

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 23, 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; Lionel Tapia; Steve Wahrlich (via phone); K.C. Williams

Members Absent: Bea Ann Melichar; Casey Wheeler

Staff Present: Jon Forte, President & CEO / Health Officer; Jeff Hert, Vice - President Human Resources; Megan Irion RiverStone Health Foundation Executive Director; Bob Janicek, Chief Information Officer; Megan Littlefield, Chief Medical Officer; Carrie Ludwig, Executive Assistant; Eric Owen, Vice-President of Public Health and Clinical Services; Shanna Zier, Chief Financial Officer

Guests Present: Grace Fischer – Crowley Fleck intern; Stewart Kirkpatrick, Legal Counsel – Crowley Fleck; Tori Schroder – Crowley Fleck intern

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dorr called the May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

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

April 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the April 25, 2024 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 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 May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

- The Medicaid unwinding process has impacted over 134,000 Montanans including many patients and clients served by RiverStone Health. Changes in Medicaid coverage have reduced the number of patient encounters in the CHC resulting in a \$3.2M budget shortfall and a 9% reduction in workforce for RiverStone Health. 41 employees from across the organization, including staff from the rural school nursing program and RiverStone Health Hospice Home, were laid off in a reduction in force (RIF) action effective June 15, 2024.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. A good reminder to focus on the importance of mental health and its impact on our well-being and the need to educate our community about the importance of taking care of their own mental health needs
- 54% of staff have completed CPI (Crisis Prevention Initiative) training so far this year. We anticipate that 73% of staff will be trained by August 1, 2024.
- RiverStone Health's Women Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program is offering local farmers the opportunity to sell more of their produce to families with young children this summer through the Farm Direct program. Farm Direct allows farmers to accept WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits at farmers markets, roadside stands or even their own farms. All families currently active in WIC can receive \$30 per eligible person aged four months and older to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers.
- RiverStone Health's school-based health center at Medicine Crow Middle School is hosting sports physicals in June, July, and August. To schedule your appointment, call 406-281-8695 or 406-247-3350 (press option 2).
- Last week was Nurses Week. Wendy Shoemaker, RN was recognized during this year's *Billings Gazette Salute to Nurses*. Wendy is a nurse at the RiverStone Health Clinic in Joliet who exemplifies the dedication and compassion of our caregivers in all the communities we serve.
- During the first week of May, sixteen volunteers participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at RiverStone Health. Participants learned disaster preparedness and response skills that will help our community in the event of wildfire, flood, storms and other natural or human-caused disasters. The 2 1/2-day course is sponsored by RiverStone Health, Healthy by Design and Yellowstone County Emergency Services.
- Last Week, RiverStone Health Emergency Preparedness staff led a community table-top exercise with SD2, childcare centers, and our hospital partners in preparation for a potential measles outbreak. The purpose of the exercise was to ensure all parties understand their role in mitigation, response, and recovery should a measles outbreak occur in our community.
- Early next month, RiverStone Health will participate in a city-county HAZMAT exercise which will assess our readiness and ability to execute our Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The tabletop exercise will be based on a downtown train derailment which will directly impact RiverStone Health and our ability to operate our South Side Campus.

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

- As respiratory virus season winds down, regular reporting on respiratory infections will cease until Fall 2024.

- Sexually transmitted infection rates continue to remain low, week over week. Five new syphilis cases were diagnosed, two of which were congenital syphilis. Montana has seen eight new congenital syphilis cases as of May 2024.
- Latent Tuberculosis Infection: We are currently experiencing a minor spike in Latent TB, with four new cases reported this week.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Megan Littlefield provided highlights, of the Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

- Provider recruitment is ongoing:
 - Working with HR to increase recruiting efforts, dedicating .5 FTE to this purpose.
 - Targeting outreach efforts to physicians in Midwest and Mountain states. Outreach has included postcard campaigns, emails, Linked-in and Facebook.
 - Pursuing PRN possibilities for both precepting and direct clinic care
- The Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) incoming class of 2027 will begin next month.
- The Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) Class of 2024 graduation is June 28.
- Two licensed addiction counselors were included in the RIF action. We will be working to restructure workflows and work through the impacts of the RIF to keep services running smoothly.

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 May 16, 2024 meeting notes and the March 2024 financial statements, and the preliminary FY25 public health mill levy allocation, (copies on file) that were previously distributed in the May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MAY 16, 2024 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE PRELIMINARY FY25 PUBLIC HEALTH MILL LEVY ALLOCATION TO THE YELLOWSTONE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 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 May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE MAY 7, 2024 SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Dorr provided an overview of Committee activity and asked Jon to provide an update of legislative activity.

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the May 7, 2024 Public Health Policy Development Committee meeting and the 2025 Public Policy Agenda (copy on file) that were previously distributed in the May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE MAY 7, 2024 PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE 2025 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 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 April 25, 2024 meeting that were previously distributed in the May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

**VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2024
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED**

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed

NEW BUSINESS

July 2024 Board of Health meeting: Jon discussed the upcoming summer meeting schedule and noted that the Board usually defers either the July or August meeting to provide a summer break for Board members. Board members discussed the options and agreed to cancel the July 2024 meeting and resume its regular meeting schedule on August 22, 2024.

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve canceling the July 2024 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION

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

**VOTED: TO APPROVE CANCELING THE JULY 2024 BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING**

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, June 27, 2024 beginning at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 8:39 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James D. Harris
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Health

Jonathan Forte
President & CEO

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2024\minutes\5.23.24 BOH Minutes