

RiverStone Health
Annual Joint Boards Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Members Present:

Board of Health: John Dorr; Carol Beam; Brent Cromley; Debbie Davis; Don Jones; Bea Ann Melichar; Lionel Tapia; K.C. Williams
RiverStone Health Clinic Board: Bob Reed; Dale Anderson; Mary Gilluly; Art Lyle; Tom Singer; Lionel Tapia
RiverStone Health Foundation Board: Bill Royer; Deborah Agnew; Carol Beam; John Dorr; Drew Hedrick
Montana Family Medicine Residency Board: Megan Littlefield – RiverStone Health staff representative

Staff Present:

Kandra Diefenderfer, Senior Director, Homecare and Hospice; Jon Forte, President & CEO / Health Officer; Jeff Hert, Vice-President of Human Resources; Bob Janicek, Chief Information Officer; Megan Littlefield, Chief Medical Officer; Carrie Ludwig, Executive Assistant; Amy Moser, Senior Director of Compliance and Risk Management; Eric Owen, Vice-President of Public Health and Clinical Services; Barbara Schneeman, Vice President, Communication & Public Affairs / Public Information Officer / RiverStone Health Foundation Executive Director; Shanna Zier, Chief Financial Officer

Guests Present:

No guests were present

CALLS TO ORDER

Board Chairpersons called their respective Boards to order at 6:18 PM. John Dorr called the Board of Health to order, Bob Reed called the RiverStone Health Clinic Board to order, Bill Royer called the RiverStone Health Foundation Board to order, and Megan Littlefield called the Montana Family Medicine Residency Board to order.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jon Forte welcomed Board members and RiverStone Health Staff to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Jon expressed RiverStone Health's appreciation for the service of all Board members and staff.

MEDICAID 101

Barbara Schneeman, Vice President, Communication & Public Affairs / Public Information Officer provided an overview of Medicaid in Montana (presentation on file).

Barbara provided background information on the history of Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion in Montana, and defined Medicaid as a voluntary federal / state partnership that was established in

1965 to provide health care coverage for low-income individuals. Barbara noted that before the US Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act in 2012 and allowed states to opt-in to Medicaid expansion, Medicaid only covered a small number of adults and mostly excluded childless adults and workers in low-paying jobs. In 2015, the Montana Legislature passed the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act to authorize Medicaid expansion through June 2019. In 2019, the Montana Legislature voted to reauthorize Medicaid expansion through June 2025 but added a work reporting requirement. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) did not act on the work reporting requirement, and it has not gone into effect. The 2019 legislation also included a termination clause, which scheduled Medicaid expansion to sunset on June 30, 2025.

Barbara discussed the positive impacts of Medicaid expansion and provided examples of how it supports Montana's health care system, strengthens our labor force, improves our economy, and supports access to care for all Montanans. Barbara further explained that if expansion is not renewed in 2025, our health care system risks drastic consequences, including less healthcare access, fewer provider services, job loss, a less healthy workforce, and higher health premiums.

Barbara discussed key dates of a working plan designed to proactively support the reauthorization of Medicaid expansion in Montana. The timeline outlines activities by quarter, which were designed to advocate and achieve reauthorization of Medicaid expansion. Barbara noted that next steps include approval of a Medicaid Expansion Resolution by the Board of Health and CHC Board as recommended by the Public Health Policy Development Committee.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 PM, Board Chairpersons adjourned their respective Boards. John Dorr adjourned the Board of Health, Bob Reed adjourned the RiverStone Health Clinic Board, Bill Royer adjourned the RiverStone Health Foundation Board, and Megan Littlefield adjourned the Montana Family Medicine Residency Board. The joint board meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Forte, MHA, FACHE
President & CEO / Health Officer

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2024\minutes\2-20-24 Joint Board Meeting Minutes.doc