

<b>Board Members Present:</b> <u>In Person:</u> Jan Ivers, George Jamison, Sara Mertes, Jim Seifert, Laura Crismore, <u>Via Zoom:</u> Deb Armstrong, Josh Letcher
<b>Board Members Absent:</b> n/a
<b>LCHD Staff:</b> <u>In Person:</u> Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, <u>Via Zoom:</u> Trista Gilmore, Dr. Black, Jinnifer Mariman
<b>ARP Staff:</b> Virginia Kocieda
<b>Public:</b> <u>In Person:</u> DC Orr

Agenda:	Discussion:	Action Item:
<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>• 11/23/20 minutes – Deb provided comments via e-mail but they were not received. Table discussion of 11/23/20 minutes until next meeting.</li> <li>• 12/9/20 minutes – Sara motioned to approve, Jim seconded. Deb abstained from voting because she had not reviewed the minutes. All others voted to approve.</li> <li>• 12/16/20 minutes – Deb motioned to approve, Jim seconded. Motion passed.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. New Business</b>	<p><b>Action item - Nominate officers</b></p> <p><b>Chairperson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deb nominated Josh, George seconded</li> <li>• Jim nominated Jan, Sara seconded</li> <li>• DC Orr commented that the chair needs to know parliamentary procedure and Jan has shown disinterest in learning.</li> <li>• Johnathan Allan asked if it makes sense to wait until the new member is appointed before electing officers</li> <li>• Deb stated that there has been public comment that the meetings have been a little out of control and need order.</li> <li>• Laura asked Jinn if it is necessary to elect officers tonight. Jinn read the by-laws and said that according to the by-laws election shall be at the first meeting in January.</li> <li>• Josh stated that he appreciates Deb's nomination. Jan has been improving as chair. If meetings continue on Wednesdays it would be a very long day for him and chairing the meetings from Eureka may not be the most practical.</li> </ul>	Schedule Board training

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pierce Barney stated that there is a case at the supreme court that "shall" does not mean "must", it means "may".</li><li>• Jim said that Josh had previously stated that the role of a commissioner on the Board is to liaison to the commissioners. Jim asked what Josh's role would be if he were elected chair.</li><li>• Josh didn't recall making that statement but did state in an e-mail that the commissioner on the Board represents the whole county.</li><li>• Deb stated that she wants to vote for Jan</li><li>• Roll call vote: unanimous vote for Jan. Jan is re-elected as chair.</li></ul> <p><b>Vice-chairperson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jim nominated Sara</li><li>• Josh nominated Deb</li><li>• Roll call vote: Josh and Deb voted for Deb. Jim, Jan and Laura voted for Sara. George abstained. Sara is elected as vice-chair.</li></ul> <p><b>Secretary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laura nominated Jim</li><li>• Jim asked for clarification on the role of the secretary. Josh read role of secretary from by-laws.</li><li>• Unanimous vote for Jim. Jim is elected as secretary</li></ul> <p><b>Action item - Set meeting schedule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Doodle poll had been e-mailed to all Board members. Tuesday is the only day that all Board members are available to meet. Jan suggested second Tuesday of each month. All Board members agreed. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.</li></ul> <p><b>Action item - Board recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• George asked questions about use of rubric. Jan reviewed each area of rubric. Each are worth 0-5 points. Each topic was provided to all applicants in advance of the meeting.</li></ul>	<p>Update officer and meeting schedule info on website</p>
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each applicant introduced themselves and described their education, relevant experience, Board experience, public health experience, why they want to be on the Board of Health, and how they would improve the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants were Scott Bernhard, Ann German, Robin Gray, Latimer Hoke, Patty Kincheloe and Jeff Peterson.</li> <li>• Ann German stated that it was not appropriate to consider her application since there were qualified North Lincoln County applicants, but she would be happy to be considered if a Libby opening comes available.</li> <li>• Johnathan Allan stated that there is a good pool of candidates and a good mix.</li> <li>• Pierce Barney stated that there is a great turn out from applicants. Really impressed with Scott and Patty.</li> <li>• Deb said there are good applicants and people with impressive qualification. She likes Patty's approach and she would be an asset to all. Patty received good recommendations.</li> <li>• Josh said it is a tough choice. All are qualified, some are very qualified. He appreciates Patty's experience and Jeff's communication. He is leaning toward Patty or Scott.</li> <li>• Jim said applicants are amazingly qualified. Leaning towards Jeff.</li> <li>• George echoed quality of applicants and agreed about diversity. Liked Patty and Jeff.</li> <li>• Sara also stated that she was impressed by the qualifications of the candidates. Supports Patty and Jeff.</li> <li>• Laura stated that it is a great panel of candidates. Supports Jeff and Patty.</li> <li>• Deb made a motion to recommend Patty Kinchloe.</li> <li>• Roll call vote for Jeff or Patty was determined by Jan without a motion. Action was taken without a motion: Deb, Josh and George for Patty. Jim, Sara, Laura and Jan for Jeff. Board recommends Jeff Peterson.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide recommendation to Clerk &amp; Recorder.          Commissioners to appoint 1/20.</p>
<p><b>4. Program Reports:</b>  <b>Community:</b></p>	<p><b>Mental Health Coalition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Fantozzi invited the group to the next MHC meeting via Zoom at noon on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Melissa Rebo will present on a new program at Western Montana Mental Health. Maggie Anderson will present on Communities that Care. Amy stated that over the last</li> </ul>	

month or two people recognize that people with mental health issues are struggling. Libby Christian Church donated gift certificates to PAC participants.

**Team 56:**

- Kathi read written update provided by Team 56. Since last month, masks were delivered to all 3 high schools, "Spread Kindness, Not Covid" banners were delivered to all 3 chambers of commerce (paid for by Hecla) and thank you notes were delivered to 38 businesses. Sarah and Rachel at Libby Care Center and ER staff received recognition. Now brainstorming ways to encourage public to get the vaccine.

**COVID Response Coordination & Communication Strategy**

- Jeff is working to film videos to add to the Health Department website. Four videos completed to date and filming scheduled for tomorrow. Adding a FAQs page to the website.

**Medical Provider Summary:**

- Sara stated that COVID testing continues at all clinics, hospital, health department, etc. There is a slight increase in numbers after New Years. Healthcare providers are now following up with patients who have symptoms after weeks of illness. Healthcare providers and EMS have received 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose starts next week. Libby Care Center is starting vaccination of staff and residents next week. Making lists of patients for 1B, there has been a lot of interest expressed.

**Public Health**

**COVID-19:**


- Jenn updated on vaccines. In north Lincoln County vaccines are handled by North Valley Hospital. Governor changed the priority schedule so people 70 and older or 16 to 69 with certain underlying health conditions are 1B. We do not know how much vaccine we will receive or when. We are all working on vaccine lists. Vaccinations at long term care facility in Eureka already started this week through a federal contract with CVS.
- Jan stated that we need to encourage people to be patient. Jenn replied that we asked for 300 the first week. We are trying to determine our capacity to give vaccines. Many clinics have offered staff to assist. Any enrolled provider can give the vaccine.


<p><b>Environmental Health</b></p> <p><b>Solid Waste and Recycling</b></p> <p><b>ARP</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George asked what type of info is provided and shared. Jenn answered that it is the same as other vaccines. We ask for age. We do not ask for verification of qualifying condition. People who receive the vaccine can opt in to V Safe.</li> <li>• George asked if we are running in to waste. Jenn answered that we will not waste vaccine.</li> <li>• George asked if there are bottlenecks that the BOH should know about. Jenn answered that limiting factor is currently the supply chain.</li> <li>• George would like metrics for vaccines included on the website.</li> </ul> <p><b>CHEMPACK Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jenn presented the CHEMPACK plan. PHEP requires periodic approval by the BOH. It has not changed since the last BOH approval. It is our plan to get a chempack from our regional center, KRMC, within 12 hours.</li> <li>• Jan stated that KRMC should be updated to Logan Health Hospital.</li> <li>• Sara stated that the CDC owns the chempack and changes it out regularly.</li> <li>• Sara motioned to approve, Jim seconded. Motion passed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Environmental health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update.</li> </ul> <p><b>Solid waste/recycling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update.</li> </ul> <p><b>O&amp;M Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virginia stated that there are 15 active calls, including 13 in Libby and 2 in Troy. These calls include site visits, inspections, abatement work, etc. There is one scheduled abatement for the end of January. Two inspections resulted in no need for removal.</li> </ul>	<p>Update vaccine info on website. Add metrics?</p>
<p><b>5. Focus Area Liaisons</b></p>	<p><b>Asbestos Site:</b> George stated that with Jinn's assistance, we made 2 FOIA requests about 5 months ago. He will be taking a detailed look at the information resulting from these FOIA requests.</p>	

	<p><b>Action Item - Resolution, Effective Date, Property Evaluation Notification (PEN) Regulation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George reminded the Board that they approved the PEN Regulation on March 11<sup>th</sup>. This regulation has been reviewed by EPA, DEQ and their consultants. One provision was a deferment to become effective at a later date because we were not formally in the O&amp;M period. This document is deeply embedded in ICAP and the O&amp;M workplan. It is what Virginia and the ARP have been working under. He is asking for a resolution to make the regulation effective February 1. There is no reason to defer on this any longer.</li> <li>• Jim asked if the document can be changed in the future if it is unworkable for any reason. George answered that it can be changed, with the understanding that it is embedded in other documents.</li> <li>• George motioned to approve, Deb seconded. Unanimous approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Item - Appointment of Liaisons for Superfund Area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George informed the BOH that last Wednesday the commissioners moved the ARP from the BOH to the commissioners. George was appointed to be superfund advisor to this board. Because Mark and George have left the BOH and they were the focus area liaisons under operating procedure #1, George is recommending that the BOH appoint replacements. He suggests Laura and Jim because they represent Libby and Troy.</li> <li>• Laura asked what the liaison position entails. George said that things have tapered off a lot, but he BOH remains responsible for ICs.</li> <li>• Jim and Laura asked to table this topic until February so they could have time to discuss with George. Board agreed.</li> <li>• George stated that in this community, asbestos exposure has killed approximately 400 people and 3000 are afflicted with ARD. There were 40 deaths in 2020 where ARD was a major contributor and in 50% of those deaths, asbestosis was the main contributor. Covid was a factor in four of the deaths.</li> </ul> <p><b>Groundwater Site:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update.</li> </ul>
	<p>Kathi will add signed resolution and regulation to website.</p> <p>Include on February agenda.</p>

<p><b>6. City Representative Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura has no update from Libby.</li> <li>• Jim has no update from Troy.</li> <li>• Deb has no update from Eureka.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Health Officer Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Black stated that we are now concentrating on the biggest health crisis of our lifetimes, but thanks George for his reminder and follow through on asbestos. He stated that this meeting was remarkable and thanks the applicants and everybody who attended for the positive experience. Dr. Black supports Governor Gianforte's new directive which is effective on Friday. Now we need to focus on vaccines. A lot of the people who are hesitant on vaccines want to wait and see. 74,000 people participated in Pfizer and Moderna vaccine trials. Dr. Black asks BOH to become ambassadors of vaccination, which are the only way for us to get back to normal. Studies show how safe and effective those vaccines are.</li> <li>• Deb wants to use caution on vaccine. She stated that there has only been two months of trials when most vaccines take 10-20 years. Also she stated that people can be reinfected. She requests active reporting plans for side effects that people might be having. She doesn't think that vaccines are the answer. Caution would be prudent and appreciated by the community.</li> <li>• Dr. Black suggested that Deb read the vaccine studies. Continued studies will provide more data on longevity and effectiveness of protection from the vaccine. Vaccination is the only method in public health that has really stopped the spread of disease.</li> <li>• Deb states she actually has read the studies and the problem isn't with efficacy, it's the amount of time they've been studied for side effects.</li> <li>• Jenn provided information on V Safe, which is an optional program and an exciting way to track the safety and efficacy of the Covid vaccine on a large scale.</li> <li>• Deb hopes we can encourage people to enroll in that.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Old Business</b></p>	<p><b>Action Item – Proposed Update to Operating Procedure #2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postponed to next BOH Meeting Agenda.</li> </ul>	<p>Include on February agenda</p>
<p><b>9. Public Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim asked to bring up the grading system that he recommended at the last meeting. He brought it up for ideas and comments. People should be able to share ideas without being called names, etc. He has decided to withdraw the suggestion. He also discussed</li> </ul>	

	<p>proper mask use, mask must cover nose and mouth. He stated that he will continue to base his decisions on science.</p> <p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Orr stated that Deb asked questions and Dr. Black recommended that she read vaccine studies. BOH should have recommended that Dr. Black give a presentation on vaccines so people can make informed decisions. Board members should be familiar with by-laws, Montana code, open meeting laws, Board Member Handbook. Objected to Jim Siefert's stated idea that anyone who don't wear a mask don't care about the community.</li> <li>• Trista provided her e-mail (<a href="mailto:tgilmore@libby.org">tgilmore@libby.org</a>) and invited people to e-mail her with vaccine questions. There is a big distinction between Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. mRNA studies have been going on for over a decade. CDC has amazing resources.</li> <li>• Diane Watson questioned when agenda and minutes are posted. It does not make sense to her that questions must be submitted 7 days in advance, but the agenda is posted at least 48 hours in advance. Josh explained 2 separate issues: 7 days is for general questions, but that written questions must be submitted 7 days in advance to determine agenda. But questions on agenda topics can be submitted any time and during public comment. Diane prefers Scott for Eureka rep because he is local and the only one to mention supplements.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Laura made the motion to adjourn, Sara seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM. Next meeting February 9 at 6:00 PM.</p>	

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Health

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Health

2-22-21

Date