

Lincoln County
City-County Board of Health Agenda
March 14, 2018 @ 6 PM
Lincoln County Courthouse

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes

- 02/14/18 meeting minutes

3. New Business

- **New Member Introduction**

4. Program Reports:

- **Annual Report**
- **Public Health**
 - Snapshot
 - Mental Health (Change in personnel/duties)
 - Community Coalition Invitation
 - Vaccination Information

5. Focus Area Liaisons:

- **Superfund Sites**
 - IC Steering Committee: Presentation and adoption for Report of Recommendations
 - Public Health Emergency Letter addition
 - Libby Asbestos Advisory Team Update
 - Public presentation of Report of Recommendations

6. Health Officer Report

7. Old Business

- **Follow up on funding requests**
 - BOH Attorney
 - Trihydro support

8. Public comment

9. Adjourn

Board Members Present: Jan Ivers, George Jamison, Sara Huddleston (by phone), Mark Peck, Maggie Anderson
Absent: Libby representative, Nancy Haugen
LCHD Staff: Jennifer McCully, Noah Pyle, Mandy Harcourt, Riley Black, Bryan Alkire, Brad Black, Jinnifer Mariman (by phone)
Public: Alan Gerstenecker (Kootenai Valley Record), John Blodgett (The Western News)

Agenda:	Discussion:	Action Item:
1. Call to order	Called to order at 6:00 PM by Jan Ivers	
2. Approval of Minutes	01/10/2017 minutes approval: George Jamison made a motion to approve the January Board of Health Minutes. Mark Peck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.	
3. New Business	<p>Contract with Montana Tech: Riley Black is completing her Bachelor's in Nursing. She is working with Jan Ivers to complete clinical hours. They signed a contract with Montana Tech.</p> <p>Recording Secretary Position: Kathi Hooper discussed the recording secretary position. Currently staff in the Health Department share those duties. Jamison expressed his concern about not having the position filled and the lack of continuity. The Board decided to continue operating and revisit later.</p> <p>Letter to Commissioners regarding attorney fees: Ivers updated the Board on a letter that will be sent to the Commissioners. The Board has used all of the allotted funds for attorney fees and requesting more from the Commissioners.</p> <p>Meeting frequency discussion: Ivers started a discussion about meeting frequency. Jamison discussed the amount of work coming up for the IC Steering Committee. Peck suggested that the Board meet in March and revisit meeting frequency at that time. Jamison suggested 'targeted' meetings for special topics.</p>	
4. Program Reports:		
Solid Waste and Recycling	No Report	
Asbestos Resource Program Update	Personnel update: Noah Pyle updated the Board on new hire in the ARP. Elzhon Anderson is the new Resource Coordinator. He has extensive experience on the project and will be a great addition to the program.	

Environmental Health Update	<p>Subdivision Review Contract: Hooper updated the Board on the Subdivision Review Contract. It was renewed until June 30, 2019 and signed by the Commissioners. The Health Department is paying a portion of the DEQ fees for Jakes Mertes's work with that contract.</p> <p>Wrecking Yard Status: Payne went to the Board of Environmental Review appealing the State's decision to not allow him to adjust his boundaries. The Board of Environmental Review sided with MT DEQ stating he could not expand or move those boundaries. He can appeal to a higher court, but this moves it forward to deny his license.</p>	
Public Health Update	<p>General Update: Jenn McCully updated the Board on Public Health. Immunizations are continuing to slow down. PH is still promoting influenza vaccine. Lincoln County has seen 40 cases of flu this year, last year at this time had 13 confirmed cases. Riley is starting to focus on day care audits. PH is offering the new shingles vaccine, Shingrix.</p> <p>Mental Health Update: The County and the Health Department have been working closely with the community on Crisis Intervention and Mental Health since the closure of Western Montana Mental Health Center. Nancy Huus, LCSW, CMHP is contracting with the County to facilitate the process of developing a new protocol for crisis.</p> <p>Grant Applications Update: PH is applying for one or two grants from the Montana Healthcare Foundation for Mental Health and Treatment Court.</p> <p>Coalition Update: PH is combining coalition meetings. The next meeting will be the morning of Friday, March 16th. Agenda will be out soon.</p>	
5. Focus Area Liaisons	<p>Superfund Site, Asbestos: IC Steering Committee Update: Jamison updated the board on the Steering Committee's progress. They are adding some ICs and organizing the information. The next meeting is March 22nd.</p> <p>Approval of Tri-Hydro task order: Jamison shared the work order from Tri-Hydro and is requesting approval of the task order. Maggie Anderson made a motion to approve the Tri-Hydro task order, Peck seconded. Discussion Peck asked about funding and the approval from the Commissioners. Jamison will present the task order to the Commissioners. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	

