

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2023

John Dorr, Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

Members Present: John Dorr; Spencer Anderson; Carol Beam; Brent Cromley; Debbie Davis; Michael Dennis; Jim Harris; Don Jones; Steve Wahrlich; Casey Wheeler; K.C. Williams

Members Absent: Anne Giuliano; Bea Ann Melichar; Lionel Tapia

Staff Present: John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer; Jonathan Forte, President & CEO; Adam Harris, Program Manager - Environmental Health Services; Bob Janicek, Chief Information Officer; Megan Littlefield, Chief Medical Officer (via Microsoft Teams); Carrie Ludwig, Executive Assistant; Shelli Ritz, Executive Vice President & CFO; Barbara Schneeman, Vice President, Communication & Public Affairs / Public Information Officer / RiverStone Health Foundation Executive Director; Judy Stewart, Vice President Organizational Innovation (via Microsoft Teams); Shanna Zier, Senior Director - Fiscal Services

Guests Present: Stewart Kirkpatrick, Legal Counsel – Crowley Fleck; Jeana Lervick, Legal Counsel – Crowley Fleck

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dorr called the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - RULE #5 VARIANCE REQUESTS

Chairperson Dorr opened the public hearing at 7:00 AM to hear a variance request pertaining to local Rule #5, Rules and Regulations for Body Art (e.g., tattoo and piercing), submitted on behalf of two local body artists (artist license numbers A8288 and A2816).

Environmental Health Registered Sanitarian, Adam Harris, provided information on the variance requests pertaining to the requirement of local Rule #5, Section 11.7, that a newly applied tattoo be covered by a sterile absorbent bandage upon completion. Adam discussed the proposed alternative dressings and noted that use of the alternative dressings meets the intent of Section 11.7 and represents a reasonable and safe alternative to a sterile absorbent bandage.

John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer, recommended that the RiverStone Board of Health approve the variance requests as proposed, based on review of the information provided, the basis of Section 11.7 of local Rule #5, and the recommendation of a qualified sanitarian.

Chairperson Dorr opened the public comment portion of the public hearing and after hearing no comment, closed the public comment session and public hearing at 7:02 AM. The Board then resumed the regular Board meeting to act on the variance request.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE REQUESTS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF TWO (2) LOCAL BODY ARTISTS (ARTIST LICENSE NUMBERS A8288, AND A2816), PERTAINING TO SECTION 11.7 OF LOCAL RULE #5 AS PRESENTED

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.

APPROVAL

February 21, 2023 Joint Boards meeting minutes: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the February 21, 2023 Joint Boards meeting that were previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023 JOINT BOARDS MEETING AS PRESENTED

February 23, 2023 meeting minutes: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the February 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2023 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED

March 23, 2023 consent agenda: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** (copy on file) of the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting that was previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF THE MARCH 23, 2023 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED

CEO REPORT

Jonathan Forte provided highlights and updates of the CEO “HELP” report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet. Highlights included the following:

- Jonathan attended the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policy and Issues Forum in Washington D.C. last week along with Megan Littlefield and John Felton. Highlights of the trip included a meeting with Montana’s congressional delegation to discuss needs related to our Teaching Health Center and Graduate Medical Education, workforce development, affordable housing, and the 340B Pharmacy program.
- Amy Moser, Pharmacy Director, has been selected as the new Senior Director of Compliance and Risk Management. Amy will transition to her new role on March 27, 2023.
- A candidate finalist for the new Security, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness Director will visit RiverStone Health for an on-site interview on March 31, 2023.
- Jonathan accepted an invitation from Senator Steve Daines office to provide testimony during a Subcommittee on Health Care of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing. The hearing, titled *An Oral Health Crisis: Identifying and Addressing Health Disparities*, is scheduled on March 29, 2023 in Washington, D.C.
- RiverStone Health’s Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 11:30 to 1:00 PM at the Northern Hotel.
- The 35th Annual RiverStone Health Hospice Golf Tournament is scheduled on Friday, June 2, 2023, at the Laurel Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament offset the cost of providing compassionate end-of-life care, regardless of the patient’s financial situation. Registration can be completed online at: www.riverstonehealth.org/golf.
- On March 27, 2023, RiverStone Health will shift to mask optional for all RiverStone Health employees, patients, clients, and guests. Masks will remain mandatory in our Viral Care Clinic, as well as when staff are working with patients / clients who are immunocompromised or have respiratory symptoms.
- Megan Irion has been selected as RiverStone Health Foundation’s new Senior Director of Fundraising. Megan, a Billings native and experienced fundraiser, will join RiverStone Health on March 27, 2023.
- Kelly Ameidi, a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, joined RiverStone Health in late February as our new Director of Organizational Innovation.

