

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTE SUMMARY

January 8, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Burrows
Dr. Mick Turner
Paul Carlson
Dr. Wayne Chilcote
Renae Harding

STAFF PRESENT:

Glenda Wiles, Minutes
Dr. Carol Calderwood
Rod Daniel, EHN Interim Director
Judy Griffin, PHN

GUESTS PRESENT:

Fred and Mrs. Salmonson

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Burrows at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Paul made a motion to approve the December 2013 minutes. Dr. Turner seconded the motion. All voted "aye". (5-0)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Health Officer:

Dr. Calderwood reports 24 confirmed cases of flu in Ravalli County with one person being admitted to the hospital (one A strain and one B strain). Health Care Professionals are encouraging everyone over 6 months to obtain a flu vaccine. Same strain as 2009.

Sapphire Lutheran Cockroach issue: Management is spraying all the units and they are seeing a decrease in apartments being infested. PHN and her staff are doing an in service education for the tenants (cleaning counters, food substances, pets etc). The Department of Agriculture recommending tenants stay out for 4 hours after spray if any sensitivity, and no one can be present while spraying.

Public Health Nurse:

Judy presented the stats for the year including Decembers (see attached). They continue their promotion and tracking of flu vaccinations & immunizations.

Commissioner Burrows asked how the Title X transitions is taking place. Judy stated they transferred their cases to Planned Parenthood and or private providers. When they closed the clinic they were able to give some patients their RX's for a few extra months due to their supply, but now their supplies are coming to an end and they anticipate phone calls from those clients on where to go. Regarding STD's (sexually transmitted disease) PHN will meet with Dr. Ashcraft on Friday as they re-evaluate new and existing services. Example: two people tested positive for HIV and gonorrhea. PHN collaborates with the State and other counties such as Missoula County for these STD's. With the Title X clinic closed, they have no mechanism in place to treat these people or to follow through on the others that might possibly become affected. Discussion included the requirement of the law for surveillance of STD's. Judy stated they were treating these people before and now they can only refer them to another health care agency and hope they go. A huge concern is the patients who are asymptomatic (no symptoms) so they spread the disease.

Environmental Health:

Rod Daniel stated he is the interim director since Lea Guthrie resigned. He presented stats (see attached). Encouraging news is their department is up 20 septic systems over last year. January and February is their slow time with an increase in activities in March. A discussion took place of current staff level and Montana Statute requirements for Environmental Health activities.

OLD BUSINESS:

875 Bowman Road: Rod presented background on this septic failure for public health issues noting the tenants are not cooperative and have not followed through on the deadlines/compliance orders. Commissioner Burrows does not know where the County Attorney is on this issue with Beaverhead County. But he will check.

Dr. Turner stated the BOH were promised by the tenant that he and his wife would leave Sept, Oct, and then Nov., and here we are in January. If the County Attorney does not want to get involved in this issue then the BOH needs to know that. Dr. Turner stated he is upset about this. Basically if you are a relative and you work for the county, then you can just get away with it. This has been more than six months on this issue.

Luby Lane: Rod presented background on this issue for the new BOH members. He noted the owner (elderly woman – Joyce Burr) and her son (Dan Wise) dug up the entire drain field and attempted to re install it which was not the direction the Environmental Health Department gave them. Rod states they do not have a septic permit to install any system. He stated Sanitarian Dan Hooten had advised the owner and son they were out of compliance. They advised him they were not installing anything, just digging it up. Rod also stated Dan had advised them they could not move into the trailer until the system was installed. But they moved in anyway. Two days ago an on-site check reveals they have not hooked up to the well, still no septic, they do have a porta potty and they are disposing of gray water onto the ground. Dan indicated the son stays

there sometimes and because he works for a septic pumping business in Missoula, he thinks he can take the test to install this system himself. The woman indicates she has no money and has nowhere else to go.

