

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2024

John Dorr, Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

Members Present: John Dorr; Spencer Anderson; Carol Beam; Brent Cromley; Debbie Davis; Michael Dennis; Anne Giuliano; Jim Harris; Don Jones; Bea Ann Melichar; Lionel Tapia; K.C. Williams

Members Absent: Steve Wahrlich; Casey Wheeler

Staff Present: Kandra Diefenderfer, Senior Director, Homecare and Hospice; Jon Forte, President & CEO / Health Officer; Jeff Hert, Vice - President 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: Stewart Kirkpatrick, Legal Counsel – Crowley Fleck; Jeana Lervick, Legal Counsel – Crowley Fleck; Steve Williams, In-house Counsel - Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dorr called the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

PUBLIC HEARING - RULE #5 VARIANCE REQUEST

Chairperson Dorr opened the public hearing at 7:00 AM to hear a variance request pertaining to Section 10.2 of local Rule #5, Rules and Regulations for Body Art (e.g., tattoo and piercing), submitted on behalf of McCall Randall, owner / operator of Urban Beauty.

Environmental Health Registered Sanitarian, and Body Art Program Manager, Adam Harris, provided information on the variance request pertaining to Rule #5, Section 10.2 that states *"Each Body Art Establishment must have at least a one-compartment sink with hot and cold running water for the cleaning of non-disposable Instruments."* Adam discussed the proposed process outlined by the requestor and noted that the plan represents a reasonable and safe alternative to mitigate the potential for cross-contamination of non-disposable instruments. Adam recommended approval of the variance request subject to the condition that RiverStone Health sanitarians follow-up during their regularly scheduled inspections to ensure compliance with the outlined process and verify sterilizer equipment testing has been routinely conducted and current test results indicate that the sterilizer has passed the test.

Based on review of the information provided, the basis of Section 10.2 of local Rule #5, and the recommendation of a qualified sanitarian, Yellowstone County Health Officer, Jon Forte, recommended that the RiverStone Board of Health approve the variance request submitted on behalf of Urban Beauty pertaining to section 10.2 of Rule #5, subject to compliance with all conditions set forth by RiverStone Health’s Body Art Program Manager.

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 its regular meeting to act on the variance request.

M O T I O N

Upon a motion duly made (Tapia), seconded (Cromley), opposed (Williams, Dennis), and carried, it was

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE REQUEST SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF URBAN BEAUTY PERTAINING TO SECTION 10.2 OF RULE #5 BODY ART, SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH ALL CONDITIONS SET FORTH BY RIVERSTONE HEALTH’S BODY ART PROGRAM MANAGER

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL

March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the March 21, 2024 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2024, BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED

CEO REPORT

Jon Forte provided updates and discussed highlights of the CEO “HELP” report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

- April is Childhood Abuse Prevention Month. RiverStone Health Family Health Services staff and volunteers from the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office teamed up to plant hundreds of blue pinwheels around the RiverStone Health campus and downtown in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- RiverStone Health will raise a flag that corresponds to the air quality in Billings to create public awareness of outdoor air quality conditions. The color of the flag matches EPA's Air Quality Index

(AQI): green for good, yellow for moderate, orange means unhealthy for sensitive groups (e.g., people with respiratory problems), red is unhealthy for all, purple means very unhealthy and maroon indicates a hazardous air emergency. Current air quality metrics are always available online at <http://todaysair.mtdeq.us/> from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The flag will change as air quality changes, allowing people to adjust their activity level as needed and protect their health from poor air quality.

- RiverStone Health recently implemented a text-to-pay option, allowing patients to process outstanding payments through the Healow patient portal. More than 148 payments have been processed since the go-live date on April 10, 2024.
- RiverStone Health's ROCT (RiverStone Health Organizational Culture Team) Green Committee organized a campus / highway cleanup on Friday, April 19. RiverStone Health employees collected litter found in and around the main campus and a stretch of South 27th Street. Thanks to staff members who helped beautify our community!
- The Healthy By Design Gardeners' Market kicks off its 2024 season with vendor orientation. Vendors can choose to attend on Wednesday, May 15 from 10am – 11:30am or Thursday, May 16 from 4:30pm – 6:00pm. The market is open every Thursday from 4–6pm in South Park, beginning June 13 through mid-October.
- Last week RiverStone Health received notification that the Community Development Board voted to award RiverStone Health a contract, totaling approximately \$100K annually
- The 2024 Heads Up Behavioral Health Careers Camp aims to introduce Montana high school students to behavioral health professional pathways and help them become champions for their community. Students will take part in hands-on activities, simulation training and presentations by behavioral health professionals. This free interactive, in-depth exploration is open to high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. The Heads Up Behavioral Health Careers Camp is accepting applications now through May 17, 2024.
- Eric Owen, VP of Public Health and Clinical Services, participated in the kick-off meetings for Yellowstone County Continuum of Care Housing is Healthcare and United Way's United to End Homelessness work this past month. Both efforts are focused on addressing the needs of unhoused individuals and families. Housing is Healthcare is addressing the needs of chronically unhoused high utilizers through the development of permanent supportive housing. United to End Homelessness is focusing on unhoused families through a grant from the Bezos Foundation.
- RiverStone Health has taken the lead in preparing SD2, childcare centers, and our hospital partners for a potential measles outbreak. With collaboration from our hospitals, we will be holding a table-top exercise to ensure all participants are prepared and understand their role in mitigation, response, and recovery if/when measles arrives to Billings, Montana. As of the date of this report, there are NO active measles cases in Montana.

