

Powell County Public Health Board Meeting

December 5, 2022

The meeting of the Powell County Public Health Board was called to order by Chairman Rem Mannix at 11:35 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; Dr. Paul Rees, Public Health Officer; Heather Gregory, Office of Emergency Management/Coroner, Powell County; Chad J. Lanes, Sanitarian, Tri-County Environmental Health; Mark Syverson, Sanitarian, Tri-County Environmental Health; Jaena Richards, Chief Operation Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Gage Lingle, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Andy Dreesen, Chief Administrative Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Rand Dickson, Powell EMS, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Gavin Roselles, Sheriff, Powell County; George Smith, Chief of Police, City of Deer Lodge; Amanda Bohrer, Tobacco Specialist; Kathryn McEnery, Powell County Attorney, Powell County

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

Reports:

Tri-County Environmental Health: Chad and Mark initially were called to a truck wreck in Granite County involving food and had to ensure that the food was properly handled after the accident.

Chad J. Lanes reports the main areas of construction for sewer in the county are Rock Creek Cattle Company with cabins being built around the golf course and Ovando. Chad is working on a food plan opening review to provide information on all areas that are needed to open a licensed food service establishment. There would be a small fee attached to this plan.

Mark Syverson: Licensed Food Service establishment inspections: Prison Pizza who moved to the Timber Eatery location and is now open and named Studebaker with gyros and other foods. The Cellblock Tavern and the connected Mexican restaurant. The Tavern is open, but the Mexican restaurant and mobile are not.

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

From September 6, 2022, thru, December 5, 2022, there have been 197 Covid-19 cases in Powell County with 5 hospitalizations and 2 deaths. Currently, there are 3 active cases. There have been a total of 1641 Covid cases in Powell County. Boosters are available to everyone 12 and older and any vaccine can be used regardless of your original vaccination brand. The state stopped providing free Covid-19 testing but curbside testing is still available at Deer Lodge Medical Center with billing to insurance.

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

Animal bites have been common.

Influenza: Public Health partnered with Safeway pharmacy and the Care-van to deliver influenza vaccines to Elliston, Avon, and Helmville communities. There have been 17 influenza cases this season and twice as many RSV cases.

Contract Tracer: Ida Miller reported that contract tracing will continue if there are positive cases of Covid-19. She reported on the car seat inspection program which held a car seat clinic at the Community Center on September 20, 2022.

Public Health Officer: Dr. Paul Rees spoke about the need for hospitals and providers to take an active role in the fentanyl crisis. He feels that fentanyl should have restricted use to anesthesia and not for pain management.

Tobacco Specialist: Amanda Bohrer spoke about her current focus on Indoor Air Quality updates. The REACT group is busy applying for grants.

DES Coordinator: Heather Gregory reported she is actively working to get her office up-to-date and learning what needs to be done.

Deer Lodge Medical Center: Andy Dreesen reports that the Lee Jewell Training Center has had some flooding for the fire suppression system and is awaiting repairs. The AHEC high school internship program has 1 class starting in January. A general surgeon and an ob-gyn physician are coming monthly, and the medical center is actively recruiting for a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a pediatrician. Haley Verlanic, the trauma coordinator, and Dr. Niall Atkinson are going to teach a stop the bleed class. COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are available at the clinic. The ambulance service is working on ambulance service to the Gold Creek area.

City of Deer Lodge: Kody Ryan has been hired as the new code enforcement officer. Safety rules and cameras have been placed at the new skate park with

Old Business:

Meeting Dates for 2023:

March 06, 2023

June 05, 2023

Tuesday, September 05, 2023

December 04, 2023

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Dan Sager and seconded by Jennifer Spring. Motion carried. The next meeting will be on March 06, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ida Miller Public Health Board Secretary