	<p>Approval of letter to EPA Region 8 regarding Public Health Emergency: Jamison read the proposed letter regarding lifting the Public Health Emergency. The letter requested that the Board of Health and County be involved in any conversation in rescinding the Public Health Emergency. Dr. Black asked where the idea of rescinding the Public Health Emergency was originating from and discussed some of the consequences on funding for human health.</p> <p>Next Libby Asbestos Advisory Team Meeting: March 8th in Libby</p> <p>Position Statement follow-up activities: Peck updated the Board on the position statement. He talked to Senator Tester's group in Kalispell about the statement.</p> <p>Superfund Site, Groundwater: Update on controlled Groundwater Area Considerations: Jamison updated the Board on the Groundwater Area Superfund Site. EPA hosted a meeting on February 25th on the Groundwater Area.</p>	
6. Health Officer Report	Dr. Black reiterated the importance maintaining communication about the Public Health Emergency.	
7. Old Business	By-Laws: The revised by-laws were approved at the January 10 th meeting. They need signatures from every board member.	
8. Public Comment	DC Orr agreed with Dr. Black on the Declaration of the Public Health Emergency. Mr. Orr recommends that the Board learn about the process and educate themselves on the history of the declaration.	
9. Adjournment	<p>Next meeting March 14, 2018 at 6:00 PM</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM</p>	

 Chair, Board of Health

 Date

 Secretary, Board of Health

 Date

City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County

418 Mineral Ave
Libby, MT 59923



February 28, 2018

Douglas Benevento, Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 8
80C-EISC
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Re: Health Care Concerns, Public Health Emergency Designation
Libby Asbestos Superfund Site, Lincoln County, Montana

Dear Mr. Benevento:

The recent undated letter (copy attached) voiced concern that consideration of changes to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) designation not be made without community input and thorough vetting of the issue. The focus in the earlier letter was potential impacts on funding during Operation and Maintenance activities. However, there are additional concerns of equal or greater health care impacts.

The 2009 PHE designation specifically underscored the need for asbestos related health care, and initiated providing crucial medical care. The PHE designation was (and remains) an essential element allowing the "Libby provisions" to be included in the Affordable Care Act. Thousands of persons affected by exposure to Libby Amphibole asbestos have received screening, treatment and other services, and new cases continue at a steady rate. These services, which would otherwise not be available, were instituted as a part of a "long term solution". The importance of continuing these programs cannot be overstated. A 2017 community health needs assessment identified asbestos related disease as the #1 community health concern.

We would appreciate knowing whether, or to what extent, considerations of altering or rescinding the PHE are occurring. The City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County and the Lincoln County Health Officer formally request to be a party to any such dialogue concerning the medical and environmental health of Lincoln County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Black, MD".

Brad Black, MD
County Health Officer
Lincoln County, Montana

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Ivers".

Jan Ivers, Chair
City-County Board of Health
Lincoln County, Montana

cc/encl: Lincoln County Commissioners
Mayor, City of Libby
Mayor, City of Troy
Montana, Department of Environmental Quality (Attn: Tom Livers)

Lincoln City-County Board of Health

418 Mineral Ave
Libby, MT 59923



Douglas Benevento, Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 8
80C-EISC
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Re: Public Health Emergency Designation
Libby Asbestos Superfund Site
Lincoln County, Montana

Dear Mr. Benevento:

As efforts progress to move the site into the post-construction phase, we are concerned that continuation or termination of the Public Health Emergency designation not be made without community input and thorough vetting of the issue.

In particular, we are concerned that rescinding the designation not jeopardize the availability to conduct future Operation and Maintenance activities, including funding, and other activities related to the long term protection of the remedy and public health. We also recognize there may be benefits to dropping the designation, under appropriate circumstances.

We would appreciate being part of a thorough examination of this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Ivers', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jan Ivers, Chair
City-County Board of Health
Lincoln County, Montana

cc:
Lincoln County Commissioners
Mayor, City of Libby
Mayor, City of Troy
Montana, Department of Environmental Quality (Attn: Tom Livers)

LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

VACCINATION POLICY STATEMENT

We firmly believe in the effectiveness and safety of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

We firmly believe that all children and adults should receive all the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Medical Association (AMA) unless otherwise medically indicated.

We firmly believe that vaccinating children and adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers and community members.

We firmly believe that the recommended vaccines and the vaccine schedule are the result of decades of scientific study and data gathered on millions of participants by thousands of the leading scientists and physicians around the globe.

We recognize that there has always been and will always be controversy surrounding vaccination and we hope to educate and alleviate the concerns of all persons with questions or doubts surrounding vaccination with proven evidence based data.

We do not believe vaccines should be delayed or the administration schedule altered unless medically indicated.

We firmly believe that when citizens do not vaccinate, they take a significant risk with community and children's health, and the health of others around them, that could lead to life-threatening illnesses, disability, disease outbreaks, and possibly death.

We firmly believe that all persons should be aware of these facts, not to coerce the public but to emphasize the importance of vaccination.

We promise to do everything possible to alleviate fears, concerns, and doubts about vaccination and to provide you accurate, reliable, and scientifically-based information about vaccination.

We promise to never knowingly administer any harmful, un-safe, or un-proven vaccine to any individual.

We firmly believe everyone has the right to choose or deny vaccination for themselves or their children, and we will abide by the wishes of individuals and parents to accommodate their concerns or reservations. However, we believe this goes against **expert recommendations** and puts unnecessary risks on adults and children.



Lincoln County Health Department
418 Mineral Ave | Libby MT 59923
(406) 283-2442
www.lincolnmthealth.com