

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2024

Michael Dennis, Past Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

Members Present: Michael Dennis; Spencer Anderson; Carol Beam; Brent Cromley; Debbie Davis - remote; John Dorr - remote; Anne Giuliano; Jim Harris; Don Jones; Bea Ann Melichar; Steve Wahrlich - remote; Casey Wheeler

Members Absent: Lionel Tapia; K.C. Williams

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

Guests Present: Stewart Kirkpatrick, legal counsel – Crowley Fleck; Jeana Lervick, legal counsel – Crowley Fleck

CALL TO ORDER

Past Chairperson Dennis called the June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Deferred until August 22, 2024 Board of Health Meeting

APPROVAL OF FY24 CEO EVALUATION

Deferred until August 22, 2024 Board of Health Meeting

APPROVAL

May 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Past Chairperson Dennis requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the May 23, 2024 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2024 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AS PRESENTED

CEO / HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Jon Forte provided updates and discussed highlights of the CEO “HELP” report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

- RiverStone Health’s reduction in force (RIF) action was finalized June 14, 2024. 42 employees, approximately 9% of RiverStone Health’s workforce, were impacted by the RIF. Some were able to transfer to other vacant positions within RiverStone Health, while the majority have now separated from the organization.
- Several highly competitive grant opportunities were recently announced by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). RiverStone Health intends to submit application for funding in support of adding a New Access Point (NAP) for our School-Based Health Center (SBHC) program and expansion of our behavioral health services to meet the growing need in our community. Additionally, application for funding to support extended hours of operation at our Worden clinic site is under consideration.
- RiverStone Health participated in Pride Week events (June 15-22), including the Pride Parade and festival in downtown Billings last Saturday where we provided outreach and education for the services we offer. Staff provided free STD testing, and helped some festival goers enroll in Medicaid.
- We continue to work diligently to provide outreach and re-enrollment assistance to those who have lost coverage through the Medicaid unwinding process. The backlog of applications and lengthy application process has slowed Medicaid re-enrollment with only 54 RiverStone Health patients/clients regaining coverage over the last three months.
- On Thursday, June 20, 2024, in partnership with Alliance Members, Billings Clinic and Intermountain Health St. Vincent, Jon provided a presentation on the local impacts of Medicaid Expansion, during the Big Sky Economic Development Board Meeting. Former Senator Ed Buttery, the original sponsor of Medicaid expansion legislation, was also in attendance to provide information on the benefits of expanded Medicaid and the reasons why it is so important to Montanans.
- The Stop the Shepard Landfill group has filed a request for temporary injunction against Pacific Steel and Recycling over their approved landfill for auto shred residue. Per Montana law, public health and the County Health Officer’s authority regarding the matter are extremely limited.
- RiverStone Health’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part C site visit, scheduled for June 26 & 27, 2024, is nearing completion. This comprehensive site visit is intended to ensure subrecipient compliance with program requirements. We anticipate no findings of deficiency or areas of improvement on the final report.

- Plans with School District 2 to expand School-Based Health Center (SBHC) services at Billings Senior High School are in the works. Our goal is to provide behavioral and medical services at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Two families participating in the Refugee Resettlement Program will begin receiving healthcare services from RiverStone Health through the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Program. The two families, one from Venezuela and one from Syria, will receive short-term medical coverage for up to eight months. The RMA Program offers healthcare services and thorough medical screenings aimed at safeguarding the public health of resettling communities while fostering the self-sufficiency and successful integration of refugees.
- The Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) class of 2027 will begin orientation and on-boarding as first-year interns on Monday, June 24.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced a new graduate medical education program aimed at expanding health care access to Veterans in rural, tribal, and underserved areas. On June 12, Dr. Jim Guyer, represented RiverStone Health in a National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) national office hour webinar to provide health centers and primary care associations with information about the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) Graduate Medical Education (GME) Pilot in which one hundred physician residents will rotate to non-VA health care facilities, like FQHCs, as authorized under Mission Act Section 403 and administered by the VA's Office of Academic Affiliations.
- On June 26th, 2024 Jon represented RiverStone Health in collaboration with the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), to brief 60 congressional staffers during the Connecting to Coverage Coalition's (CCC) Congressional Staff Virtual Briefing on Capitol Hill. Presenters advocated for Congress to provide expanded solutions, better data systems, and an overall better system to stop patients from losing Medicaid coverage on an annual basis.
- Last week, Jon traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan with the Billings Chamber of Commerce and 55 leaders from Billings for the bi-annual Aspirational City Visit. This year's visit focused on creating a shared vision for Billings, building on our strengths by focusing on expanding medical and educational resources for Eastern Montana, and developing focused opportunities for tourism and commerce.
- Earlier this month, RiverStone Health participated in a city-county HAZMAT exercise to assess readiness and ability to execute our Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The tabletop exercise focused on a downtown train derailment, directly impacting RiverStone Health and our ability to operate our South Side Campus.

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

- A Salmonella outbreak in Yellowstone County has been traced to a local chain restaurant. 37 Salmonella cases were reported in Yellowstone County, with 27 cases traced to one restaurant. The outbreak has been linked to tomatoes or lettuce that was distributed to multiple chain restaurants across Montana, Texas, Wyoming, and Colorado.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is investigating a series of illnesses associated with consumption of Diamond Shruumz-brand chocolate bars, cones, and gummies. As of June 11, 2024, a total of 12 illnesses have been reported from eight states, with ten requiring hospitalization. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is investigating a case in

Montana associated with this exposure. The FDA is advising people to not eat, sell, or serve any flavor of Diamond Shruumz-brand chocolate bars, cones, or gummies, and that consumers should discard any previously purchased product immediately. The product contains a microdose of a blend of psychoactive mushrooms and can be purchased online and in person at retail smoke shops and dispensaries.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

In Dr. Littlefield's absence, Past Chairperson Dennis referred Board members to the Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet and requested they add any questions they have regarding the report, in the Board of Health meeting evaluation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance Committee Chair Jim Harris provided an overview of the FY25 budget and answered questions from Board members.

Past Chairperson Dennis requested a motion to accept the June 20, 2024 finance committee meeting notes, the April 2024 financial statements, and approve the FY25 operating budget, FY25 capital budget, and the revised FY25 public health mill levy allocation, (copies on file) that were previously distributed in the June 27, 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 ACCEPT THE JUNE 20, 2024 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY25 OPERATING BUDGET AS PRESENTED

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY25 CAPITAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE REVISED FY25 PUBLIC HEALTH MILL LEVY ALLOCATION AS PRESENTED

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Past Chairperson Dennis requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the June 7, 2024 Safety and Quality committee meeting that were previously distributed in the June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

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

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Past Chairperson Dennis requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the June 7, 2024 Public Health Policy Development Committee meeting and the 2025 Public Policy Agenda (copy on file) that were previously distributed in the June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

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

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Past Chairperson Dennis 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 June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE MAY 23, 2024 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AS PRESENTED

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed

NEW BUSINESS

Revised Co-Applicant Agreement: Past Chairperson Dennis asked Jon to provide information on revisions made to the co-applicant agreement (copy on file). Jon noted that the agreement was last revised in July 2017 and upon the latest review of the document, no revisions were made except for the date and name on the signature line.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE REVISED CO-APPLICANT AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 22, 2024* beginning at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center. (**Please note: By virtue of a decision made at its May 23, 2024 meeting, the BOARD OF HEALTH meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024 is CANCELLED.*).

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The June 27, 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\6.27.24 BOH Minutes