



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 15, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS:

Georgia Hanigan, Commissioner, Payette County – present
Lyndon Haines, Commissioner, Washington County – present
Keri Smith, Commissioner, Canyon County – present
Kelly Aberasturi, Commissioner, Owyhee County – present
Viki Purdy, Commissioner, Adams County – present
Sam Summers, MD, Physician Representative – present
Bryan Elliott, Commissioner, Gem County – not present

STAFF MEMBERS:

In person: Nikki Zogg, Katrina Williams, Halle McDermott, Jeff Renn, Tara Woodward, Charlene Cariou, Josh Campbell, Colt Dickman

Via Zoom: Troy Cunningham, Ashley Anderson, Doug Doney, Chuck Washington

GUESTS: Two members of the public attended the meeting.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Kelly Aberasturi called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Aberasturi – present; Dr. Summers – present; Chairman Elliott – not present;
Commissioner Hanigan – present; Commissioner Purdy – present; Commissioner Haines – present;
Commissioner Smith - present.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Haines made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2022

MOTION: Dr. Summers made a motion to approve the February 24, 2022 Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended the meeting to provide in-person public comment.

March 15, 2022

OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Smith asked for an update on the status of the implementation of youth crisis centers in our region. Nikki explained that the funding approved by the legislature is structured differently than the funding approved for the adult crisis centers. Funding for the adult crisis center was provided incrementally with two centers funded each year until all regions had a crisis center. The request for youth crisis center funding is expected to be out soon for bid solicitation with the long-term goal being for youth crisis centers to be supported under the behavioral health managed care contract that the Department of Health and Welfare is currently negotiating.

Nikki anticipates a group of state and local officials touring the site of the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC). The location is a large campus hosting Juvenile Corrections, Job Corps, and a SWITC residential hospital for children. The property has some unused buildings and under-utilized office space and the state is open to discussions regarding using some of the space for youth crisis centers. Commissioner Smith asked to attend the property tour.

Commissioner Purdy initiated discussion of the statutory authority of health districts to teach sex education courses within schools. She referenced Idaho Statute 33-1608 which indicates that any family life and sex education programs to be introduced into the schools must be approved by the local school board. Commissioner Purdy stated that the health district has no authority to present programs within schools without signed agreements with the respective school board. Charlene Cariou, SWDH Program Manager, responded that SWDH secures Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with each school in which the curriculum is presented. Under these MOUs, Southwest District Health is responding as an invited guest.

Nikki provided follow up information regarding Commissioner Purdy's questions at last month's Board of Health meeting regarding trespassing and referenced the SWDH policy stating that the director has the authority to be able to trespass an individual if they are participating in disruptive activities, deliberately attempting to enter an area not designated for public access, or refusing to comply with procedures and may pose a risk to public health and safety. The policy was approved by the Board of Health in August 2020.

REDUCING THE RISK CURRICULUM

Charlene Cariou, SWDH Program Manager, provided follow up information to Board members regarding the Reducing the Risk Curriculum. Data shows after completing the curriculum, youth report being much more likely to resist or say no to peer pressure, better understand healthy relationships and better handle pressure from someone they are in a relationship with. Data also shows that between 2014 and 2018, the birth rates among teenagers decreased in Canyon County but remained steady in Adams, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington counties.

Charlene explained that SWDH staff do not remove lessons from the curriculum. According to the program adaptation guidebook, removing any of the lessons dilutes the ability to address certain factors and lowers the program's effectiveness.

Survey results completed by student participants are reported through an online survey tool and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare then uses the aggregate data from around the State to report out to the federal funding partner. The data are anonymous and are reported through a secure, confidential reporting site.

March 15, 2022

Charlene presented an updated draft MOU document with a more complete description of the program and outline of the expectations of each school. The fillable template includes logistic information, when classes might start, and primary teacher contact. The MOU also requires the school to state how the curriculum will be provided to parents for review in advance of the curriculum being presented to students.

Board members discussed opt-in and opt-out. The opt-in provides parents the opportunity to actively enroll students in the program. The opt-out approach allows parents to remove the students from receiving the curriculum.

Board members also discussed how to best incorporate the intent of the statute requiring the school boards to approve curriculum. Board members directed Charlene to include language from statutes 33-1608 through 33-1611 in the MOU and to include a place within the MOU for the school to indicate that the school is in compliance and the school board has reviewed the curriculum. A link to the full language of the statutes can be included in the MOU.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the curriculum with the addition of an opt-out form required and with the use of the updated MOU as presented with the exception of including a new paragraph regarding compliance with Idaho Statutes and incorporating language from statutes 33-1608 through 33-1611. Commissioner Haines seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Division administrators introduced new employees.

