



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS:

Georgia Hanigan, Commissioner, Payette County – present
Lyndon Haines, Commissioner, Washington County – present via Zoom
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 – present

STAFF MEMBERS:

In person: Nikki Zogg, Katrina Williams, Josh Campbell, Colt Dickman, Doug Doney

Via Zoom: Troy Cunningham, Ashley Anderson, Jeff Renn

GUESTS: No members of the public attended the meeting.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Bryan Elliott called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Aberasturi – present; Dr. Summers – present; Chairman Elliott – present; Commissioner Hanigan – present; Commissioner Purdy – present; Commissioner Haines – present via Zoom; Commissioner Smith – present.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Elliott asked for additional agenda items. Board members have no additional agenda items or changes to the agenda. Nikki asked that the Youth Behavioral Health Update topic be changed from an Informational item to a Guidance item.

MOTION: Dr. Summers made a motion to approve the agenda with the revision Nikki requested. Commissioner Hanigan 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.

OPEN DISCUSSION

No topics for open discussion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – MAY 24, 2022

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Division administrators introduced new employees.

MAY 2022 EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORT

Troy Cunningham, SWDH Financial Manager, presented the May 2022 Expenditure and Revenue Report. The target for this point in the fiscal year is approximately 91.6%. Troy anticipates requesting a carryover in committed funds and will know more as the fiscal year reaches its final closure in a few days.

In the revenue category, state appropriated general funds are at 100% as county contributions adjust to post-House Bill 316 levels and are expected to stay on target during fiscal year 2023. Fee revenues have been above the anticipated projections. Contract revenues are slightly behind but are expected to pick up toward June.

QUARTERLY CONTRACTS UPDATE

Troy Cunningham presented Board members with the quarterly update on contract revenue sources. Commissioner Smith asked if there is overlap between the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) and the work that CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) does? Nikki clarified that the CRP falls under federal requirements and is meant to review cases of children who are in foster care for more than 180 days and work to identify ways to prevent those long stays in the foster care system.

Dr. Summers asked if there are metrics to gauge the performance of these contracts. Nikki explained the contracts each have a scope of work with required deliverables as well as defined performance monitoring metrics. Continued receipt of these contract funds indicates satisfactory performance.

PIO QUARTERLY UPDATE

Ashley Anderson, Public Information Officer, provided an update on SWDH's social media presence, strategy, and tools. Ashley noted the recent website domain change for SWDH. Both domains remain active and will eventually migrate to using swdh.id.gov.

Ashley explained the use of Sprout Media, a tool to manage social media presence and build and grow relationships across multiple platforms, and highlighted its capabilities and data collection features. She also shared information about new web pages on the SWDH site highlighting available contract opportunities and some updates to the Human Resources page to help boost recruitment and hiring efforts.

INFANT FORMULA SHORTAGE UPDATE

Emily Geary, Program Manager, provided information regarding the current formula shortage and how the Women Infant Children (WIC) program can assist. The shortage began in February when some powdered formula was recalled and a formula plant closed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture responded quickly to ensure WIC clients had access to information regarding the recall. Southwest District Health staff helped clients identify recalled formula and helped connect families with safe formula. At the peak of the formula shortage, staff were assisting approximately 20 families per day. Today, SWDH receives constant communication from the Idaho WIC program and clients receive information through the WIC shopper app.

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The formula plant has reopened and SWDH continues to have 1-2 families per day that need help finding formula. Specialty infant formulas continue to be difficult to find. Emily anticipates the formula shortage will continue through approximately August and SWDH staff are ready to continue to assist families with navigating the shortage. The availability of formula on store shelves continues to improve.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY PROTOCOL LETTER REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Nikki Zogg presented a draft letter written in response to discussion at the May Board of Health meeting regarding masking requirements at long-term care and skilled nursing facilities and the impact on staff, residents, and residents' families. Idaho Code allows these facilities to request a variance to a requirement with the stipulation that facilities develop methods to ensure the health and wellness of their staff and residents are not compromised. Nikki drafted the letter in a manner to highlight concerns that have been raised and ask that variance requests be given thorough consideration and granted when possible.

Board members discussed concerns and questions. Commissioner Purdy shared that she has visited with long-term care facility staff unwilling to come forward to share their challenges for fear of losing their job. Commissioner Smith asked if SWDH staff will reach out to these facilities to provide assistance with requesting a variance. Nikki responded that the SWDH infectious disease epidemiologist maintains regular contact with these facilities and can share these letters. Facilities can determine whether variance requests are in the best interest of their staff and residents. Southwest District Health staff can be available to help develop disease control strategies.

Nikki asked for clarification on whether the Board requests two letters be drafted or whether a letter similar to the one sent to Governor Little can be sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

MOTION: Commissioner Purdy made a motion to approve sending the letter to Governor Little and sending a similar letter to CMS requesting the same considerations for long-term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities. Commissioner Haines seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORIES AND ORDERS

Public health district directors across the state have been in conversations with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) regarding some requested changes to the posting procedures for health advisories for harmful algal blooms (HABs) at recreational bodies of water. There are several public bodies of water in SWDH's six-county region that typically have HABs each year.

Nikki explained that the directors have also had discussions within the context of a statute change that occurred last year instituting new processes for executing public health orders that impact an entire county population. Under the statute change, orders governing an entire county require review and response by that county's Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) within a 7-day time frame and are then valid for a thirty-day time period. Public health advisories are issued within the discretion of the health district director. Examples of topics for health advisories issued through the health district include HABs, extreme heat, West Nile virus, rabid bat, and Hanta virus. The advisories are designed to make people aware of the health threat and provide recommendations on how to avoid being impacted.

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Nikki asked for Board member guidance on whether advisories need Board approval prior to being issued due to advisories being perceived as orders. The concern is that if advisories are perceived as orders despite not technically being an order should the Board approve release of advisories in advance. Dr. Summers pointed out that waiting for Board approval prior to issuing an advisory would potentially cause delays in sending out the advisory. Commissioner Purdy asked if notice could be sent to the Commissioners in the county impacted by the advisory.

Board members did not make a motion but did provide guidance to observe statutory stipulations for issuance of any orders and continue to issue advisories as needed and as SWDH has historically done.

MOTION: None.

YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UPDATE

Prior to sharing updates on SWDH's efforts around youth behavioral health, Nikki shared an update on a \$7,000 award from United Way of Treasure Valley to pilot a project to ensure adults in crisis have a safe place to leave children they are responsible for while seeking care. The pilot project may allow for the scope to broaden to provide childcare for people who are needing medical care of behavioral health services and who have childcare challenges. Nikki used the example of a client seeking an annual women's well check exam, treatment for dialysis, or STD testing appointment. Nikki expects to reach out to other health care partners to see if they are willing to help fund the pilot project.

In the realm of youth behavioral health, Southwest District Health staff applied for and received a Safe Teen Assessment Center (STAC) grant in the amount of \$1.5 million. This funding is to help reduce juvenile justice and child welfare involvement by improving coordination and enhancing capacity and support for youth and families. Recruitment for a project manager position is in process. The position will oversee the implementation of the Safe Teen Assessment Center model. Funding to support the position will come from SWDH's COVID-19 funding award; therefore, 100% of the STAC grant funding can be used to implement the model through existing organizations across the region.

Nominations for the STAC Advisory Committee are being accepted and solicitations for case management and assessment services are in process. The \$1.5 million will be utilized as pass-through funds to community organizations and behavioral health providers across the region SWDH serves and will stay local. Southwest District Health will serve as the backbone organization much like our function for the Western Idaho Community Crisis Center (WIDCCC) and will provide administrative support, managing the funding, and ensure there is a consistent system to provide these services across the six counties.

Nikki also provided an update on the youth crisis center. Currently, SWDH is awaiting a funding opportunity from the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections that should be released by the July Board of Health meeting date. Nikki asked for guidance from Board members to ensure she moves forward in alignment with the Board members' interests. The youth collaborative is comprised of approximately 30 members including representatives of most youth advocacy organizations across the region, and acknowledges the need for a youth crisis center. Nikki is still unclear which agencies may be interested in applying for the funding and has heard that at least two organizations would likely express interest in operating the youth crisis center.

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Board members directed Nikki to check if other entities are interested in being the applicant and taking the lead or if their preference is to be a subcontractor similar to WIDCCC. Board members agree the work is needed. If other entities are interested in being the lead, SWDH staff members will be available to support and collaborate. If no other entities want to be the lead backbone, Board members support SWDH submitting a proposal in response to the RFP.

SAFE TEEN ASSESSMENT CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nikki asked for board member guidance for selection of safe teen assessment center advisory committee members in alignment with the national model which is similar to the adult crisis center's advisory committee. In the grant, positions on the advisory committee include representatives for youth or family with youth, juvenile justice, education, child welfare, courts, behavioral health, law enforcement or school resource officer, and the operator of the assessment center or member-at-large for a total of nine positions to fill.

While recruitment for a project manager position is underway, this advisory committee will help continue forward progress for next steps including completion of a self-assessment, a resource inventory, and identification or screening and assessment tools that will be implemented across the region to ensure consistency. Board members expressed concerns about compiling the advisory committee prior to the project manager being hired.

Nikki suggested nominating these applicants to the advisory committee and also working to identify some interim positions to fill with individuals recommended by the youth collaborative participants. Board members asked about the advisory committee applicants living outside of the area and expressed concerns about out-of-state or area committee members' ability to participate fully in the committee. Nikki noted that one of the out-of-area applicants are likely applying to help gather information for their own districts' efforts. Another individual from out of state is a former SWDH employee and still does a lot of behavioral health-based contract work in Idaho.

Commissioner Smith asked if Nikki can send out recommendations following review of the applicants or can the board just provide Nikki direction to assemble a competent advisory committee and have the Board ratify it at the next meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith made a motion to direct Nikki to assemble a Safe Teen Assessment Center Advisory Committee and bring it for ratification at the next Board of Health meeting. Dr. Summers seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

BOARD OF HEALTH POSITION ELECTIONS

Board of Health leadership position terms expire at the end of June. Currently, Commissioner Elliott serves as Chairman, Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi serves as Vice-Chairman, and Commissioner Hanigan serves as Trustee.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith made a motion to have existing board leadership remain in their positions for another one-year term. Dr. Summers seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

BOARD OF HEALTH TERM EXPIRATIONS

Nikki shared that term renewals for Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Hanigan have been unanimously approved by all six counties SWDH serves.

SWDH LOCATIONS

Leadership team members have discussed the best use of the Caldwell facility, the shifting of positions and recent reorganizations in different parts of the building. For example, clinic services has downsized and the Environmental Health team has expanded. Facility modifications are being investigated but are cost prohibitive. During these discussions on how to best accommodate existing teams and future activities, Nikki has challenged teams to think about how the other SWDH facilities can be best used to maximize that space as the outlying communities are growing. There may be an opportunity for staff to have a more permanent presence in those satellite locations and allow SWDH to decentralize services. Team members have also discussed the under-utilization of satellite office locations.

Nikki asked Board members how they want to be involved in conversations regarding SWDH locations and the centralization or decentralization of services. Dr. Summers explained that for strict clinic purposes and client accessibility a site in Nampa and in Caldwell would be more efficient. Board members support having an architect reassess use of the clinic area if the space is underutilized for clinic services.

There may be some co-location options and ways to identify communities and areas that would benefit from SWDH being more accessible. Board members acknowledged there may be better locations across the region to best serve the communities. Board members also indicated they would prefer to make the Caldwell facility work but would be open to co-locating or renting with a partner for a short-term basis and acknowledge the importance of maximizing the use of our existing facilities in other counties.

BIANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD OF HEALTH BYLAWS

Nikki presented the SWDH Board of Health Bylaws for their biannual review. Nikki made a few changes to remove the delegated authority and to correct a typo on the statute code cited.

MOTION: Commissioner Purdy made a motion to accept the Board of Health bylaws with the changes presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Partnership for Success Grant

Nikki provided an update on the Partnerships for Success (PFS) Grant. The PFS grant is a federal grant managed by the Office of Drug Policy (ODP). The funding is intended to support the priorities and strategic plans relating to youth substance use prevention of the Regional Behavioral Health Boards across the state. The ODP subgranted funding to each of the public health district to carry out the scope of work with input and collaboration from each district's respective public health district. Following SWDH's termination of the contract with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) to provide the administrative and fiduciary support to the Region 3 Behavioral Health Board (R3BHB), the Chairperson of the R3BHB sent a memo to ODP indicating SWDH is in violation of the terms of the PFS grant. Following this communication with the R3BHB, ODP made changes to the grant language to list the R3BHB as subrecipient and SWDH as the fiduciary agent.

While this issue is being worked out, SWDH is continuing to perform PFS-related work. Nikki explained that this grant funding supports one position within the organization that could likely be funded through other sources, but SWDH would really like to continue the work of this grant and not lose the funding.

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Board members expressed concern about SWDH's fiscal liability and risk regarding a multi-partner contract if the revised contract is executed as currently drafted. There is also concern regarding how the R3BHB would be able to meet the terms of the contract as the sub-recipient when the R3BHB has no ability, as we understand, to hire and pay staff to carry out the work of the contract.

This grant expires in June, 2023. Board members asked if the fiduciary responsibility for the PFS grant could be transferred to IDHW and suggested Nikki approach ODP to inquire. Board members recommended that SWDH no longer participate in the PFS grant if the R3BHB is the sub-recipient.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nikole Zogg
Secretary to the Board

Approved as written:



Bryan Elliott
Chairman

Date: July 26, 2022