Fred Salmonson stated he and his wife contacted the Environmental Health Department in October, as the woman moved in during July 2013. The property is a mess and is even worse now. Their residence is below this property and when the N Bass Creek rises in the spring, and Ruffato's irrigate, all of that water flows down to them. There is a high water table in this area as well. The water will come right up into their property. The owner who lived on the property years ago moved out because of flooding and high water selling the property to the elderly woman. Mrs. Samlonson stated they want this addressed fairly and within the law.

Dr. Chilcote asked if there was fraud in the sale of the property - or could it be a civil issue.

Renae noted the information left with the owners in writing addresses what is expected of them when it comes to installing a septic system. Discussion also included when the trailer was brought in so that a permit process with groundwater monitoring must occur. Rod does not think this location will pass ground water monitoring. Renae addressed raised systems.

Fred stated his neighbors told him the owner planned on putting in a test hole. Dr. Turner stated the BOH need to make a decision before the groundwater goes up, so a letter needs to be sent to the residents with a time frame. Rod stated this is more serious due to the ground water depth.

Commissioner Burrows then read emails of Sept 27th which included a letter to Dan Wise (the son) from Dan Hooten referencing the issues, parcel, replacement requirements with regulations, integrity of system compromised, test soil permit required, and cost for the septic permit...thus they were notified. After hearing this, Rod stated he now remembers there is a DEQ approval so in this case they have the ability to replace the system. Rod suggests they send another letter with threat of enforcement and give them a dead line

Commissioner Burrows then found another email with a letter where the son and mother were notified to stop digging and installing until the Environmental Health Department could do a site evaluation. Rod noted if an engineer is necessary the costs are generally \$10,000. Dr. Turner stated the difference is that this is a mobile home, not a house, and it can be moved. Discussion was to develop a time line with steps to complete in a reasonable amount of time. Dr. Turner commented again that this is sounding more and more like 875 Bowman, as the BOH kept giving them one month...one month...and one month. Commissioner Burrows stated he felt it is important put the responsibility back on the owners with reasonable dates they can follow. This is not the same as raw sewage on the ground on 875 Bowman Road. Fred stated Commissioner Burrows needs to drive by this location, as it is also that bad. Rod stated there is urgency on this location due to high water around May.

Renae made a motion to allow Rod to write the letter to the Owners regarding the failed system, advising them they need to have an engineer, a certified installer and test pit within 30 days before the BOH contacts the Co. Attorney for enforcement action. Dr. Turner seconded the motion. Discussion: Rod stated when the soil pit is excavated, they will decide if

an engineer and possibly a sand mound system will be necessary; so they don't want to have an engineer on board as part of the initial letter. **Renae agreed to amend her motion and remove the requirement of having an engineer. Dr. Turner stated he is ok with that amendment. All voted "aye".**

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Montana Health Co-op (MHC) Contract – Judy gave background on this agreement for the immunizations the PHN handles. This Co-op allows a third party administrator who is based in Utah for the billing on the immunizations. MHC is a new health insurance company in Montana. She has visited with Civil Counsel Dan Browder who states the contract is ok legally. Discussion included the costs under #17 and family planning. Judy stated this template goes out to all counties and those services are not given so they would not do any billing for that. Discussion also occurred about the Title X services. Dan was then placed on conference call. Dan stated the contract does not obligate the county to those services. So he has no problem with this irrelevant provision in the contract. Dan also noted if this contract were to provide medical services, then the BOH should sign for the funding, and if the contract is more administrative then the BCC should sign the contract. The BOH concurred this was administrative and the Commissioners should execute the agreement if they so choose.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dr. Chilcote asked where the PHN Department is on Title X or family planning. Commissioner Burrows noted while the money was not taken, there needs to be communication between the BCC and the PHN Department. Discussion included the services given for the past 42 years, but services for STD or communicable diseases still occur. There is a fine line in the surveillance requirements and there is some overlap on the Maternal Child Health Grant. It was agreed the BCC needs to communicate with the PHN on services still available particularly in light of the STD issue.

Paul asked what happens if a person came in with bacterial meningitis. Judy stated they send the patient to a primary care provider. Dr. Calderwood stated the PHN would become involved in the surveillance portion – the contacts and prevention portion as well. PHN could do more for testing and treatment but staff is an issue.