

## Powell County Public Health Board Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023

The meeting of the Powell County Public Health Board was called to order by 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, Powell County Commissioner; Ruth Koehler, Powell County Commissioner, Jennifer Spring, Public Health Board member/Deer Lodge Medical Center; Ida Miller, Public Health Board secretary/Public Health Board member; Heather Gregory, Office of Emergency Management/Coroner, Powell County; Samantha Ray, Public Health Nurse, Powell County; Kathryn McEnery, County Attorney, Powell County; Tony Pfaff, CEO, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Mark Syverson, Sanitarian, Tri-County Environmental Health; Rand Dickson, Powell EMS, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Gavin Roselles, Sheriff, Powell County; George Smith, Chief of Police, City of Deer Lodge; Dawn Ries, Prevention Specialist, Southwest MT; and Amanda Bohrer; Tobacco Prevention Specialist

Guests: Daisy Ryan, Faye Machler, Rose Deice, Natalee Bohrer, and Lily Simkins members of Powell County REACT group; Luke Ulatowski, reporter, Silver State Post

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

### **Reports:**

#### **Powell County REACT youth coalition:**

Daisy, Faye, Rose, Natalee, and Lily presented information about what the React coalition was doing and how the grants they obtained were being spent. They spoke about smoking issues around local businesses, surveys at Alive after 5, and amending the Clean Air Act.

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

**Chad Lanes:** Chad spoke about the septic systems that are still being installed. He will have a report for 2023 at the next meeting. There has been a bed bug issue in Deer Lodge County and Mark has developed resources to share with anyone who has concerns.

**Mark Syverson:** Mark reported that it has been business as usual with 50 new establishments that had been inspected in the Tri-County area including food trucks, changes of ownership, and new food licenses. Other inspections are ongoing.

#### **Public Health Nurse:**

Samantha Ray provided a report on health issues in Powell County. Public Health has office hours every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

1806 total COVID cases were reported in Powell County since the start of the pandemic. 65 cases since the September meeting with 3 hospitalizations. Curbside testing is still being done at DLMC with insurance being billed.

Influenza season for reporting purposes began on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Animal bites in the quarter were 2. Other diseases Campylobacter (2), STD (3), Hep C (2).

Influenza vaccinations were held in Elliston, Avon, Helmville, and Ovando.

**Public Health Associate:** 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 was held

on Thursday, September 21, 2023, during National Child Passenger Safety Week, and another event that was held on October 10, 2023, with assistance from Safe Start.

**Public Health Officer:** Was out of town.

**Tobacco Specialist:** Amanda Bohrer provided some handouts from her REACT group from their presentation. The group will be traveling to Washington, DC for a conference early next year.

**Prevention Specialist:** Dawn Ries met with the high school principal and discussed teaching a class about vaping and drugs and marijuana and the brain.

**DES Coordinator:** Heather Gregory reported she has been busy. The city discovered an oil leak in the sewer system in the middle of town where a clay pipe had broken. There were two diesel incidents on I-90. She conducted an Earthquake drill and attended the DOC training event at the prison with the sheriff.

**Deer Lodge Medical Center:** DLMC has been continuing the care that it provides in the community. Dr. Waber is expected to join the medical center staff on March 1<sup>st</sup> and they are actively looking for another orthopedic surgeon and a dermatologist.

**Powell EMS:** Rand Dickson reported the EMT class has 10 students. They are looking for new paramedics and currently have 8 clients in their program in conjunction with the Council on Aging.

**Law Enforcement:** Second quarter overdose deaths were 36; non-fatal overdoses 236 and felony drug arrests were 532 state-wide. Overall, drug trends are up with fentanyl in the county and the census average at the detention center is between 20-23 persons mainly for drug-related offenses.

#### **Old Business:**

Powell County will be receiving a settlement from the opioid lawsuit which will be received in annual payments to be used by law enforcement, prevention, and treatment.

#### **New Business:**

2024 meeting schedule: March 04, 2024  
June 3, 2024  
September 3, 2024  
December 2, 2024

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Dan Sager and seconded by Jennifer Spring. Motion carried. The next meeting will be on March 04, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. for lunch with the meeting starting at noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ida Miller Public Health Board Secretary