- Recently, the Board of Health approved the reinstatement of RiverStone Health’s employee vaccination requirement policies after a brief hold due to pending legislative and legal debate. The Employee Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccination Requirement policy requires all RiverStone Health staff, students, contracted health care workers, and volunteers to demonstrate immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella, either through proof of vaccination or positive titers, after a brief notification period. At present, ninety-three percent of RiverStone Health staff have met the requirement and those who have not must demonstrate compliance by June 30, 2023.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

John Felton provided updates and noted highlights of the Health Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

- The number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Yellowstone County have remained manageable despite recent cycles of increases and decreases in cases and hospitalizations.
- Statewide and local numbers of influenza cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are occurring at lower rates, suggesting the tapering off of the influenza “season”.
- The introductory orientation meeting for members of the local governing authority as required under HB121 (enacted by the 2021 Montana Legislature) was held on March 21. Elements of the orientation included a review of the Memorandum of Understanding creating and defining the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the local governing authority; a brief review of the interlocal agreement that creates Yellowstone City-County Health Department (dba RiverStone Health); a review of current local public health rules, including likely changes that will come to the local governing authority; and, election of the local governing authority’s chair for 2023 (Yellowstone County Commissioner John Ostlund).

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

Megan Littlefield provided an update of activity in the CHC and the Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

- Laura Stumpf MD, a graduate of the Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR), has accepted an offer and will begin this August.
- Dorothy Sizemore, DO, also a graduate of the Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR), began in late January of this year. Dr. Sizemore has been working in the outpatient setting in Belgrade for 5 years and will focus on both inpatient and outpatient medicine.
- Emily Aerts has accepted an offer for a pediatric behavioral health position. Emily has several years of experience working with children through the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch and Laurel School system and will join RiverStone Health in August.
- We continue to experience challenges with recruitment and staffing issues with four faculty resignations so far this year. An upcoming faculty retreat will focus on retention efforts and review of a proposed structure change which will hopefully improve job flexibility and provide better faculty continuity in the outpatient clinic.

- The Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) matched eight of ten slots available through the main match process. The remaining two spots were not matched as we had hoped, in the second round Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP). MFMR leadership will meet early next week to decide on next steps.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the March 15, 2023 finance committee meeting notes, and the January 2023 financial statements that were previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 15, 2023 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copies on file) of the March 7, 2023 safety and quality committee meeting that were previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2023 SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the March 14, 2023 public health policy development committee meeting that were previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2023 PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the February 23, 2023 meeting that were previously distributed in the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

**VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2023
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED**

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Health Meeting Location Discussion: In response to feedback from Board of Health meeting evaluation surveys indicating a desire for a larger meeting space, Jonathan Forte asked Board members to consider space options for future meetings. Board members discussed the available options and agreed to leave the decision to Jonathan's discretion.

NEW BUSINESS

Land Acknowledgement Statement Presentation and Discussion: Clark Stirgus, Senior Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, (JEDI), provided background information regarding the proposed "land acknowledgement" statement. Clark discussed the importance of the statement and explained that such a statement is typically offered at the start of some meetings and on public-facing websites. Board members asked questions and discussed at length the wording, purpose, and utilization of the statement. Board members concurred that more information on the history surrounding the Land Acknowledgement Statement would be helpful and agreed to participate in a subcommittee along with members of the Clinic Board to discuss the statement further.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 27, 2023, beginning at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 9:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James D. Harris
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Health

Jonathan Forte
President & CEO

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2023\minutes\3.23.23