

# Powell County Public Health Board Meeting

March 7, 2022

The meeting of the Powell County Public Health Board was called to order by Chairman Rem Mannix at 11:45 a.m. at the Deer Lodge Community Center.

Introductions were made. Those in attendance were: Dan Sager, Powell County Commissioner; Rem Mannix, Jennifer Spring, Deer Lodge Medical Center/Public Health Board member; Samantha Ray, Powell County Public Health Nurse; Ida Miller, Public Health Board secretary/Public Health Board member; Ruth Koehler, Office of Emergency Management, Powell County; Kathryn McEnery, Attorney, Powell County; Chad Lanes, Sanitarian, Tri-County Environmental Health; Mark Syverson, Sanitarian, Tri-County Environmental Health; Jaena Richards, Chief Financial Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Andy Beck, Chief Nursing Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Andy Dreesen, Chief Administrative Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Gavin Roselles, Sheriff, Powell County; Amanda Bohrer, Tobacco Prevention; Heather Gregory, Coroner, Powell County; Rand Dickson, Paramedic, Powell EMS; Kelly Costin, Administrator, The Ivy at Deer Lodge; George Smith, Chief of Police, City of Deer Lodge; Jordan Green, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Deer Lodge

The minutes of the December meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by to approve the minutes by Dan Sager and a second by Jennifer Spring.

## **Reports:**

### **Tri-County Environmental Health:**

**Chad Lanes:** There were 150 septic inspections in the Tri-County area last year. There are 37 certified installers. There is not currently a septic disposal or application site in Powell County. Working with the City of Deer Lodge for a plan to deal with junk vehicles. There is currently no lease with the city for a junk vehicle yard for the state program.

Licensed Food Service establishment inspections are being completed. New establishments include meat depots and dried mushroom facility. The restaurant industry in the Tri-County area is up and down. No closures were related to Covid.

VRBOs and tourist homes: These must have a state fire marshal inspection and a sanitarian inspection. Only about 10% are licensed.

**Public Health Nurse:** Samantha Ray provided information on the state of Covid-19 in Powell County.

From December 7, 2021, thru March 7, 2022, there have been 357 Covid-19 cases in Powell County with 16 hospitalizations and 3 deaths. Currently there are 5 active cases. There have been a total of 1346 Covid cases in Powell County. Boosters are available to everyone 18 and older and any vaccine can be used regardless of your original vaccination brand.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: STDs are still prevalent in the county.

Animal bites have been common.

Influenza season is here. There have been 8 confirmed cases in Powell County. **Contract Tracer:** Ida Miller reported that contract tracing will continue if there are positive cases of Covid-19. She also reported on the car seat inspection program which has seats available on a sliding scale fee basis.

**Public Health Officer:** A contract was sent to Dr. Vaughn Johnson but has not been returned. Ida will contact Dr. Paul Rees to see if he is interested in the position

**Tobacco Specialist:** Amanda Bohrer reported on tobacco prevention. Smoke-free housing requirements have need for updated signage. The Indoor Air act has had some changes but not to Granite or Powell County. There is a very

small group of REACT students only 3 and they are all new. There will be a speaker in Anaconda on April 8<sup>th</sup> to speak to children and adults.

A Grief Support group will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at St. Mary's Center.

Recent alerts on E-cigarettes state that 46% of the youth report use.

There is a Quit Line for pregnant/post-partum smokers. With completion of the program there are monetary rewards and funding.

The Youth Center has received a grant and Amanda has provided some funding to purchase supplies for golf, sewing and art to encourage lifelong skills.

Suicide is a very large problem in our area. The altitude and longitude and lack of Vitamin D are considered contributing factors.

**DES Coordinator:** Ruth Koehler reported that the snowpack is very low and preparation has started for an active fire season.

**Deer Lodge Medical Center:** Andy Dreesen reports that Deer Lodge Medical Center still has vaccinated 3300 total residents and still has vaccine available. Most vaccine distribution is for booster doses. There will be a temporary provider whose name is Dr. Nostrum. They are looking for a pediatrician and Family Medicine provider. He also spoke about the remodeling project that should be done mid-May of 2022.

**City of Deer Lodge:** Jordan Green discussed the city's ARDA funds that could be contributed to mental health programs. They are currently working with Powell County High School regarding their needs.

**The Ivy at Deer Lodge:** Kelly Costin spoke about vaccination rates of staff and residents at the Ivy. Out of 44 residents 37 are vaccinated; staff 33 out of 43 with 9 exemptions; 5 travelers with 4 vaccinated.

**Old Business:**

Meeting Dates for 2022:

June 6, 2022

September 7, 2022

December 7, 2022

**New Business:** June meeting cannot be held at the community center on June 6, 2022, due to elections, an alternate site and/or date may be chosen. Information will be sent out closer to the date of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Jennifer Spring and seconded by Dan Sager. Motion carried. Next meeting will be the first full week of June at 11:30 a.m. location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Ida Miller Public Health Board Secretary