

RiverStone Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2024

John Dorr, Chairperson of the Board, Presiding

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

Members Absent: Casey Wheeler

Staff Present: Jon Forte, President & CEO / Health Officer; Jeff Hert, Vice - President Human Resources; 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

Chairperson Dorr called the August 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:01 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 and guests were excused from the executive session.

Chairperson Dorr ended the executive session at 7:15 AM and the Board returned to regular session.

APPROVAL OF FY24 CEO EVALUATION

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the FY24 CEO evaluation (copy on file).

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE FY24 CEO EVALUATION 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 agenda item.

APPROVAL

June 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the **MINUTES** (copy on file) of the June 27, 2024 Board of Health meeting that were previously distributed in the August 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 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 August 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

- This year marks the 50-year anniversary of RiverStone Health’s service as the Yellowstone City-County Health Department, founded on June 25th, 1974. RiverStone Health is also celebrating 40 years of healthcare delivery as Montana’s first Community Health Center which began seeing patients in 1984 as the Deering Clinic on the corner of South 27th Street and 1st Avenue South.
- RiverStone Health celebrated National Health Center Week August 4-10, 2024. The theme of this year’s celebration was “Powering Communities Through Caring Connections.” Yellowstone County Commissioners, City of Billings Mayor, and Governor of Montana, all signed proclamations in honor of the contributions made by RiverStone Health and Community Healthcare Centers across Montana and the nation. RiverStone Health hosted events throughout the week for staff and community including a health resource fair, the annual Healthcare for the Homeless Breakfast in South Park, and an all-staff lunch.
- On Friday, August 16 RiverStone Health leadership met with Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) leaders, Director - Charlie Brereton, Interim Medicaid Director - Rebecca de Camara, and Human Services Executive Director - Jesse Counts, to discuss ways in which RiverStone Health and DPHHS can work better together to serve our patients, clients, and community.
- We continue working diligently to provide outreach and re-enrollment assistance to those who have lost coverage through the Medicaid unwinding process. During National Health Center Week, we hosted a health resource fair where we were able to help several individuals with the application process for Medicaid and the Insurance Marketplace.
- RiverStone Health’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part C site visit, scheduled for June 26 & 27, 2024, is now complete. The site visit was intended to assess compliance with program requirements, federal legislation, and regulations. A final report from HRSA outlining the findings of the visit is anticipated in the next 45 days.
- Plans with School District 2 to expand School-Based Health Center (SBHC) services at Billings Senior High School are in the final stages. An updated space-sharing agreement was signed by all

parties on August 9, 2024, bringing us closer to our goal of providing behavioral health and medical services at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

- As a member of Rocky Vista University's Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine (MCOM) Community Advisory Committee, Jon attended the MCOM White Coat Ceremony to welcome the Class of 2028 as they begin medical school.
- CEOs of the Alliance, including Clint Seger – Billings Clinic, Lee Boyles – Intermountain Health, and Jonathan Forte – RiverStone Health, met on July 22, 2024 to reignite collaboration efforts across our health systems. Beginning in September 2024, the Alliance will meet quarterly to work on key issues impacting the health and wellbeing of our community. Initially, the group will focus on addressing behavioral health needs and the crisis continuum of care across our region.
- On Wednesday, August 14, 2024, Jon traveled to Bozeman to participate in a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center (CMMI), Rural Health Hack-a-thon. The event is one in a series of in-person, collaborative sessions designed to generate and construct creative and actionable ideas to address rural health challenges including access to care, care delivery, and workforce development.
- On Tuesday, August 20, RiverStone Health participated in a roundtable conversation with HHS Region 8 Director, Lily Griego, who traveled to Billings to bring attention to expanded funding for Maternal Health, improving access to Behavioral Health, and the need for continuing Medicaid Expansion.
- RiverStone Health's infectious disease team in collaboration with the Yellowstone Medical Alignment Group (YMAG), developed a letter on behalf of Billings Clinic, RiverStone Health, and Intermountain Health, regarding the importance of vaccinations, particularly at a time when measles, varicella, and other infectious diseases are becoming more common across the nation. The letter, intended for parents of children enrolled in School District 2, will be included in all back-to-school packets this year.

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

- As of July 31st, 2024, the Billings Police Department (in ODMAP) have documented 110 overdose cases in Yellowstone County. Of the 110 overdose cases, 3 have been fatal and 107 were non-fatal cases. Naloxone was used in 49 overdose cases, and 30 overdose cases were labeled unknown use of naloxone. Overdose cases in Yellowstone County currently average 15 per month, with opioids identified as being responsible for the highest number of overdoses in Yellowstone County, 23 so far in 2024.
- In a comparison of 2024 YTD overdose cases compared to 2023 overdose cases in Yellowstone County, ODMAP has captured a 15% decrease in total overdoses and a significant 86% decrease in fatal overdoses for Yellowstone County. In 2024 so far, Narcan has been used in 45% of overdoses compared to 2023 where Narcan was administered in 41% of total overdoses.
- Downtown Billings has been identified as the largest hotspot for overdose cases. One notable change from 2023 compared to now is the increase in overdoses that we are seeing in the west end of Billings, specifically west of 24th Street.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT

In Dr. Littlefield's absence, Chairperson Dorr referred Board members to the August 2024 Chief Medical Officer Report (copy on file) that was previously distributed in the August 22, 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 August 21, 2024 finance committee meeting notes, May 2024 financial statements, June 2024 financial statements, June 2024 YHP financial statements; and the June 2024 combined (RSH&YHP) financial statements. (copies on file), that were previously distributed in the August 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

Jim answered Board members questions before Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the August 21, 2024 finance committee meeting notes, May 2024 financial statements, and June 2024 financial statements.

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST 21, 2024, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MAY 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

MOTION

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED

SAFETY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to accept the meeting notes (copy on file) of the August 6, 2024 Safety and Quality committee meeting that were previously distributed in the August 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting packet.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE MEETING NOTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2024 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 August 6, 2024 Public Health Policy Development Committee meeting (copy on file) that were previously distributed in the August 22, 2024 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 AUGUST 6, 2024 PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AS PRESENTED

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorr informed the Board that the Committee did not meet on June 27, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for today, immediately following the Board of Health meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed

NEW BUSINESS

RiverStone Health Foundation Board Update: Carol Beam, RiverStone Health Foundation Liaison, provided a brief update of RiverStone Health Foundation activity and yesterday's RiverStone Health Foundation Board meeting. Carol noted that the Foundation Board is adjusting to a change in leadership with a new Executive Director and focusing on key priorities for fundraising opportunities. During yesterday's Foundation Board meeting, Eric Owen and Joan Brewer provided an overview of RiverStone Health's School Based Health Center (SBHC) program, for the Foundation Board's consideration as a potential fundraising campaign option.

Approval of updated Truck Wreck Protocol: Updates to the Truck Wreck Protocol (copy on file) include the addition of an acronym guide, and new law enforcement guidance agreement (last revised in July 2017). Additionally, updates were made to the document's format and names of personnel relevant to the document. Chairperson Dorr requested a motion to approve the updated Truck Wreck Protocol.

M O T I O N

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE UPDATED TRUCK WRECK PROTOCOL AS PRESENTED

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health will be on Thursday, September 26, 2024, beginning at 7:00 AM in the first-floor conference rooms of the Lil Anderson Center.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The August 22, 2024 Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James D. Harris
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Health

Jonathan Forte
President & CEO

cc: Leadership Team, County Commissioners, hd\BOH\2024\minutes\8.22.24 BOH Minutes