

<b>Board Members Present:</b> <u>In Person:</u> Jan Ivers, George Jamison, Sara Mertes, Laura Crismore, Mark Peck, Jim Seifert <u>Via Zoom:</u> Deb Armstrong
<b>Board Members Absent:</b> n/a
<b>LCHD Staff:</b> <u>In Person:</u> Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, Dustin Webb, Sara Long <u>Via Zoom:</u> Toya Laveway, Trista Gilmore, Bryan Alkire, Dr. Black, Jinnifer Mariman
<b>ARP Staff:</b> <u>Via Zoom:</u> Virginia Kocieda
<b>Public:</b> <u>In Person:</u> DC Orr, Cora Gilmore, Nicole Rogerson, <u>Via Zoom:</u> Josh Letcher, Susie Rice, Rachel Byrd, Diane Watson, Mayor Brent Teske, Dr. Jarrett, Catherine (last name unknown)

<b>Agenda:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>Action Item:</b>
<b>1. Call to order</b>	Called to order at 6:02 PM by Jan Ivers. Roll call. All recited Pledge of Allegiance.	
<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of September 9th meeting minutes: Laura Crismore made a motion to approve the September minutes, George Jamison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. New Business</b>	<p>Libby Care Center Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rachel Byrd reports that they had their first staff and resident positives on October 14, 2020. As of today, there have been 7 total staff members positive (6 recovered, 1 still under PH monitoring) and 10 total resident cases (2 recovered, 2 passed, 6 active with the virus in the COVID unit).</li> <li>Staff are tested weekly; more if recommended after daily screenings. Residents are tested at least weekly, with screenings 4 times per day.</li> <li>Care Center compassionate visitations resumed on October 14, 2020. Visitors are screened as staff members would be and a rapid test given before entry into the building.</li> <li>The COVID unit is set up to function as its own separate nursing facility with separate entrance and dedicated staff.</li> <li>Working with the State and local Public Health Officials, the Care Center is not accepting any new admits at this time.</li> <li>The spread at the Center was only in one hall. They continue to work with Dr. Black and Public Health to limit and contain spread with the measures they put in place.</li> </ul> <p>Board Member Term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sara Mertes position is up at the end of the year, opening is posted and applications due at the Clerk &amp; Records Office for consideration of that position.</li> </ul>	

COVID Response Coordination & Communication Strategy:

- Mark Peck gives update on meeting with Dr. Rice, Dr. Black and members of the Health Board on how to better communicate with the community. It is important that people know there is not pertinent information not being shared. People are doing the best they can and we are learning as we go.
- They are trying to come up with different avenues to be able to get information out to everyone. In the process of determining what all that information is and what people are wanting to know. Mark relays that as a community we need to try to come together more. Mark stated that this virus is here, it is real, and we need to do what we can to protect our community.
- Dr. Black reiterated the importance of communication and information sharing, which is the basis of the group and the meeting the night before.

Mental Health Coalition:

- Amy Fantozzi was unable to attend tonight's meeting but sent an email update to Jan Ivers. It stated that Coalition members participated in SIM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Covid Campaign, Team 56:

- Susie Rice explains that Team 56 is a group of county-wide group of concerned citizens trying to find creative ways to educate the public, and to reduce the number of COVID cases within the county.
- Since the September meeting, Team 56 has met with seniors via zoom from all three county high schools. With their help, posters were created and gone throughout the county, color coded with school colors and mascots. These included statements like save our senior year, save our school year, save our sports season, etc. These students helped decide what kind of masks the seniors would like and with the help of grants from Team 56, Head Start and Unite for Youth, the masks were able to be produced.
- Kootenai Karacters put together a public service announcement (written and produced by Amy Smart) that will air at the theaters in Libby and Eureka. It has already been shared on Team 56 facebook page.
- Team 56 has adopted slogan of 'Spread Kindness, not COVID' with posters created and posted throughout the county. Coffee shops in Libby, Eureka and Troy have agreed to

	<p>put stickers with the message on the drink containers they sell. Banners are being made with that message as well as a push to remind everyone to shop local businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Team 56 is running a photo contest in the paper. A 'Who is This Masked Man' contest in the local papers. They took pictures of 18 people in Libby, 18 in Troy and 18 in Eureka. There is \$100 prize in each community for whoever gets the most right.</li><li>• Team 56 will also be doing video interviews to share. Kate Stephens will be doing interviews with hospital personnel about how COVID has affected their jobs.</li><li>• Team 56 is also putting together information for students as to what it truly means to quarantine and isolation, as well as how they are different.</li><li>• Team 56 has been working with the Health Department to identify businesses in the county who have been doing an outstanding job by posting it on facebook and sending thank you notes in appreciation of their dedication.</li></ul>	
<p><b>4. Program Reports:</b> <b>Public Health</b></p>	<p><b>COVID-19:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jennifer McCully stated there is no total count for today. Over 50 cases came in today and all have been busy with contact tracing and calls. The bulk of the number is from an outbreak in the Yaak called Turning Winds. 10 to 12 students in the past couple of days have tested positive at the Libby Middle High School, so a lot of students out on quarantine. Also working through a couple positive cases with Eureka schools students. 1 reinfection, 2 people with cardiac issues- a child and an adult which is concerning regarding long-term effects.</li><li>• The 10% positivity rate that has been holding in the county has changed the past couple of days. With 100 cases just last week, Dr. Black can talk about why that number is too high for our county.</li><li>• Jenn introduces Sara Long, the new Disease Intervention Specialist, who was hired utilizing Public Health Emergency Preparedness 2 year grant funding.</li><li>• Kathi shares information about the county COVID information web page that is being constructed at this time. It will have information as well as daily updates directly on that site.</li><li>• In October, Health Department staff reviewed the enforcement process for COVID related disease and met with the County Attorney's office to review. It was revised to include that Health Department staff will visit the establishments to verify complaints. Still finalizing the process and will update the FAQ's with the new information on Friday.</li></ul>	

**Environmental Health  
Solid Waste and  
Recycling**

- All establishments have been started over at step one, so no matter where they were up to this point, that is dismissed so all places within the county can start and go through all of the same steps. In the beginning there were two steps, and now there are four. We want to make sure each business gets the same four step process.
- Since October 22, we have received 35 complaints. There is a new state process where complaints are entered and then a 5 day response time for each complaint.
- We have received 1280 rapid tests. Jenn and Dr. Black met and determined how best to distribute those tests.
- Dr. Black said they had made a request to the state Health Department trying to acquire Vynax tests. It is a different kind of test, so it is not as accurate as the PCR tests. They are trying to figure out how best to utilize those tests at this time. PCR tests are being done to confirm and compare the Vynax test results.
- Sara Mertes reiterates that this particular test has to be done so many days after the onset of symptoms, so it doesn't work for everyone all the time. There is a specific timeframe involved.
- Deb shares her own research on PCR tests with meeting members. She said she was confused about what the tests are actually telling us and what it means for a normal healthy person. Dr. Black reiterates the importance of knowing the activity of the virus in the county and how it affects each individual differently. There is no way to truly know what symptoms each person is going to come down with.
- Jenn informs group that Trista has began flu clinics and been out in the community giving those flu shots at different places. Testing for flu has been happening with COVID testing and so far there have been no flu cases reported in the county.

**Landfill O&M update:**

- Bryan Alkire reports a special waste category being added to Class II Landfill. Rechargeable batteries- laptops, tools, phones, AA, etc- are now recycled through the recycle program.
- Added a note to the C&D Wood Debris for anyone doing their own demo that asbestos testing is required. If it is a homeowner doing their own demo, that requirement can be waived.
- There is now a special waste process for trace asbestos contaminated soils. Originally looked at using them for a cover soil, but DEQ Solid Waste Program decided that would not be a good idea. That soil is tracked as it comes in as a special waste.

**ARP**

- Junk mobile homes are now being accepted year-round, as road conditions permit transport.
- Troy and Eureka Class IV Landfills had O&M update to include procedures for CWD and non-domestic animal carcass disposal.

**O&M Update:**

- Virginia reports that final revisions were made to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Lincoln County and MT Department of Environmental Quality. Lincoln County sent a signed copy of the MOA to DEQ for final signatures. We are still waiting for confirmation on an effective agreement.
- While we wait for the agreement to be signed, ARP has met with the finance departments at Lincoln County and DEQ to understand new procedures for invoice requirements for reimbursement of monthly costs, including cost expended before the agreement is finalized (starting from July 2020).
- ARP continues to meet and work with DEQ on operations & maintenance (O&M) activities within Libby and Troy:
  - ARP has responded to 46 utility locates during October 2020 which includes information about potential remaining contamination at dig sites and ARP staff conducting site visits.
  - There are 3 pending activities in Troy and 12 pending activities in Libby. These activities include site inspections, information requests, investigative sampling, and abatement.
  - The lab contract between DEQ and Techlaw is now established and ARP will be collecting their first round of confirmation sampling from a property. Also, ARP is trying to educate local accredited asbestos inspectors on the O&M process when they are hired by a property owner to collect samples. This process allows reimbursement to the property owner to pay for DEQ-approved sampling activities.
- DEQ is finalizing their 2020 Annual O&M Inspection Report on the Riverfront Property (OU1), the former Parker's residence/currently W.R. Grace property/former vermiculite processing area (OU2), the Port Authority (OU5), and the transportation corridor which includes portions of Hwy 2, MT-37, and Farm to Market Rd (OU8).
- There was a public comment period for the EPA OU8 Institutional Control Implementation Assurance Plan (ICIAP) document. This comment period ended late October.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current Region 8 EPA Administrator, Mr. Greg Sopkin, along with Mike Cirian met with Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Bennet during the Administrators tour of OU3, the former W. R. Grace mine site on October 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• The EPA released their second 5-year Review report on OU1, OU2, OU4 (properties in Libby), OU5, OU6 (BNSF railroad corridor), OU7 (properties in Troy), and OU8. That report can be found on the EPA’s website for the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site.</li> <li>• Finally, the EPA Information Office on 9<sup>th</sup> street closed after more than 20 years of service. The Lincoln County Asbestos Resource Program (ARP) will be replacing the services that the info office provided, including education about Libby amphibole asbestos, providing resources for O&amp;M activities, and participating in initiatives that affect the Superfund Site. ARP’s office is located at 503 California Avenue in Libby, MT.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Focus Area Liaisons</b></p>	<p><b>Asbestos Site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding was requested to DEQ on 7 sites. 2 were approved today. We do not want property owners hit with any costs. Another meeting is scheduled.</li> </ul> <p><b>Groundwater Site:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in Groundwater Site since last meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. City Representative Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura has no updates from Libby.</li> <li>• Deb reported no update from Eureka, but asked about Sara sending a COVID patient to CD’A when the updates she gets says there are only two hospitalizations. Wondering how we are getting overloaded with only two patients. Sara explains it was a patient who needed admitted to a long-term care facility. That patient had been moved to Kellog, Idaho because of lack of openings in greater NW region. Deb asks for clarification about not being overloaded at the hospital here. Laura explains there are a lot patients who need long-term care that are admitted in the hospital now because they are not safe to discharge and there is nowhere for them to go. In speaking with others in the Montana Hospital Association, that seems to b the case in many hospitals.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Health Officer Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Black had no addition to previous comments.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Old Business</b></p>	<p><b>Shed Variance Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variance was requested by The Shed owner concerning open hearth fireplace. Dustin monitored the air quality during use. During that test, standards for visible emissions</li> </ul>	