FEBRUARY 2022 EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORT

Troy Cunningham, SWDH Financial Manager, presented the February 2022 Expenditure and Revenue Report. This month, revenues outpaced expenditures based on receipt of billings from back invoices. Troy explained that in reference to our current revenue percentage, all state appropriation funds have been received. County contributions are slightly down due to the House Bill 316 shift that occurred March 1, 2022. The numbers should start ticking back upward by the end of March. Fees are up higher than the targeted amount and this is largely attributed to the additional work occurring in Environmental Health.

Operating remains low but Troy anticipates some additional expenditures to come through over the remaining months of this fiscal year to balance that out. Nikki explained that capital outlay is impacted by several projects that were budgeted but cannot be completed due to labor or material shortage.

Vice-Chairman Aberasturi noted that the financial reports indicate SWDH is about 7% behind on funding and asked if those revenues will pick up. Troy explained that much of the revenue revolves around specific activities. Due to the federal subgrant through Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) those activities are reimbursement driven. As an example, if the work is not being completed and the expenditure is not being incurred then revenue falls behind at the same pace.

QUARTERLY CONTRACTS UPDATE

Troy Cunningham provided an update on contracts and new revenues. Commissioner Smith asked for clarification regarding the Regional Behavioral Health Board funds and how those funds will be

March 15, 2022

administered. Nikki explained that the contract is still in place. When the contract is terminated the monthly payments will cease.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO) REPORT

Ashley Anderson, SWDH Public Information Officer, provided an update to Board members. The PIO team utilized a media campaign in English and Spanish across the region to increase awareness regarding the current Syphilis outbreak and to promote testing services. The funding for this campaign was jointly through IDHW and a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Ashley also provided Board members an overview of digital media campaign analytics and explained that February was a high month for impressions.

STATE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH (SALBOH) GUIDANCE

Board members discussed participation in SALBOH, which is an arm of the National Association of Local Board of Health (NALBOH). Historically, our agency has been a member of NALBOH. Several years ago when NALBOH was struggling, SWDH suspended its agency membership. The Idaho Association of District Boards of Health (IADBH) continued with its NALBOH membership and has a representative on SALBOH. Nikki explained the ask of the district directors is to reach out to each district's Boards of Health to see if any board members are interested in serving as the SALBOH representative for IADBH.

Board members provided guidance to Nikki to support the IADBH membership in NALBOH. Nikki will pass this information along to the District Director group. Nikki explained that this membership is driven by individuals with a passion for engaging in national level public health. Steve Scanlin and Representative Megan Blanksma have been in that position or back-up position in the past. Dr. Summers shared that the state organization membership helps facilitate that national engagement which can then trickle down to individual health districts. Nikki indicated that district directors acknowledge that ensuring information trickles down in a timely manner is a gap. Due to the gap in meeting times, actionable items and time-sensitive information are not conveyed in a timely manner.

Commissioner Smith agrees we should have a seat at the table and participate. Nikki explained the value of hearing from a peer perspective how other health districts and health departments are being governed. Commissioner Hanigan will be representing the voice of the SWDH Board at the upcoming IADBH executive committee meeting and will convey that Board members have potential interest in being that representative.

YOUTH RECEPTION CENTERS

The workgroup discussing the youth reception centers has been discussing how organizations can apply for this funding and how it can support the community. Nikki provided an overview of the concept of the reception centers. The goal of these centers is to provide a single point of contact for youth who are at risk of going into the justice or child welfare systems and provide a location where these youth can receive a screening, an assessment, and receive referrals or connections to other resources including local police, juvenile justice, schools, and parents.

The funding is not large enough to support each community. These reception centers will fill an important role in the behavioral health system and will offer early intervention services and support for high-risk youth and their families. Each community cannot financially support their own hub. By utilizing existing resources functioning under a hub and spoke type model, an organization serving as the hub

March 15, 2022

would receive the funding and provide youth assessments and case management. They would also subgrant or partner with other organizations across the region to serve as spokes. These organizations would provide screenings and referral to assessment centers as needed. Areas with no existing organizations to provide the resources could benefit from SWDH satellite offices which are located in four of its six counties.

Board members discussed sustainability concerns and asked if the district considers applying for these funds without knowing the sustainability piece, could we go back to the State legislature and request continued funding through IDOC or Child Welfare to help achieve outcomes in that group.

Board members agree the crisis centers will help meet an immediate need for the youth. If the funding becomes unavailable the program would need to be scaled back. Commissioner Smith suggested ensuring program providers and participants understand that if the funding goes away the program goes away.

Nikki explained there are existing agencies in our communities – Nampa Family Justice Center, Advocates against Family violence, who might be able to implement some of the youth reception centers with limited cost due to pre-existing infrastructure.

Board members provided guidance to Nikki to plan to work with partners to move forward and keep the board informed if it appears there will be any commitment on the part of SWDH. There may also be other community partners interested in applying for the funding.

IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS OF HEALTH (IADBH) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Southwest District Health staff prepared and updated drafts of several resolutions to present at the upcoming IADBH annual meeting.

