

- Awarded the grant for Primary Care Training and Enhancement-Residency Training in Mental and Behavioral Health. The grant will help formalize a rotation for medical residents. We already have a psychiatrist and other opportunities in place.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the December 7, 2022 finance committee meeting notes, the July 2022 financial statements, and the August 2022 financial statements that were previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Cromley), seconded (Tapia), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 29, 2022 JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Cromley), seconded (Tapia), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 18, 2023 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Cromley), seconded (Tapia), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE SEPTEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Cromley), seconded (Tapia), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Cromley), seconded (Tapia), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the January 10, 2023 public health policy development committee meeting that were previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Cromley), seconded (Tapia), and unanimously carried, it was

**VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2023
PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
AS PRESENTED**

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Tapia), seconded (Cromley), and unanimously carried, it was

**VOTED: TO APPROVE REINSTATEMENT OF THE EMPLOYEE
VACCINATION REQUIREMENT POLICIES AS PRESENTED AND
RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE**

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copies on file) of the January 17, 2023 safety and quality committee meeting that were previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Williams), seconded (Cromley), and unanimously carried, it was

**VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2022
SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED**

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the December 8, 2022 meeting that were previously distributed in the January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Williams), seconded (Cromley), and unanimously carried, it was

**VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2022
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED**

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept Governance Committee nomination recommendation, Spencer Anderson, for appointment to the Board of Health for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Cromley), seconded (Melichar), and unanimously carried, it was

**VOTED: TO ACCEPT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE NOMINATION
RECOMMENDATION, SPENCER ANDERSON, FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM
BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023**

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

IT Update: Bob Janicek, RiverStone Health's Chief Information Officer, provided an update (presentation on file) of RiverStone Health's Information Technology (IT) operations and the progress made thus far on the three-year strategic plan for improvement.

Bob informed the Board that phase one of the three-year, three phase, strategic plan for improvement is nearly complete and IT is beginning work on phase two elements of the plan. Bob noted that phase one largely focuses on securing our infrastructure, building resiliency for the systems we depend upon every day, and moving away from a reactive stance to a more proactive stance to negate any issues that could arise.

Bob noted that there is still much work left to do but good progress is being made towards the end goal of building the cybersecurity framework necessary to achieve HITRUST certification for RiverStone Health's IT operations.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2023, beginning at 7:00 AM in the Administration Boardroom, third floor of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The January 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James D. Harris
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Health

Jonathan Forte
President & CEO

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2022\minutes\1.26.23