



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 26, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS:

Georgia Hanigan, Commissioner, Payette County – present via Zoom
Lyndon Haines, Commissioner, Washington County – present
Keri Smith, Commissioner, Canyon County – present
Kelly Aberasturi, Commissioner, Owyhee County – excused
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, Mitch Kiester, Ricky Bowman, Cate Lewis, Brandon VanSlochteren

Via Zoom: Troy Cunningham, Ashley Anderson, Jeff Renn, Doug Doney

GUESTS: One member of the public attended the meeting.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Bryan Elliott called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Aberasturi – not present; Dr. Summers – present; Chairman Elliott – present; Commissioner Hanigan – present via Zoom; Commissioner Purdy – present; Commissioner Haines – present; 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: Commissioner Haines made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT

One member of the public attended but did not provide in-person public comment.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Board members had no topics for open discussion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 28, 2022

Board members reviewed meeting minutes from the meeting held June 28, 2022.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the June 28, 2022 Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Summers seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

No new employees were introduced.

JUNE 2022 EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORT

Troy Cunningham, SWDH Financial Manager, presented the June 2022 Expenditure and Revenue Report. The target at this point in the fiscal year is 100% for revenues and expenditures. Troy pointed out that revenues exceed expenditures by approximately \$300,000. Troy explained this is largely due to delayed reimbursement from the Coronavirus Fund Appropriation Committee (CFAC) where costs were incurred in FY21 but reimbursed in FY22. Troy anticipates requesting a carryover in committed funds at the August Board meeting.

Revenue comparison between FY21 and FY22 indicates we are very close to the position we were in last year as it relates to fees and contract revenue. Troy also explained that the legislative government investment pool shows the return was higher than the previous year. This is due to increased interest rates.

Troy answered questions regarding restricted funds for the Western Idaho Community Crisis Center (WIDCCC), Citizen Review Panel (CRP), and the Region 3 Behavioral Health Board (BHB). The CRP funds are ongoing funds, and those monies carry over and are not returned. The BHB funds will remain until expended for some aspect of behavioral health related work. Nikki explained that when CFAC funds first became available, healthcare organizations were allowed to request grant funds to make facility modifications or purchase personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies so they could continue to see patients. Lifeways, the contractor managing the WIDCCC, requested and received funds but did not utilize them. Troy is working to identify how to return the WIDCCC funds.

SAFE TEEN ASSESSMENT CENTER (STAC) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the Board of Health meeting held in June, Nikki presented the advisory committee applications received for the Safe Teen Assessment Center Advisory Committee. The board directed Nikki to review those applications and come back to the Board with a recommendation. Nikki reported the applications have been reviewed and the out-of-area applicants are not included in the recommendations to the Board. Nikki is working to identify a law enforcement or school resource officer representative to add to the committee. She asked Board members to review the existing nominations and ratify the committee. Commissioner Smith knows several of the proposed committee members and supports those nominated. Nikki noted that the advisory committee is also seeking a youth preferably with experience in either the juvenile justice system or child welfare system. The committee will work to ensure the meetings are at a time that will not be a conflict with school obligations.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith made a motion to ratify the list of recommended advisory committee nominees as presented. Commissioner Haines seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passes.

MONKEYPOX UPDATE

Cate Lewis, SWDH epidemiologist, provided an overview on the monkeypox virus and efforts to prepare for cases within our district. The virus, from the orthopox family, spreads mainly through direct contact with infectious rashes or scabs of an infected person. Touching items such as bedding, clothing or towels that have previously touched an infected person's lesions may also transmit the virus. The virus can also transmit from mother to fetus en utero. Lastly, there is a potential for droplet spread but close, prolonged, direct exposure would be required.

To date, Idaho has had two cases of monkeypox. Both cases were travel related – one domestic and one international. Monkeypox lasts between two to four weeks and most people recover on their own without the need for medical intervention.

When SWDH receives a call from a provider with a symptomatic patient, staff will collaborate with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) to determine whether commercial testing or testing through Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) is appropriate. Following positive lab confirmation, epidemiologists will reach out to the patient, identify close contacts, and arrange for post exposure prophylaxis likely at Central District Health as they have the resources to administer vaccine five days a week. The vaccine is a 2-dose series given four weeks apart. Currently, SWDH has five doses available, and we expect 46 more vials in the next few weeks. Cate clarified that the amount of vaccine that each health district receives is based on population. Following vaccination, SWDH staff will monitor the health status of individuals for 21 days.

NUTRIENT POLLUTION

Brandon VanSlochteren, Environmental Health Specialist, provided an update on nutrient pollution and eutrophication. Brandon explained that eutrophication means to be over supplied with nutrients and causes water systems over time to go from clear blue water to greenish looking water. This process occurs naturally and may result in blue green algae blooms, foul smell and taste of water, and toxic compound production in the water.

Potential pollutants can be natural such as native soil organic matter or can be cultural such as fertilizers, livestock manure, feedlots, or septic systems. Septic systems are considered a mini point source for nutrient pollution when small septic leeches and failed systems impact water sources.

Commissioner Smith asked about the potential impact of the current development pressure around Lake Lowell. Brandon explained that the dumping of nutrients into the water system increases as more humans live within close proximity of the lake and increases the eutrophication. Colt Dickman, Environmental and Community Health Services Division Administrator, added that the septic systems play a small role in this. Most of the nutrient pollution comes from agricultural run-off.

This process happens when nutrients enter into an aquatic system, whether man made or natural. Brandon explained that throughout SWDH's region, murkier water is being noted and algal blooms exist where they did not previously exist. Brandon also discussed phosphorus which, unlike nitrogen, is not taken out of the atmosphere by plants to use for their own purpose. Plants do not absorb phosphorus. Phosphorus stays in a solid state as it moves throughout its cycle. Phosphorus is moved naturally

through uplift from movement of dirt and mudslides. Humans impact the phosphorus movement through digging for development. Animal decomposition increases phosphorus as well.

To help reduce nutrient pollution, Brandon suggested that point sources can be identified, outreach and education can be provided to communities and homeowners, and recommendations from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) can be followed. In addition, ensuring appropriate septic setbacks are maintained will help.

Board members asked about septic system options to remove phosphorus. Brandon explained that none of the DEQ approved systems available to homeowners actively treat phosphates partially due to the solid nature of phosphorus. Several companies are working to market a drip-line system to help remove phosphorus by allowing it to leech out into the grass much like a garden's drip system.

Nikki asked how conversations around land use planning and coordination can be facilitated to help guide decisions for planning and zoning approvals. Colt responded that his staff have worked with Washington County and Canyon County to help initiate that discussion piece and build an engagement model. Colt asked Board members to provide feedback to Nikki, Mitch, or him for tips about their individual county engagement as staff work toward building out an engagement plan.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM RESPONSE UPDATE

Colt Dickman, Environmental and Community Health Services Division Administrator, provided two resources for harmful algal bloom information. An interactive map through DEQ is available to show testing locations and areas where toxin thresholds have been exceeded. The other resource is a map of recreational water advisories available through IDHW. Links to these two resources will be added to the Southwest District Health's website. Colt explained that Board members can direct their constituents to these interactive maps to help identify testing sites and positive confirmations of algal blooms.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Idaho Association of Public Health District Directors (IAPHDD) Update

Following the recent in-person public health district directors' meetings, Nikki updated Board members on several topics. The group discussed developing a strategy to adopt formulas to set food fees if the public health districts (PHDs) are successful in getting fees pulled out of statute. From an industry perspective, consistency across the state is typically preferred. The PHDs will work to come to agreement on a methodology for setting fees so each district is looking at the same factors even though the cost may be different. Nikki will be engaging with Board members in future Idaho Association of District Boards of Health Executive Council meetings. In addition, directors will be meeting with Seth Grigg from Idaho Association of Counties to collaborate on this effort.

Secondly, the directors met with State Risk Management. There were some concerns that following House Bill 316 the opportunity to continue using State Risk Management may be in jeopardy and alternative options would cost significantly more. Legislation has been put in place to ensure that the public health districts continue to have access to the state risk management policy. As part of this continued relationship, public health districts will be required to adopt a loss control policy and put tracking mechanisms in place to ensure training is current. Southwest District Health has a loss control

policy in place but will be updating it to come into compliance and reduce our risk to the organization and to the risk management provider.

Lastly, the group met with the Governor's office about priorities for the coming year related to health. One priority is health care staffing. The Governor's office has created an advisory committee of stakeholders from medical providers and insurance companies to help address provider shortages. Another priority is ensuring individuals have access to medical insurance. Nikki explained that under the federal COVID-19 public health emergency declaration, Medicaid eligibility broadened to allow more individuals to enroll. This expanded eligibility will expire. The Governor's Office is not sure on the status of approximately 120,000 individuals who may lose coverage when the emergency declaration expires. The Governor's Office is also preparing for some additional Roe v. Wade follow-up as legislators begin to explore different bill options in response to the recent Supreme Court decision. Nikki anticipates some Roe v. Wade related bills being introduced during the next legislative session.

The remaining priorities discussed are availability to affordable childcare and funding for behavioral health care. The Behavioral Health Council will be submitting requests for funding such as the Safe Teen Assessment Center (STAC).

Youth Crisis Center

This grant application has not yet been received. Several facilities have become options for physical locations in Nampa and in Caldwell. Tours are scheduled for each facility. Nikki followed up on conversations from past Board meetings where Board members expressed interest in working to build spaces where youth can safely gather and hang out. Nikki has initiated conversations with several Boys and Girls Clubs and Treasure Valley YMCA staff to help explore these options. Nikki will keep Board members updated on anything new that develops out of those conversations.

Partnership for Success Grant

The recently revised contract for this grant was received from the Office of Drug Policy (ODP) and has two areas of concern. The first is that the contract keeps SWDH as a fiduciary agent but shifts responsibility for carrying out the work to the R3BHB leading to concerns to about ensuring that work is carried out. The other area of concern is that the new contract revision added R3BHB as a signatory as well. Legal counsel for SWDH and the SWDH team met with ODP director, legal counsel, and program manager and wording changes were made to be consistent with the previous contract. These changes require a letter from the R3BHB indicating their willingness to collaborate and partner with SWDH to ensure this grant work is done. Nikki will meet with the Behavioral Health Board to request their support to ensure the work is carried out.

Long-Term Care Facilities Letters to Governor Little and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Nikki informed Board members that she sent letters to Governor Little and IDHW as Board members requested. She received an acknowledgement of receipt from both offices. In addition, SWDH staff have received one request from a skilled nursing care facility asking for assistance with submitting a waiver. Southwest District Health staff reached out to the licensing body at IDHW and were told that waivers for health-related requirements could not be requested. These waiver pursuits seem to be new and may require reaching out with technical assistance and perhaps reaching out to other states who have pursued similar routes to inquire about successful methods.

September Board of Health Meeting Date Change

The date currently set for the September Board of Health meeting conflicts with the date for the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) fall conference. Board members discussed other dates and agreed to change the meeting to Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Katrina will update the meeting calendar posted to the website and will issue an updated calendar invitation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nikole Zogg
Secretary to the Board

Approved as written:



Bryan Elliott
Chairman

Date: August 23, 2022