	<p>were met. Jake requested clarification if it was a variance from the rules and standards, or if the variance was for the device itself. It was determined the variance was for the device. Mark moved to approve the variance. George seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>9. Public Comment</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Update to Operating Procedure #2 (Public Comment):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jan reads additions to public comment update. These include: No action on agenda items will be taken until the Chair requests comments from the public. Public comments about agenda items will occur just prior to the Board’s discussion and action on each agenda item; Public comments on non-action agenda items and items not on the agenda will occur at the end of the meeting during the public comment period; and The Board should refrain from engaging in a dialogue, except to the extent necessary to clarify the speaker’s position. Discussion occurs with board members and item will be added to next month’s agenda to be revisited.</li><li>• Jan asked that with Zoom meetings having their own challenges, that speakers name is stated (spelled if it has unusual spelling) before beginning their 3-minute comment period.</li></ul> <p><b>Public Comment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DC Orr asked for clarification on COVID positivity rate. Jenn clarifies that 10% has been the average before this jump in recent cases. DC Orr said he couldn’t find the public comment updates in the website previous to the meeting. Kathi explained that on the website, one must click on the agenda to view all of the attachments regarding the next meeting. He asked that he be on an agenda to get questions answered.</li><li>• Nicole Rogerson feels that as a business owner there is no clear line of communication. She heard that businesses were going to be closed at this evening’s meeting. He board clarifies that no businesses were being closed. She wants to know where to find any information to share with others and residents. The Board reiterates the hot line to be able to direct questions to the right person for answers. Nicole asks about how businesses would know if they had received complaints. Kathi explains that business owners would be contacted by the health department and made aware of any complaints received.</li></ul>	

- Brent Teske asked if there were any additional restrictions added by the health officer or board since the July mandate. The Board clarifies that there have not been any additional changes.
- Dr. Jarret commented on current medical status in response to Deb's inquiries as she felt it left the impression our medical status is fine when it is really not. While listening to this meeting, she made a call to Kalispell to check on their status. As of right now, they only have the capacity to admit 3 patients to their COVID unit. They have the possibility of maybe 3 more in their overflow if they have staffing for it. This morning Kalispell's hospital reported they have 125 medical/surgical beds (general beds) that they can admit people to. 123 of them were filled. 30 of those were with COVID patients. These numbers are very significant- those numbers are not normal of flu or any other contagious disease. Kootenai Health out of CD'A would be our second choice to send people to. They have a 32 bed dedicated COVID unit and currently 44 COVID patients, overflowing their COVID unit by 12. They have zero ICU beds available in Kalispell right now and half of their ICU is COVID patients. Dr, Jarret wanted to make it very clear that while our hospital does have that overflow of patients, it is because we have been very intentional by sending each COVID patient to a place of higher care. We simply do not have the best capacity to care for those patients in our local hospital. We have limited ICU beds and physicians with limited ventilator experience and we are quickly losing our ability to be able to send them out. She also wanted to reiterate that there not very many physicians in town, and few that work at the hospital. There is only 1 employed hospitalist at the hospital who currently has the virus which leaves the hospital scrambling for coverage. Local physicians have worked together to come up with coverage as best they can at this time. These are people who also have full time clinic jobs which makes it very challenging to run to the hospital for admits and still care for their patients in the manner they need. If we lose any more physicians, this can become a very big problem very quickly.
- Diane Watson mentioned it is difficult to hear everyone speak, so maybe directing speech towards the mic could help. She asked what kind of information is shared with the elderly or public at large to prevent or boost their immune system, as well as testing for D3 availability. She shared information regarding D3 and its benefits for physical and

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6:00 PM Ponderosa Room

	<p>mental health. Sara shared information about how that is handled in her practice and is unfortunately not covered by all insurance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Catherine recited Montana Codes Annotated for her 3-minute time period regarding infectious diseases and her stance on the lack of information testing for COVID gives us. She spoke her thought on the public health system of Montana being hijacked, etc.</li></ul>	
<b>10. Adjournment</b>	Laura made the motion to adjourn, Sara seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Next meeting December 9 at 6:00 PM.	