

BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD



Members

BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD MINUTES March 17, 2025 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lawrence Big Hair at 10:05am on 3/17/2025.

Microsoft Teams link

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Meeting ID: 271 654 346 261

Passcode: Zr72Gx33

2. Roll Call

Board Members:

Lawrence Bighair, George Real Bird, Larry Vandersloot, Paula Small-Plenty, Kelsey Torske

Reporting Staff:

Megan Spry, Kelsey Roebling, Antonio Espinoza, Alyssa Pitsch, Peri Schenderline

3. Review / Approval of Minutes

Initial motion to approve minutes from meeting on 12/6/2024 made by Paula Small-Plenty, with second by Kelsey Torske. Minutes passed as is 10:07am on 3/17/2025.

Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes 12/06/2024

4. County Sanitarian Report

Megan Spry - Environmental Health Director / Sanitarian:

End of year 2024 report: 6 Septic install inspections done. 2 subdivision reviews. 100% of inspections were complete.

2025 report:

25% of inspections are completed for equal funding throughout the year. Working on a couple of subdivision reviews. Putting together the County Planning Board. Waiting on two nominations from the Board of Commissioners to complete the board. Complete draft of the bylaws for the planning board. Once people are on the board, they will elect officers for that board. 6-8 truck wrecks on dry roads since the last meeting. Donation to food bank from the wrecks. Would like the board of health to consider a health order under the 50 codes for standards of living in Big Horn county. Under this order, it would allow an authorized professional to go in and inspect for bed bugs after a complaint. If the inspector finds proof of bed bug infestation, they would require extermination of the bed bugs. No regulation at the State level, but there have been bed bug concerns throughout the county. This duty would be regulated by the county Health Board. Section 8 housing does provide some type of regulations for housing. Unfortunately, the complaints are becoming more frequent. Most complaints are from unregulated complexes. Megan will create a draft of regulations and roles of responsible

parties to enforce the regulations. After the draft is complete she will share this with Jeanne Torske (county attorney) and the members of Big Horn County Board of Health to review and discuss. Once the final draft is complete, the members of the Big Horn County Board of Health will be asked to pass this order.

Discussion of the need for Bed Bug regulations:

There have been multiple complaints of bed bug infestations in Big Horn county.

Kelsey Torske: who will be responsible for inspections? Megan Spry: either a certified inspector or Environmental Health have provided those services in other counties. It is at the cost of the landlord for these services to be provided. Other places do have a fund to support these services. Kelsey Torske: would these services be available for individuals who own their own home? Megan Spry: no, this would be for rental properties.

Paula Small-Plenty: what if the owner does not comply? What laws would need to be in place?

Megan Spry: under the 50 codes there is an order of public health by the board of health. If the board of health passes an order and is not followed, there are next steps. Title 50 Chapter 2 would fall under the county attorney to enforce. MCA 50-2-1 shows the board of health requirements as well as the power and duties. Along with penalties for violations.

Larry Vandersloot: are you required to make those inspections? Megan Spry: no, we only inspect trailer courts and campgrounds. Not rental units.

Paula: are affected buildings: trailer courts, apartment complexes or section 8? Megan: most of them are private. Paula: for those under Section 8, keep them under those regulations. The elder and child complaints to go under CPS. Megan: CPS will call me to re-enforce. Unfortunately, we do not have any orders for the board of health to support. She would like to break the loop of uncertainty.

AJ Espinoza: are the tenants protected under the MT Residential Landlord and Tenant Act? If you go in and remove all bed bugs, the responsibility is under the landlord. Megan: the tenants do not have the funds to go after the landlord. AJ: without these regulations, bed bug infestations would increase because there is a lack of funding.

Paula: any concerns about the motel and hotels? Megan: no complaints. But they are inspected already.

Kelsey Torske: will this apply to all rentals in Big Horn county? Megan: yes, anyone who stays longer than one week. An order stating "anything that is outside of DPHHS jurisdiction, can be inspected upon complaint for bed bugs". MCA 50-2-118 . Kelsey: would it be easier to have the renter or landlord submit their property so it can be inspected? Instead of waiting for the renter to have a problem. For the enforcement and/or monitoring efforts.

Kelsey Roebling: keep the order under the apartment complexes and not homes. Kelsey Torske: how many apartment complexes do we have? Kelsey Roebling: will send out a follow-up email after talking with Jeanne Torkse (county attorney).

On The Hook:

Big Horn County Health Board: final decision to recommend transfer licensing for "On the Hook" (mobile food trailer) License Renewal to Yellowstone County. Big Horn County will not renew licensing for 2025.

Initial motion to approve not to renew the license was made by Larry Vandersloot, with second by George Real Bird III.

On the Hook license renewal

5. Public Health Report

Kelsey Robling, Public Health Nurse/Director:

Immunizations are going good. Troubles with insurance covering immunizations this year. Alyssa and Chandale are tackling that. Alyssa is working on the Medicaid remits issue. Updated agreement has been signed by Denise Rios (county treasurer). CMS application is complete. Kelsey has completed VFA enrollment with the State to receive

vaccine for adults who are not insured or under insured. VFC enrollment has been updated and we plan to have a site visit done this summer by the state. Chandale and Megan have been installing car seats. Car seat installs: 5 in January, 6 in February, & 5 so far in March. Kelsey has updated the EvenFlo account so they can get a discount on car seats. Megan was awarded a \$1,000.00 grant from American Automobile Association (AAA) for car seats. Central Montana Health District (CMHD) through Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) donated car seats to Big Horn county for Megan to give out. April 7th - 10th car seat re-certification event in Missoula. Chandale and Megan will attend. Along with May 7th - 9th in Helena; there will be a car seat course on children with disabilities. Kelsey did contact Hardin Chevrolet to set up a car seat install event in their parking lot. Some time before summer; which is trauma season. FICMMR MOU is not signed with Crow tribe or Northern Cheyenne tribe yet. Will reach back out to the tribes. Madie at the State has been notified of this, so our county does not get docked if the tribes do not decide to sign the MOUs. Next FICMMR meeting is April 10th. Childbirth classes are set for April 9th, 16th and 23rd. Will guide another nursing student this summer. MIDIS 7 is an updated platform. State will provide training for MIDIS 7. Will go to HMS this Thursday and HHS April 17th for sexual education (HMS & HHS) and STI education (HHS only). STI outreach: flyers have been hung up in the bathrooms at HHS. The flyers are switched out every month. CDD application went through for testing equipment. Received the label maker. The software for the label makers have been installed on all public health computers last week. Will have a training on label makers next week. Will need to finish orders with Dr. Mark for testing and treatment. Then update the 340 B application with the orders. Hopefully our office will be up and running by end of May, to test for STIs in office. Kelsey had the State prison come in to take measurements for a bank of cupboards above her treatment counter, for additional supplies. STD MOU from the State was reviewed and has been signed. The MOU covers people without insurance that need STI testing. It will cover the testing materials and not nursing services. CDC covers her services. Will ask Jeanne to review the orders before asking for signatures. Family Fun Day is May 17th 12:00pm to 3:00pm at the Big Horn Center. Alyssa is hosting the State Independent Living Fair on May 8th at the Big Horn Center, because everyone will be out of the office. HIV is on the rise. 4 new Hep C cases last week. Risky behaviors are associated with these cases. Will continue to do STI testing in the jail to help with surveillance.

6. WIC Program Report

Kelsey Robling, Public Health Nurse/Director:

Hired a new WIC aide: Marissa Roth. Marissa has completed all the training needed for the position. Since we are no longer under a MOU with the Crow tribe, Marissa and Kelsey are working on getting clearance to IHS. Once the process is complete Marissa will be able to work out of Lodge Grass and Crow. The WIC contract is up and has been signed for FY2025. Just received news from the state. They have moved the last date for funding under this contract, from May to September. Need to get with Mike Opie (county accountant) to get a new gas card for WIC travel.

7. PHEP Report

Alyssa Pitsch - PHEP Coordinator:

DES position is open. AJ Espinoza is Deputy DES Coordinator. AFN workshop: AJ, Kelsey and myself attended. Paula Small-Plenty has invited Kelsey and I to the May 6th Medical Response and Surge Exercise table top. I will bring along Liz with MonTECH. This Wednesday (3/19/25) will be the Highly Infectious Disease table top at the Big Horn Center. The state has asked tribal and local emergency planning and response staff to attend. June 9th will be the Rail Car Incident Response course in the Big Horn Center. ICS 300 course went well. ICS 400 to come. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) on 3/4/2025 went well. We have not had a LEPC meeting since July of last year. The LEPC group and AJ reviewed the transporting specimens plan and signed off on the checklist. The THIRA that was completed by Brian was also presented. Request for approval of the: BHCPH EOP: Functional Annex E: Transporting Specimens Plan, BHCPH EOP: Hazard Specific Annex A: Food Borne-Water Borne Outbreak Illness, and BHCPH EOP: Functional Annex D: Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response Protocol by the BHC Board of Health. Approval of the plans listed below; initial motion to approve plans made by Paula Small-Plenty with second by Larry Vandersloot at 11:08am on 3/17/2025:
BHCPH EOP: Functional Annex E: Transporting Specimens Plan
BHCPH EOP: Hazard Specific Annex A: Food Borne-Water Borne Outbreak Illness
BHCPH EOP: Functional Annex D: Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response Protocol.

BHCPH EOP: Functional Annex E: Transporting Specimens Plan

BHCPH EOP: Hazard Specific Annex A: Food Borne-Water Borne Outbreak Illness

BHCPH EOP: Functional Annex D: Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response Protocol

8. Public Comments

Paula Small-Plenty - Big Horn Hospital Association Emergency Preparedness/HR Director:

Mark your calendars, **August 7th** CISA's national training team will be coming to us to provide an active shooter functional exercise at the school. Both the hospital and school district's active shooter plan will be exercised.

April 11th 5:00pm to 7:00pm will be the Annual Fish Fry at the fairgrounds. BHCPH will come to do CHA surveys in line.

Kelsey Robeling:

Health Board training in Helena on **April 8th, 9th and 10th**. The state will reimburse travel and lodging.

9. Discussion

Approved by the board of health for the next meeting date to be 6/6/2025 at 10:00am.

Next Meeting Date: 06/06/2025

10. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Lawrence Big Hair at 11:14am on 3/17/2025.