

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2023

John Dorr, Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

Members Present: John Dorr; Spencer Anderson; Carol Beam; Brent Cromley; Debbie Davis; Anne Giuliano; Jim Harris; Bea Ann Melichar; Casey Wheeler; K.C. Williams

Members Absent: Michael Dennis; Don Jones; Lionel Tapia; Steve Wahrlich

Staff Present: Kandra Diefenderfer, Senior Director – Home Care and Hospice; Jon Forte, President & CEO; Adam Harris, Program Manager - Environmental Health Services; Bob Janicek, Chief Information Officer; Megan Littlefield, Chief Medical Officer (via Zoom); Carrie Ludwig, Executive Assistant; Eric Owen, Vice-President of Public Health and Clinical Services; Shelli Ritz, Executive Vice President & CFO; Tani Sanchez, Administrative Assistant – Organizational Innovation; Barbara Schneeman, Vice President, Communication & Public Affairs / Public Information Officer / RiverStone Health Foundation Executive Director; Judy Stewart, Vice President Organizational Innovation; Shanna Zier, Senior Director - Fiscal Services

Guests Present: Stewart Kirkpatrick, Legal Counsel – Crowley Fleck; Jeana Lervick, Legal Counsel – Crowley Fleck; Melissa Williams, Yellowstone County Attorney (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dorr called the April 27, 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 a local body artist (artist license number A4964).

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 the RiverStone Board of Health approve the variance request 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 (Anderson), and unanimously carried, it was

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE REQUEST SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF A LOCAL BODY ARTIST (ARTIST LICENSE NUMBER A4964), 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

March 23, 2023 meeting minutes: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the March 23, 2023 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the April 27, 2023 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 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2023 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED

CEO REPORT

Jon Forte provided highlights and updates on the CEO “HELP” report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the April 27, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet. Highlights included the following:

- RiverStone Health celebrated National Public Health Week During the week of April 3-9. This year’s theme was focused on Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health.
- Jon traveled to Washington D.C. on March 29, 2023 to provide testimony during a Subcommittee on Health Care of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing titled *An Oral Health Crisis: Identifying and Addressing Health Disparities*. Jon shared testimony on the essential role community health centers play in providing equitable access to oral health care across the nation.

- 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.
- Senior leadership participated in a full-day strategic planning session on Tuesday, April 11, to begin the process of creating a strategic plan for the organization. Work will continue through the next several weeks to finalize the plan before it is presented for Board approval.
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Renovation work has been completed at the Worden Clinic. Jon joined Worden Clinic staff for an open house on Friday, April 14, to celebrate the newly renovated space and introduce himself to the community.
- The Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) has announced its class of 2026. The nine interns are: Colton Crowther, DO, William Hong, MD, Courtney Honken, MD, Jacalynn (Goetz) Kim, DO, Jonathan Kim, DO, Naphtali Pokras, MD, Sam Pollock, DO, Landon Stevenson, DO and Matt Lopiano, MD. Interns will arrive in June to begin orientation.
- Medicine Crow Middle School Clinic staff collaborated with the school's health teachers to educate 514 students in grades 6-8 about the risks of using e-cigarettes, marijuana, or fentanyl.
- Jon was selected to participate in the Impact Rural Healthcare Leadership Institute, which kicked off April 3 in Helena. Jon is one of nine healthcare CEOs in Montana selected for the inaugural program that includes monthly individual executive coaching and quarterly meetings (until February 2024) with the cohort at various locations across Montana.
- We have engaged Elation to provide leadership coaching for our health center leadership team. The focus will be on improving individual leadership skills and developing a shared leadership culture, as well as building coalitions and integrating services across the CHC, public health, home care and hospice services.
- We are closely monitoring Medicaid redetermination, that began April 1, while we continue efforts to connect with our Medicaid population to update demographic information, address, and eligibility, to ensure maintained coverage.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

In John Felton's absence, Chairperson Dorr referred Board members to the Health Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the April 27, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

Jon Forte stressed the importance of vaccination against chickenpox as recent outbreaks have been reported in two schools within Yellowstone County and in various areas across the state.

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 April 27, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

- We continue to experience challenges with recruitment and staffing issues with multiple faculty positions posted and a shortage of core faculty. We are looking at creative ways to provide coverage in the hospitals and OB service.
- Laura Stumpf MD, a graduate of the Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR), has accepted an offer and will begin this August, and we have several applicants in the interview pipeline.
- Two Locums have been scheduled to assist with hospitalist coverage beginning in April. One has already started; another will start in May.
- A recent faculty retreat focused 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 a ninth resident outside of the main match. Originally, only eight out of ten slots were matched through the main match process and were not successful matching the remaining two spots in the second round Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP).

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the April 19, 2023 finance committee meeting notes, and the February 2023 financial statements that were previously distributed in the April 27, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 19, 2023 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copies on file) of the April 4, 2023 safety and quality committee meeting that were previously distributed in the April 27, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE APRIL 4, 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 April 4, 2023 public health policy development committee meeting that were previously distributed in the April 27, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE APRIL 4, 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 March 23, 2023 meeting that were previously distributed in the April 27, 2023 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no discussion of old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Health Services 2022 Annual Report: Marilyn Tapia, Director Division of Health Protection – Public Health Services, provided an overview of the Environmental Health Services 2022 Annual Report (copy on file). Marilyn shared information related to environmental health services activities that include monitoring air quality, licensing and inspecting public facilities to ensure that health and safety rules are followed, review and inspection of new and repaired septic systems to prevent groundwater contamination, and providing education to help owners and operators achieve compliance with health and safety regulations. Marilyn noted that the department is actively engaged in continual quality improvement efforts intended to improve the quality of work they do to protect our community from environmental factors that affect health and safety.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 25, 2023, beginning at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The April 27, 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