

Powell County Public Health Board Meeting August 24, 2020

The meeting of the Powell County Public Health Board was called to order by Chairman Dan Sager at 11:45 p.m. at the Deer Lodge Community Center to allow for social distancing. Introductions were made. Those in attendance were: Dan Sager, Powell County Commissioner; Jennifer Spring, Deer Lodge Medical Center/Public Health Board member; Marianne Saylor, Powell County Public Health Nurse; Ida Miller, Public Health Board secretary and acting board member; Andy Dreesen, Chief Administrative Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Jaena Richards, Chief Operating Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Amanda Bohrer, Powell County Prevention Specialist and Connect Coordinator; Kim Hilder, Prevention Specialist; Chad J Lanes, Tri County Environmental Health; Mark Syverson, Tri- County Environmental Health; Gary Bender, Chief of Police, City of Deer Lodge; Diana Solle, Mayor, City of Deer Lodge; Jennifer Robinson, Tobacco Prevention Specialist; Gavin Roselles, Sheriff, Powell County; Kathryn McEnery, County Attorney, Powell County; Ruth Koehler, Coordinator, Powell County Office of Emergency Management; Lisa Cole, Head Start; Molly Kukal, Public

The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Doug Crachy to approve the minutes as written and a second by Rem Mannix. The June meeting of the board was dispensed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reports:

Tri-County Sanitarian:

Chad Lanes: Septic system approval has again been booming in Powell County during this summer. The sanitarian has seen the largest number of requests in recent memory.

St. Theodore's Catholic Church in Avon is requesting a variance regarding putting in a well and adding two restrooms, a septic tank and a drain field. The lot is not large enough to accommodate both septic and well within current regulations. Given the amount of usage will be limited mainly to Sunday services, Chad recommends that we grant a variance. He will be in contact with Father Joe Fleming about whether they could be ready to present plans and make a formal request before the board, prior to the December 7th meeting.

Licensed Food Service establishment and other mandated inspections: These inspections of restaurants, bars, trailer parks, hotels/motels, and campgrounds have been slow given the state of the pandemic. There has been discussion at the state level to go to virtual inspections for the remainder of 2020.

Mark Syverson:

There was a complaint received regarding milk being served at the Montana State Prison. The complaint made various allegations and had several state agencies involved. The state milk inspector was contacted and is actively managing the complaint and has made various corrections to some procedures that may have led to a cause identified as possible grounds for the complaint.

Public Health Nurse:

Marianne Saylor provided information on the state of Covid-19 in Powell County. There are currently 8 active cases of coronavirus in Powell County with at least one group of cases identified as community spread. Powell County now falls under Governor Bullock's mask mandate of requiring the use of masks in any county with 4 or more active cases. Please do your part to protect yourself and your neighbors. The 8 active cases have led to 60 contacts being identified and placed on quarantine. For July and August over 125 contacts have been placed on quarantine. Contacts are tested as soon as identified and quarantined for 14 days following the last known contact with a positive case. School will be starting this week in Deer Lodge and safety plans for the school year have been approved. Influenza season is just around the corner and immunizations should be up-dated yearly.

Public Health Officer:

Dr. Lori Drumm, the public health officer has resigned. Another member of Deer Lodge Medical Center staff mentioned that he may be interested. The commissioners will be contacting the DLMC staff member to see if there is interest. No one has officially applied for the position. The board is advertising.

Tobacco Specialist:

Jennifer Robinson, new full-time specialist was introduced and has hopes for following the groundwork established by Amanda Bohrer and Melissa Roseliep with the students of Powell County. Current Covid-19 conditions will somewhat limit her ability to interact with youth. Powell County's smoking ban outside of establishments is vague and she will be working with the County Commissioners and City of Deer Lodge to strengthen this ordinance.

Prevention Specialist:

Amanda Bohrer reported 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 and Duvall Junior High as soon as such activities are allowed. Amanda also introduced her part-time co-worker Kim Hilder.

DES Coordinator:

Ruth Koehler reported that there have been a couple of small wildfires in the north end of the county but nothing of much significance.

Deer Lodge Medical Center:

Jaena spoke about providers at Deer Lodge Medical Center. A new provider, local resident Michelle Christnacht, a Physician's Assistant has been hired and will start practice as soon as she passes her state boards hopefully by mid-September.

Community Playground: Is mostly complete, waiting on restrooms and a pavilion to be completed. A grand opening is being planned which hopefully will be at the end of September.

City of Deer Lodge:

Diana Solle spoke about happenings in Deer Lodge which include a movie company bringing 7 people to Deer Lodge to do some filming of front porches. They have rented rooms at the Warden Inn and have all been tested for Covid-19 before arrival.

Old Business:

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2020:

Monday December 7, 2020

New Business:

Loss of Board Member Bernard K. Barton. Mr. Barton has passed, and a new board member is needed. Ida Miller had been previously appointed as secretary and a voting member if there was a need. A motion was made by Doug Crachy and seconded by Jennifer Spring and approved by the Public Health Board unanimously to appointment Ida Miller to fill the vacancy on the Powell County Public Health Board as a permanent member.

Public Comment:

Molly Kukal has already left the meeting before public comment was called for.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Rem Mannix and seconded by Doug Crachy.
Motion carried.

Next meeting will be Monday, December 7, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. location to be announced.