

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2026

Jim Harris Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

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

Members Absent: Mark Morse; Derek Yeager

Staff Present: Kelly Amidei, Director – Organizational Innovation; 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: Jeff Ketelsen – Billings, MT resident; Stewart Kirkpatrick, legal counsel – Crowley Fleck; Jeana Lervick, legal counsel – Crowley Fleck; Commissioner Chris White – Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Harris called the February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:03 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Harris invited members of the public to address the Board.

Billings resident Jeff Ketelsen introduced himself and expressed appreciation for the Board's proactive leadership. He encouraged the Board to consider supporting legislation in Montana that would allow over-the-counter access to ivermectin, currently a prescription medication, noting that several states have implemented or are considering similar measures. He concluded by thanking the Board for their time.

Chairperson Harris thanked Mr. Ketelsen for his input and proceeded to the next agenda item.

APPROVAL

January 22, 2026 BOH Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Harris requested a motion to approve the minutes (copy on file) of the January 22, 2026 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2026 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED.

CEO / HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Jon Forte discussed highlights and provided updates on items discussed in the February 2026 CEO “H.E.L.P” (Health, Education, Leadership, Protection) report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting packet.

- Jon and Eric Owen, RiverStone Health’s Chief Operating Officer, traveled to Washington, D.C., in early February to attend the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policy and Issues Forum, where they met with Montana’s congressional delegation and federal partners to advocate for RiverStone Health’s community health center.
 - Jon noted that prior to the trip, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which included the first funding increase for community health centers in a decade. The legislation also provided significant investments in the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Center programs, including historic multi-year funding to support the long-term sustainability of residency programs, and extended Medicare telehealth flexibilities through 2027.
 - Montana Senator Steve Daines was recognized with NACHC’s Community Health Center Advocate Award for his ongoing support of community health centers.
- Internal candidate Rhianna Tretin has been selected as the new Communications and Marketing Director. She previously led Eastern Montana AHEC and the Montana AIDS Education and Training Center at RiverStone Health and brings a strong background in communications and public relations, along with extensive knowledge of the organization and Yellowstone County, making her a strong fit for the role.
- The Healthcare for the Homeless (HCH) clinic at the MRM (Montana Rescue Mission) campus is now open and providing integrated, on-site services, with improved access and coordination of care.
- Registration for AHEC’s MedStart and Heads-Up summer camps, which offer middle and high school students’ hands-on exposure to healthcare careers, is now open.
- The Colonial property has been cleared of residents following eviction proceedings. The site has been fenced and secured, with asbestos abatement expected to begin soon. Once demolition is complete, the area will remain a gravel lot until plans for the property have been determined.
- RiverStone Health continues to support United Way’s “United We Read” initiative, promoting early literacy and its connection to long-term health outcomes. As the lead sponsoring agency for the next three years, RiverStone will help expand literacy efforts in local schools. Jon invited Board members to volunteer on March 6, 2026, to read to students in local schools.
- Influenza activity remains elevated, with increasing cases and a notable decline in hospitalizations.
- A new public-facing injury and overdose dashboard has been launched to improve transparency and data access. The dashboard can be found on RiverStone Health’s website.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

In Dr. Littlefield's absence, Jon provided highlights of the Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting packet.

- Provider recruitment efforts remain ongoing across clinical roles, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Several strong PA candidates are being considered, and a new family medicine provider has been hired.
- Recruitment is underway for a new one-year Advanced Practice Provider (APP) residency program, which has generated strong interest and more applicants than open positions. The program will provide structured training for nurse practitioners and physician assistants, including continuity clinic work, specialty rotations, inpatient experience, and didactic learning, with two residents accepted annually.
- Behavioral health recruitment and retention efforts are improving, with four staff progressing toward licensure, including one recently licensed and others nearing completion, which will expand access to care. Recruitment for clinic counselors, particularly those with addiction certification, remains ongoing.
- Efforts to establish a workforce development pipeline are ongoing, including plans to develop an internal Medical Assistant (MA) training and certification program.
- Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) interviews have concluded with over 100 candidates interviewed for local and rural track positions. Rank lists have been submitted, with match results anticipated in March.
- The spirometry clinic has reopened, restoring on-site pulmonary function testing that was previously referred to the hospital. Spirometry services support the diagnosis of respiratory conditions such as COPD and asthma; access is expected to expand as staffing allows.

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair, Brent Cromley provided an overview of the February 3, 2026 Public Health Policy Development Committee meeting.

An update was provided on kratom enforcement efforts, noting strong voluntary compliance ahead of the March 30 deadline. Of more than 1,100 licensed establishments, only three entities (four licenses) remain non-compliant, with final notices issued, and potential enforcement action to follow in coordination with the County Attorney.

A proposal to increase Environmental Health Services (EHS) service fees was discussed. The service fees are separate from legislatively set license fees and apply to additional services requiring follow-up. The updated EHS fee schedule (copy on file) includes adjustments to existing categories and the addition of a new medium classification. The Committee unanimously recommended Board approval of the proposed increased EHS service fees.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE FEES AS PRESENTED

Chairperson Harris requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the February 3, 2026 Public Health Policy Development Committee meeting that were previously distributed in the February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2026 PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AS PRESENTED

Jon noted that there have been no changes to the childhood immunization schedule at the state or local level, and RiverStone Health will continue to follow American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations while supporting informed patient decision-making.

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

John Dorr provided an overview of the February 3, 2026 Safety and Quality committee meeting.

Chairperson Harris requested a motion to accept the meeting notes of the February 3, 2026 Safety and Quality committee meeting (copy on file) that were previously distributed in the February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2026 SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Spencer Anderson and Shanna Zier provided an overview and highlights of finance committee activity.

Chairperson Harris requested a motion to accept the February 26, 2026 finance committee narrative, the December 2025 RiverStone Health financial statements, the December 2025 YHP financial statements and the 2026 Q2 RSH and YHP consolidated financial statements (copies on file) that were previously distributed in the February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 26, 2026 FINANCE COMMITTEE NARRATIVE, THE DECEMBER 2025 RSH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, THE DECEMBER 2025 YHP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND THE 2026 Q2 RSH AND YHP CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Update: Kelly Amidei, Director of Organizational Innovation, provided an overview of completed, ongoing and upcoming projects that align with the organization's strategic priorities and commitment to continuous improvement. Kelly highlighted recently completed initiatives, including enhancements to clinical services such as the reintroduction of spirometry, upgraded EKG capabilities, and expanded telehealth offerings. Improvements to the patient experience were also noted, including the rollout of online scheduling and continued enhancements to the patient portal.

Updates on workforce development and operational initiatives, included a redesigned new employee orientation program, development of internal training programs such as Medical Assistant certification and the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) residency, and implementation of more efficient scheduling systems. Additional efforts are focused on improving data management, transitioning IT systems to cloud-based platforms, and expanding the use of analytics to support data-driven decision-making and performance tracking. Kelly also discussed facility improvement related projects focused on enhancing public accessibility. Those projects include relocating the Healthcare for the Homeless clinic to the Montana Rescue Mission, expanding services on the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) mobile unit, and improving public access within the Lil Anderson Center by relocating public-facing departments, such as Environmental Health Services (EHS), to lower-level floors.

Kelly emphasized continued growth in project management practices, including the use of standardized project charters and the development of key performance indicators (KPIs) to better evaluate outcomes, improve operational efficiency, and support the organization's long-term success.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The February 26, 2026 Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 9:03 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Spencer Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Health

Jonathan Forte
President & CEO

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2026\minutes\2.26.26 BOH Minutes