

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2025

Jim Harris Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

Members Present: Spencer Anderson; Brent Cromley (virtual); Debbie Davis; Michael Dennis; John Dorr; Jim Harris; Erin Lambert; Mark Morse; Lionel Tapia; Steve Wahrlich(virtual)

Members Absent: Carol Beam; Casey Wheeler; Derek Yeager

Staff Present: Jon Forte, President & CEO / Health Officer; Bob Janicek, Chief Integration Officer; Carrie Ludwig, Executive Assistant; Eric Owen – Chief Operating Officer; Shanna Zier, Chief Financial Officer

Guests Present: Stewart Kirkpatrick, legal counsel – Crowley Fleck; Jeana Lervick, legal counsel – Crowley Fleck

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Harris called the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Harris opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

APPROVAL

September 25, 2025 BOH Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Harris requested a motion to approve the minutes (copy on file) of the September 25, 2025 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED.

October 23, 2025 Consent Agenda: Chairperson Harris requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (copy on file) of the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting that was previously distributed in the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting packet.

The consent agenda included a request for Board approval of the appointment of Marji Cunningham, NP, as a non-clinic provider to the RiverStone Health Hospice staff, with privileges in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, based on the recommendations of RiverStone Health’s Chief Medical Officer and the President and CEO/Health Officer.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2025 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARJI CUNNINGHAM, NP, AS A NON-CLINIC PROVIDER TO THE RIVERSTONE HEALTH HOSPICE STAFF WITH PRIVILEGES IN HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MEDICINE, AS PRESENTED.

CEO / HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Jon Forte discussed highlights and provided updates on items discussed in the October 2025 CEO “H.E.L.P” report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting packet.

- On Tuesday, October 15, Jon met virtually with Senator Steve Daines to provide updates on RiverStone Health initiatives, highlighting the expansion of the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) mobile health unit, which has served approximately 200 new patients. Discussion focused on the successes and challenges impacting RiverStone Health’s work, and how the Senator could support these initiatives both federally and at the state level.
- A brief overview of behavioral health committee activities and the community working group was provided. It was noted that the October 7 meeting focused on identifying gaps in the system and that the next session will emphasize action steps for each priority area.
- Jon provided updates on ongoing efforts to restrict 7-OH synthetic substances and kratom in licensed food establishments, including advocacy with the Montana Board of Pharmacy for emergency Schedule I classification. He described the concentrated 7-OH compound, its addictive properties, overdose risks, and the need for Narcan for reversal, highlighting enforcement efforts to protect public health.
- The need for federal extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities and retroactive reimbursement for outstanding claims was discussed, noting that while telehealth visits continue, payments for those services remain pending.
- Jon reminded the Board about the annual Hospice Tree of Lights celebration on November 13, beginning at 5:00 PM, and encouraged Board member attendance.
- RiverStone Health is actively recruiting a Chief People Officer to lead its Human Resources department following the retirement and departure of key leadership staff. Michael inquired about the recent title change from VP of Human Resources to Chief People Officer. Jon explained that leadership chose a title emphasizing a focus on people management,

organizational culture, recruitment, and retention rather than traditional HR nomenclature, reflecting RiverStone Health’s focus on supporting and retaining staff.

Michael also asked about updated turnover metrics, and Jon confirmed that turnover is still tracked and an update will be provided at the next Board of Health meeting.

- Jon noted that reporting from the CDC for the 2025 influenza season has been limited due to staffing disruptions. Valid data is available through Yale, Johns Hopkins, and national surveillance systems. Montana began influenza / RSV surveillance reporting on October 10.
- Recent measles activity in Utah and Arizona, with vaccination coverage as low as 7% in certain communities, was reviewed. Jon emphasized the safety and efficacy of the MMR vaccine and clarified that dosing cannot be split into separate measles, mumps, and rubella, vaccinations, as previously reported through popular media coverage and social media platforms.
- Jon acknowledged the 20th anniversary of Montana’s Clean Indoor Air Act and noted the significant long-term health benefits achieved following its implementation through smoke-free restaurants and bars.
- Jon reminded Board members that there will be no Board of Health meeting in November, and the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, at 7:00 AM in the Lil Anderson Center’s first floor conference rooms.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

In Dr. Littlefield’s absence, Chairperson Harris directed Board members to the Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file), which was included in the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting packet, and asked if there were any questions or comments. John Dorr inquired about the curriculum for the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) residency program. Jon responded that the curriculum for the program, scheduled to begin in summer 2026, will be based on the Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) model and will include weekly didactics, pediatric and geriatric rotations, and clinical experiences at the hospital and at Rimrock for substance use disorder treatment.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Shanna Zier provided an overview of the October 16, 2025 finance committee meeting and reviewed highlights of the August 2025 financial statements.

Chairperson Harris requested motions to accept the meeting notes of the October 16, 2025 finance committee meeting and the August 2025 financial statements (copies on file) that were previously distributed in the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

Upon a motion duly made (Morse), seconded (Dorr), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 16, 2025, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Morse), seconded (Dorr), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST 2025 RSH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED.

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Lionel Tapia, Committee Chair, provided an overview of the October 7, 2025 Safety and Quality committee meeting.

Chairperson Harris requested a motion to accept the meeting notes of the October 7, 2025 Safety and Quality committee meeting (copy on file) that were previously distributed in the October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Dennis), seconded (Morse), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2025 SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no Public Health Policy Development Committee meeting held during the month of October. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

YHP Resolution – Colonial Property Transactions: Jon Forte presented a resolution authorizing Yellowstone Health Partnership (YHP) to purchase property on the southwest corner of the block primarily occupied by RiverStone Health. The acquisition includes the Colonial building and two adjacent houses. Upon Board approval, YHP will proceed with the purchase and fully execute the buy-sell agreement, including submission of the required deposit.

The Board reviewed the resolution and discussed matters related to liability, site security, and future plans for the property. Following the discussion, a motion was made and approved to support the purchase of the Colonial building and the two adjacent houses.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE A YHP RESOLUTION DATED OCTOBER 16, 2025 (COPY ON FILE) AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THE COLONIAL APARTMENT BUILDING AND TWO HOUSES PROPERTY LOCATED TO THE SOUTH OF THE RIVERSTONE HEALTH BALLARD (CLINIC) BUILDING, AS PRESENTED

Behavioral Health Facility Work Group Meeting Overview: Jon Forte provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Facility Work Group meeting held on October 7, 2025.

John reported that the City of Billings and Yellowstone County have requested information from the state regarding the proposed 36-bed forensic behavioral health facility in eastern Montana. but the State has initiated a formal procurement process requiring local governments to submit extensive site and permitting information within an unrealistic two-week timeline. Both the City of Billings and Yellowstone County have declined to apply due to the limited timeline and unanswered questions; instead, they will submit letters outlining their concerns.

The Behavioral Health Community Working Group completed a gap analysis and identified four priority areas: workforce and education, pre-release planning and care coordination, step-down capacity and wraparound services, and Medicaid payment and authorizations. Workgroups are developing action steps for each priority area, with the next planning meeting scheduled for November 11.

John noted the State's tentative timeline, construction in 2026 and opening in 2027, and clarified that the facility would serve justice-involved individuals and is not a replacement for Warm Springs. He emphasized that RiverStone Health would not operate the facility but will continue to support planning efforts due to the public health implications. Board members asked questions regarding staffing, funding stability, operational responsibilities, and community support.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The October 23, 2025 Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 8:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Spencer Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Health

Jonathan Forte
President & CEO

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2025\minutes\10.23.25 BOH Minutes