Jon provided a brief report of health officer related activity in Yellowstone County:

- From April 7 to April 13, there was a 29% decrease in COVID cases, ending the week with 17 cases compared to the previous week's 24 cases. COVID hospitalizations remained the same as the previous week with four new cases reported.

- There were 15 reported cases of influenza, with one hospitalization, a 67% decrease from the previous week. As spring approaches, Montana is seeing a rapid decline in the number of reported influenza cases.
- Chlamydia cases decreased by 29%, for a total of 10 cases. Gonorrhea cases decreased by 25%, going from 12 to 9 cases. There was one case of syphilis, a 67% decrease compared to the previous week. Yellowstone is currently responsible for about 30% of syphilis cases diagnosed in Montana so far in 2024.
- The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is urging people to use caution when foraging and consuming morel mushrooms. Improper identification, handling, and preparation can lead to severe illness and even death. After a large outbreak of foodborne illness in Montana last year, the DPHHS created a webpage with information on Morel mushrooms and steps to take to reduce the risk of illness when consuming the popular mushrooms. More information on the public health investigation into this outbreak can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR Publication, Volume 73 Number 10.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Megan Littlefield provided highlights, of the Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

- Dr. Marjorie Elbers of Miles City has been hired as Director of the Rural Track Residency Program.
- Recruiting efforts to fill residency spots in the Miles City rural track will begin in the summer of 2025.
- Dr. Littlefield discussed some of the different roles Riverstone Health has in local school districts, including school-based health centers (SBHC), Project AWARE, funded by a SAMSA grant that has been awarded to School District 2, and a variety of ways that public health intersects with both School District 2 and other schools within Yellowstone County.
- We have two school -based health centers, one at Orchard School and one at Medicine Crow Middle School. Looking into expanding this successful model.
- The measles outbreak has slowed a bit over the last couple of weeks. In the beginning cases rapidly increased but have now tapered off. As of April 18, there are 125 cases in 18 different states with none reported in Montana. We are talking about how we would manage an outbreak if measles came into our community. We have been collaborating with School District 2, the largest school district in Montana, to create a plan if a measles outbreak happens in the schools.
- The IT optimization project is ongoing. We were scheduled to receive an eCW upgrade but had to postpone when the vendor was not able to honor the date. Hopeful that the upgrade will happen this weekend.
- Ero, our eCW optimization team will be on site in May to start the first big phase of our IT optimization project aimed to help us move towards a more efficient workflow system.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance Committee Chair Jim Harris provided a brief overview of the financial statements and answered Board member questions. Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the April 18, 2024 meeting notes and the February 2024 financial statements (copies on file) that were previously distributed in the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 18, 2024, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the April 2, 2024 Safety and Quality committee meeting that were previously distributed in the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2024 SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Bea Ann Melichar provided an overview of Committee activity and asked Barbara Schneman to provide a legislative update. Barbara provided an update of the progress made on the working timeline she created to advocate for the continuation of Montana Medicaid Expansion.

Bea Ann asked Board members to review the draft 2025 Montana Legislative Public Policy Agenda (copy on file) included in the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet, and provide feedback before the Committee meets on May 7, 2024

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the April 2, 2024 Public Health Policy Development Committee meeting that were previously distributed in the April 25, 2024 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 APRIL 2, 2024 PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AS PRESENTED

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr provided an overview of Committee activity and requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the March 21, 2024 meeting that were previously distributed in the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2024 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Beam urged Board members to support the 2025 Annual Hospice Golf Tournament Friday, June 7, 2024, on behalf of the RiverStone Health Foundation Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 A.M. Chairperson Dorr announced that the Board would go into executive session to discuss personnel matters for which the individual's right to privacy supersedes the public's right to know. All staff except for Jon Forte, Shanna Zier, Stewart Kirkpatrick, and Jeana Lervick, and guests were excused from the executive session.

Chairperson Dorr ended the executive session at 8:50 AM and the Board returned to regular session.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 23, 2024 beginning at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James D. Harris
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Health

Jonathan Forte
President & CEO

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2024\minutes\04.25.24