

**Powell County Public Health  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday March 2, 2020**

Dan Sager called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. at the Deer Lodge Medical Center.

Introductions were made. Those in attendance were: Rem Mannix, Powell County Commissioner; Dan Sager, Powell County Commissioner; Doug Crachy, Powell County Commissioner; Bernard K. Barton, Public Health Board member; Jennifer Spring, Deer Lodge Medical Center/Public Health Board member; Marianne Saylor, Powell County Public Health Nurse; Andy Beck, Chief Nursing Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Andy Dreesen, Chief Administrative Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Tony Pfaff, Chief Executive Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Jaena Richards, Chief Operating Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Gage Lingle, Assistant Nursing Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Chad J Lanes, Tri County Environmental Health; Mark Syverson, Tri- County Environmental Health; Lisa Cole, Family Advocate, Child Start, Inc; Gavin Roselles, Powell County Sheriff; Gary Bender, City of Deer Lodge Police Chief; Matt Bowdish, Compliance Officer, City of Deer Lodge; Lori Drumm, DO, Public Health Officer; John Carlbom, EMT, Powell County Emergency Management Services; Diana Solle, Mayor, City of Deer Lodge; Kathryn McEnery, County Attorney, Powell County; Ruth Koehler, Coordinator, Powell County Office of Emergency Management; Ida Miller, Secretary, Public Health Board

Minutes of the December 2019 meeting were approved with Doug Crachy making a motion to accept the minutes. Bernard K. Barton seconded. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

**Tri-County Sanitarian:** Chad and Mark informed the group about what has been going on in their office this quarter. Licensed Food Service establishment and other mandated inspections: 80+% of all inspections were completed in 2019. Inspections include restaurants, bars, trailer parks, hotels/motels, and campgrounds. Emphasis is always on higher risk establishments and some low risk places are moved to the bottom with inspection moving into the next year. They will be attending an EPI ready course in May for sanitarians and nurses and will be reaching out to nurses from the three counties to attend this course on foodborne illnesses. The Budget Inn has 5 or 6 beds in use. The owner is in the process of renovating rooms and repairing the outside decks and inspections will continue as the rooms are readied for occupancy. The rooms that have been completed look nice. Requests for septic inspections are still active and looks like more development proposals will be received in the coming months. All septic system installers in Powell County have been certified.

The Mitchell Building still has bedbug issues. The owner has not been successful in trying to remediate this on his own. After a meeting of the Powell County Commissioners, Public Health Nurse, Deer Lodge Chief of Police, and Tri-County Environmental Health, a letter dated 01/27/2020 was sent to the owner requiring him to contract with a professional extermination

company to address this problem and to follow the instructions that were enclosed with the letter. The owner was given 30 days to comply. The professional company contacted Marianne and the sanitarians to let them know that they are scheduled to come to assess the situation and submit a contract to the owner on March 11, 2020. After much discussion and upon recommendation of the Public Health Officer, Dr Lori Drumm, a decision was made to send another letter to the owner letting him know that he is to have a signed contract no later than March 12, 2020 with a professional company or the building may be closed and business license revoked.

**Public Health Nurse:** Marianne Saylor provided information on various disease that could affect Powell County. Measles has only had 5 cases in 5 states reported since January 1, 2020. Influenza season which is October 1 thru June 1 has reported 703 confirmed cases, 360 hospitalizations, and one death so far in Montana, Powell County has confirmed 37 cases. The influenza shot is still available and is effective for one year. However, it takes two weeks for the vaccine to become effective after you receive the immunization. There continues to be a problem with Hepatitis A in Montana. There have 3 cases of Hepatitis A reported this year. It has always been associated with food handling and inadequate hand washing and can be transmitted fecal and orally. New cases are being found more prevalently among homeless, institutional populations, people with unstable housing, and high drug use problems. There is a vaccine available that is 95% effective after the first injection and almost 100% with the second injection. It is now suggested that most people get the vaccine which is a series of two injections and can be combined with the Hepatitis B vaccine. WIC is currently being provided to county residents on a monthly basis. In 2019, \$48, 829 was spent in local grocery stores from this program.

**Public Health Officer:** Dr. Lori Drumm presented a video that provide an explanation about the current coronavirus outbreak called Covid-19. Highlights from the video were that the incubation period is 5 to 24 days. Approximately 2.4 % of the cases lead to death. Causes of death are pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and septic shock. Exposure distance is 3 feet and healthcare workers are cautioned to use droplet and contact precautions. Test kits should be coming to the State of Montana lab soon. Procedure testing is to call Public Health Nurse who will contact the state to see if they will approve testing for each case. Recommendations for the general public are to use handwashing as the number one prevention method. Masks will not prevent exposure to disease as it lives on surfaces for several hours. The main exposure routes are the T-zone (eyes, nose, and mouth).

**Tobacco Specialist:** Melissa Roseleip was unable to attend but submitted the following information. She has reduced her work hours and her full-time specialist position is being advertised. She wanted to report about the pop-up bedroom called "Hidden in Plain Sight" that was displayed recently during PCHS parent-teacher conferences. This display was well received and will return to PCHS in the fall.

**Prevention Specialist:** Amanda Bohrer was unable to attend and did not submit a report.

**Western Montana Mental Health:** There wasn't anyone to report.

**DES Coordinator:** Ruth Koehler reported that snowpack is under last year's level and could leave to a higher level of danger for wildfires. The rate of snowmelt will determine what kind of flood season we will have, but we are prepared.

**Powell EMS:** John Carlbom was called out during the meeting and was unable to report but he has been appointed the department head for the ambulance. There is an EMT class currently being held, Public Health donated two scholarships which were used for two students to attend this class. The department is currently fully staffed but PRN employees are always needed.

**Deer Lodge Medical Center:** Andy Dreesen spoke about the Reach Camp which was held recently to expose Powell County High School students to medical careers and encourage participation in the Med Ahead internship program that is currently in its second year at Deer Lodge Medical Center. This program has garnered a lot of interest around the state which has encouraged the Office of Public Instruction to put out information drawn from the experiences of Deer Lodge and Ronan in starting this program.

**Community Playground:** Tony Pfaff spoke about the fund raising for the new Deer Lodge community playground with Pizza Hut donating 10% of proceeds on March 5, 2020 to the playground project. Coupons were included with the minutes. The amount raised to date is \$226,000. Construction is scheduled to start June 22, 2020.

**Old Business:**

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2020:

Monday June 1, 2020

Monday August 24, 2020 (changed from Tuesday September 8, 2020)

Monday December 7, 2020

**New Business: None**

**Public Comment: None**

Next meeting will be Monday, June 1, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. at the Deer Lodge Medical Center.

Doug Crachy moved with Bernard K. Barton seconding the motion to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ida Miller, Secretary