988 Suicide Hotline and Suicide Prevention Sustainability

Nikki asked for board member input on supporting the continued funding for suicide prevention methods. Dr. Summers commented that Idaho is near the top of national suicide rates.

MOTION: Dr. Summers made a motion to move forward with supporting the resolution for 988 Suicide Hotline and Suicide Prevention sustainability. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

Food Establishment License Fees

In 2016 and 2017, the districts worked to get the statutorily set fee for food inspections that affect food safety removed from Idaho Statute. The fees were not removed from statute, but health districts did implement a tiered fee structure. Nikki explained that going back to when the food protection program was first established in Idaho, there was a handshake agreement between industry, state legislature, and counties that costs would be born 1/3 between industry, state government, and county government. This agreement means that 2/3 of the fees are being subsidized by taxpayers. With the change of funding under House Bill 316 and the full burden put on counties, Nikki asked if Board members want the difference to be made up by counties or do they support removing the fee from statute and establishing fees based on cost.

March 15, 2022

Board members disagree with using property tax dollars to subsidize individual business licenses and fees. The requirement is for one annual inspection. The gold standard is at least two annual inspections with more than that for higher risk establishments. For example, a sushi restaurant is higher risk for foodborne illnesses than a movie theater.

The fees that are set in statute cover approximately one-third of our costs for the food inspection program. Our district contributes about \$250,000 to support this program. This resolution would assist with removing the fee from statute to cover costs.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith made a motion to move forward with supporting the Food Establishment License Fee Resolution to remove the food inspection fee from Idaho Statute. Commissioner Haines seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

Vaping Prevention

This year the Governor removed 100% of the Millenium Fund appropriation. The board members and legislators worked with Milennium Fund Committee members and the Committee reinstated the health district appropriation and expressed confidence in health districts to implement these programs and added additional funding for health districts to pilot a curriculum to prevent vaping in youth. Nikki asked for support from Boards to ask for continued funding next year.

Typically, our district has received between \$125,000-\$130,000 to support cessation services. The additional grant allocates less than \$500,000 to be shared by all 7 districts and it will be split equally. This amount would support a part-time staff person to provide education. Charlene anticipates working with schools within the region to provide an evidence-based vaping prevention program. Currently, there are five contractors throughout our region providing cessation classes.

Board members suggested a resolution to encourage legislators to consider tobacco and vaping taxes. Nikki will ask Charlene and her team to draft a resolution around vaping tax. Commissioner Haines thought one had been brought forward previously so the language may be already available.

Action item: Charlene and her team will provide a draft resolution encouraging parity of tobacco and vaping product taxing.

MOTION: Commissioner Purdy made a motion to move forward with supporting the resolution to combat youth vaping. Dr. Summers seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

Age of legal access and use of Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*)

This resolution requests that the age to have access and to use Kratom products be moved to 21 years of age. Kratom functions similar to opioids and there is risk for addiction and dependence. At low dose there are not many concerning impacts. High dose effects include nausea, itching, sweating, increased heart rate, and does have the ability to be addictive. Deaths directly related to Kratom have been reported based on a 2019 study reviewing overdose deaths between 2016 and 2019.

Tara Woodward, Health Education Specialist, Sr., explained the basis for this resolution is that Kratom is unregulated and is accessible in herbal stores and smoke shops. Young people are not prevented from purchasing and using the substance.

March 15, 2022

MOTION: Dr. Summers made a motion to move forward with supporting the resolution to increase the age for access and use of Kratom to 21 years of age. Commissioner Haines seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual Director's Evaluation and Compensation Discussion

Nikki's annual evaluation is coming up. She asked for board member input. Board members agree input from Nikki's direct reports is helpful. Nikki will work with Sarah Price, HR Manager, to facilitate that process. The compensation piece will be discussed in the future. Nikki will come prepared with information regarding her current rate of pay and with percentages of increase options.

Legislative Update

Currently, two house bills were introduced by Division of Human Resources (DHR) to clarify language around the public health districts and the relationship with the State and DHR following the passing of House Bill 316. One of those clean up bills has been amended to include language that public health districts will continue to have access to State Risk Management which should resolve the last outstanding issue. This bill has been passed by the House and Senate. Following its amendment it was going back for concurrent recommendation. It will require that we have a loss control policy in place which we already have but the State may have more robust policy requirements.

In addition, a house bill to not require proof of vaccination for employees, specifically government employees, would have had a potential impact on public health districts. That bill died. A new bill was introduced specific to COVID vaccinations, and is not as concerning.

A house bill on mask mandates was introduced which would require that health districts not be allowed to require masks in certain provision of care circumstances.

Behavioral Health Board Update

The Executive Committee of the Behavioral Health Board met last week and reviewed a code of conduct complaint filed by SWDH. Nikki expects an executive session at the upcoming Behavioral Health Board meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nikole Zogg
Secretary to the Board

Approved as written:



Bryan Elliott
Chairman

Date: April 26, 2022