

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Present:

Board of Health Members

Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman
Commissioner Brent Mendenhall, Vice Chair / Trustee
Bill Leake
Commissioner Blair Dance,
Commissioner Shayne Young
Commissioner Butts
Dr. Aaron Gardner, MD
Commissioner Leah Madsen, via zoom

Staff Members

Geri Rackow
Amy Gamett
Steven Thomas
Cheryl O'Connell
Kellye Johnson
Erin Probert
James Corbett

1. **Call Board Meeting to Order**

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Bank of Commerce donated \$5,000 to EIPH. The generous donation will be used for colposcopy services for underserved individuals.

2. **Public Comment**

Commissioner Reed addressed one public comment regarding mask requirements at schools.

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

MOTION: Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the January 20, 2022 Consent Agenda.

SECOND: Commissioner Butts

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **COVID-19 Situational Report**

a. Report from Regional Hospitals

Dr. Rachel Gonzales, Madison Memorial Hospital, updated the Board on the current situation on hospitals in our region. COVID admissions are manageable. There is a concern regarding staffing shortages due to COVID illness as well as a nationwide blood shortage.

b. Data Review

Mr. Corbett provided a report on our current COVID-19 situation and data from the Data Dashboard located on the EIPH website. Cases are the rate of hospitalization is not as high as it was during our surge of the Delta variant.

c. Vaccine Update

Ms. Gamett reviewed the most recent update on vaccine.

- Everyone aged 5 years and older is now eligible to receive the vaccine and booster.
- Boosters are Pfizer and Moderna are recommended 5 months following the initial dose; for those who received the Janssen, a booster of Pfizer or Moderna is a recommended after 2 months.
- Definition: "Fully Vaccinated" means a person has had their initial series of COVID-19 vaccine. "Up-to-Date" means a person has had all recommended doses of a vaccine, including boosters.
- In 2020 EIPH administered 961 COVID-19 vaccines; 74,047 were administered in 2021.

5. **Directors Report**

a. Update on Bonneville County Office HVAC Project

Three bids were received for the project. The lowest bid of \$516,000 was accepted; the contractor is B&S Boiler. Unfortunately, the equipment could take up to six months to come in, pushing the project completion as late as the fall.

b. Report on EIPH Challis Building

The building which houses EIPH's office in Challis. The new owners are still unsure what they will be doing with the building; however, they have informed Ms. Rackow they may want to invoke the "Early Termination Clause" in the lease, which requires a two-year written notice of the party's intent to terminate the lease. The Board will need to discuss options for the Challis office if this happens.

c. Staffing Update

- Ms. Rackow introduced Erin Probert as the new WIC Division Administrator. Ms. Probert was previously in the position of WIC Supervisor.
- Esmy Quintero, RN, our public health nurse for Madison County, has recently been reassigned to a temporary assignment related to COVID immunizations. Amy Gamett, Clinical Services Division Administrator, is currently in the process of hiring a temporary nurse to fill the position in Madison County.

d. Change in Employee Compensation Request

- In 2020 the state made a recommendation to increase the salary of some hard to recruit positions. At the time, EIPH, did not have issues with recruitment or retention of the positions and did not implement the increase.
- We are now having difficulties retaining the hiring for Customer Service Representative 2 positions, specifically in the WIC Division.
- Mr. Rackow is requesting a 2% increase to the starting salary of CSR2 position as well as for all current employees in that job classification.

MOTION: Commissioner Butts made a motion to approve the CRS2 increases as presented.

SECOND: Commissioner Dance

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Update on HB316

- The Health Districts are currently working with Idaho Division of Human Resources, the State Controller's Office, the Office of Group Insurance, and PERSI regarding changes that take place on March 1, 2022, due to the implementation of HB316 from the 2021 legislative session.
- Idaho Division of Human Resources will be introducing legislation that will clean up Idaho Code 39-401 and 39-413 which currently require compliance with the State's Personnel system and Human Resources Rules.
- The Health Districts have received notice from Idaho Department of Administration that the Health Districts will no longer be eligible for coverage under the State's Risk Management program. Legal Counsel for the health districts is working with the Department of Administration on this issue. Ms. Rackow reported that options for this insurance are being researched with ICRMP as well as a private provider.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the State Controller's Office and the public health districts is being worked on and should be finalized soon.
- There will be no changes to employees medical, insurance, or retirement benefits.

i. Department of Health & Welfare Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Rackow provided an overview of the MOI that the health districts have been working on with the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, which focuses on programs of joint responsibility between state and local public health (food protection program, swimming pool inspections, and communicable disease control).

MOTION: Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to allow Ms. Rackow to sign into the agreement with the Department of Health and Welfare.

SECOND: Commissioner Young

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. **Review/Approval of EIPH Personnel Policies**

Ms. Rackow reviewed proposed changes to EIPH's Personnel Policies due to the passage of HB316 and answered questions regarding the policies. The policies would go into effect on March 1, 2022. Ms. Rackow plans to meet with employees next week to talk about the policy changes. Once the policies are finalized and approved by the Board of Health, employees will receive the policies and sign an acknowledgement. The Board had discussion on the proposed policies and changes.

MOTION: Commissioner Dance made a motion to allow Ms. Rackow to move forward with the proposed Personnel Policies.

SECOND: Commissioner Butts

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Lunch Break**

7. **Drug Overdose Prevention**

a. **Idaho Opioid Settlement Update**

Ms. Rackow provided an update on the Idaho Opioid Settlement. At the March Board of Health meeting, we will discuss possible uses for the funding.

b. **Narcan Training**

- Mallory Johnson, Health Education Specialist, provided information regarding Drug Overdose Prevention and Response Training that included a review of opioids; safe storage and disposal of opioids; Naloxone; the Idaho Good Samaritan Law; how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose; Opioid Use Disorder and stigma; treatment; and community resources.

8. **COVID-19 Pandemic's impact on EIPH's Preventive Care Service**

Amy Gamett reviewed how EIPH Clinical Services have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

9. **Public Health Preparedness Emergency Response Plan Overview**

Mr. Corbett, Troy Nelson, Mike Taylor, and Mike Winegardner reviewed the Preparedness Emergency Response Plan and the role of EIPH in the plan.

10. **Announcements:**

- The Federal Government is making free COVID-19 home testing kits and higher quality masks available to everyone free of charge.
- Ms. Rackow announced that the Public Health Districts are scheduled to have a brief hearing at the Legislature's Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee on February 14, 2022. At this time, they are not being asked to give a presentation. Jared Tatro, the health district's budget analyst representative from the Legislative Services Office, will be giving a brief report. The district director may be asked to answer questions of the Committee.
- The Governor's budget recommendations included a recommendation to zero out all the funding from the Millennial fund that is currently used for tobacco cessation at the Public Health Districts.

Chairman Reed adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

At the request of Director Rackow, Board members agreed to meet at 9:00 a.m. on February 17, 2022, to finalize all actions relating to the implementation of HB 316 before the effective date of March 1, 2022.



Commissioner Bryon L. Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary