

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
December 5, 2024**

Members Present

Brie MacLaurin, Chair
Sherri Ohs-Mosley
Mayor Kelly Harris
Dr. Mikael Bedell, Vice Chair
Chanan Brown
Lisa Kaufman

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann
Jolene Jennings
Laurel Riek
Jennifer McBroom
Sandy Whittington

Members Absent

Mayor Collins
Rex Wertz
Commissioner Candace Payne

The Board Chair, Brie MacLaurin, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Director Drenda Niemann noted that the presentation on Immunization Services needed to be rescheduled for January as the presenter, Shelly Maag, was ill.

MINUTES

Board Chair, Brie MacLaurin, asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 24, 2024 minutes. The Board Chair requested we add to the minutes a note regarding the suggestion that was made at the October meeting for annual training and training for new members. With that addition, minutes were accepted by the board. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

National Association of Local Boards of Health Effectiveness Assessment: Chair MacLaurin led the assessment discussion, fostering a lively discussion among Board members, who praised department achievements, particularly under Drenda’s guidance. Board member, Sheri Ohs-Mosley, noted that there's much to absorb as a new Board member, and the resources provided have been excellent; the rest will come with experience. Board member, Chanan Brown, proposed that the Board should ensure at least one member attends local events to sustain a community presence.

Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) FY 24 Annual Report: Jennifer McBroom, WQPD Supervisor, reviewed the FY 24 Annual Report with the Board. In general, she mentioned the district is now fully staffed, reviewed details on the Grizzly Gulch revitalization project, and had a general discussion over the boundaries of WQPD.

Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Update: Jolene Jennings, Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Specialist, provided an overview of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) services and highlighted the significance of expanded Medicaid for the sustainability of these services. Brie MacLaurin asked about MCRT

staffing, while Chanan Brown questioned the training law enforcement receives to build their skills for appropriately responding to a behavioral health crisis situation. It was mentioned that Journey Home has yet to open but is expected to do so in the first quarter of 2025. All are welcome at the Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) meetings on the first Tuesday of the Month at 11:30am via zoom.

Medicaid Expansion Report: Director Niemann, provided insights on the approaching legislative session, noting that Montana Medicaid Expansion is nearing expiration and will need reauthorization by the Montana Legislature. The group highlighted the significance of maintaining this program for access to care. Brie MacLaurin proposed the Board endorse Medicaid Expansion reauthorization and prompted Director Niemann to prepare a resolution for the Board's consideration at the January meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invisible Shield Documentary: A brief conversation occurred regarding the last showing and the balance of viewership (public health advocates vs general public). Sherri Ohs-Mosely recommended that the Board explore a more thorough educational approach to vaccinations for the community, highlighting a lack of comprehensive information addressing both sides. She indicated her intention to draft a proposal for the Board to review in Spring 2025. Montana Families for Vaccines will host a reception before the final showing on January 7, 2025.

Director Niemann invited the Board to the upcoming Zoom presentation about the Licensed Establishment proposed fee increase, mentioning that Confluence Public Health Alliance, statewide association, will spearhead a legislative bill for this fee increase in the 2025 session.

The next meeting will be on January 23, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Brie MacLaurin, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary