

Board of Health Meeting
November 25, 2024
12:00 p.m.
Roosevelt County Conference Room

Voting members attending - Julie Bach, Larry Heater, Gordon Oelkers

Roosevelt County employees attending - Patty Presser, Michelle Barsness, AJ Allen, Amy Keller, Darla Zimmerman, Crystal Decoteau

Absent – Linda Hansen, Dr. Michael Welch, Mike Rinaldi

Call to order - Commissioner Oelkers at 12:00 PM.

Additions to Agenda - None

Conflict of Interest – None

Approval of 9-23-24 Meeting minutes- Julie had a comment about the minutes, currently everyone (7 board members) is a voting member because we have not changed the bylaws yet. Under old business, she is not the chairman of the board, it is Gordon. Gordon asks for a motion to accept, we have 7 voting members, need 2/3 of 7 so we need 5 for a quorum. Bylaws have not been changed yet. With only three members, there was not a quorum.

Old Business - None

New Business On the final agenda for today's meeting, the agenda item "Review bylaws" was removed. Patty made a mistake on the agenda; this is not to be discussed at today's meeting.

Concerning "Deciding whether voting and non-voting members may hold the Chair and Vice-chair positions," discussion ensued. Gordon recommended the 5 voting members vote on the Chair/Vice-chair at the first meeting of each year out of the total 7 members of the Board of Health. Julie said that sounds good. The suggestion will be placed on the next meeting's agenda. Patty is looking for a community member from the east end to join the board. Also, the education person needs to be replaced.

There are other bylaw decisions to make but they will have to wait for next meeting.

Health Officer Report - None

Sanitarian report – None

Tobacco report – AJ Allen – had a lot going on this last quarter. He did the Red Ribbon Run. He went to Helena for 2 meetings, the Tobacco Summit and Highway Transportation Safety Meetings.

The Great American smoke out was last week. The state has made up vaping quit kits. He has handed them out at WP Junior High, Frontier and Poplar HS and Middle School. Unfortunately, none have tried them. He will continue to push that.

At the MTUPP Summit, studies determined that it can take a cigarette smoker 4-5 days to get to a point that they won't relapse, and each day a cigarette smoker can abstain, their odds of relapse become less. If you take the same study for vaping, it takes 14 days to get to that same point. It is much more difficult to quit vaping. Vapes have higher levels of nicotine. The higher the nicotine, the more it acts like a depressant (like alcohol) instead of a stimulant. This is why it's a mental health issue.

Handouts: there is a new list of chemicals in E-cigs, 48-50 items that are cancer causing. Stats from the Highway Safety Meeting show that gabapentin is now 2nd in drug trends. It is typically prescribed to treat nerve pain and seizures.

PHEP report – Michelle Barsness- She and Patty are working on the risk and hazard assessment, which is due in December. They need to establish the top 5 risks. She still needs to do an AAR for respiratory season, things went well. We are currently getting info out on Facebook and social media; Patty is working on getting some help on this from someone with more experience.

Immunization Report- to be covered during Director's report

Communicable Disease- Crystal DeCoteau- Attended a medical staff meeting at Trinity Hospital and handed out communicable disease folders. These contain instructions for outbreaks, latest on vaccinations and basically a yearly update of information and reporting of communicable diseases. She still needs to go to Culbertson. She gave stats on current diseases circulating. Syphilis is up, chlamydia is down by 8%, gonorrhea is down 7% for both Tribal Health and RCHD. There are some cases of covid and 1 influenza, there was pertussis outbreak in Gallatin County, but nothing here yet. We had one rabies exposure, a lot of chronic hepatitis, and outbreaks at Fath Home and Roosevelt Medical Center of COVID.

Director report – Patty Presser – Respiratory Clinics went well; staff gave almost 500 shots in 8 locations. We made use of the Care Van again, we will not do 4 days in a row again. On Narcan, we received an email from Ridgeway Pharmacy, they are offering Narcan at a

discount. We have not received any information from the State that the Narcan program has ended. They are around \$40.

We had a syphilis workshop here in the conference room, people came from other counties. We had a good turnout.

We recently reviewed satisfaction surveys that we have patients fill out. We had 41 total. The top score is four and we had 32 surveys that had all fours. A couple people took points off for timeliness. We can't help a wait if several people walk in at the same time. Patients overall do not like appointments. They did mention that they would like to see some Friday times, so we are looking at doing the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month as walk ins.

On the Crisis Coalition, Fort Peck Tribes are working on a grant to fund a Crisis Mobile Response Unit. They are setting up a subcommittee to look at the logistics of that. We understand that the grant hasn't been fully finalized.

Gordon questioned the use of the tablets that other communities are using, he has shared information about the Avel Program with us before. That idea is still an option, Gordon reports that there will be bills in the legislature this year to develop this new program across the state. This is the same one that they have in Miles City.

On the topic of Narcan he stated that we have opioid money available that we can use to purchase for more Narcan.

Comments – none.

Next Meeting – March 24, 2025.

Motion to Close – was not made.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 pm