

# BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

121 W 3rd St  
(Top Floor: Commissioners Office)  
Hardin, MT, 59034



## Members

Lawrence Bighair (chairman),  
Larry Vandersloot, George RealBird III,  
Kelsey Torske, Paula Small-Plenty

## BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD MINUTES June 13, 2025 10:00 AM

### 1. Call to Order

The Big Horn County Board of Health meeting on June 16th 2025 was called to order by chairman Lawrence Bighair at 10:15am.

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 228 010 249 550 5

Passcode: Pf9F6Yq9

### 2. Roll Call

In Attendance:

Members:

Lawrence Bighair (chairman), George Real Bird III, Paula Small-Plenty Assistance: Peri Schenderline

Reporting:

Megan Spry, Kelsey Roebling, Jane Lamb, Shelley Sutherland, Alyssa Pitsch

### 3. Review / Approval of Minutes

Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes from 3/17/2025: Approved at 10:15am with initial motion by Paula Small-Plenty and second by George Real Bird III.

Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes 3/17/2025

### 4. County Sanitarian Report

Inspections are up for the quarter. One septic permit for this quarter. One spill. No truck wrecks this quarter. Took the IS2300 course and the DOT PHMAS Rail Car Incident Response course. Requesting approval of the updated fee for services sheet for Big Horn County Environmental Health office.

Fee for Services Sheet (updated May 2025): Approved 10:21am with initial motion by Paula Small-Plenty with second by George Real Bird III.

Fee for Services Sheet - updated May 2025: for approval

### 5. Public Health Report

#### **Kelsey Roebling:**

Disease Intervention Specialist updates: Season for potlucks, calving, recreational water activities; it also brings campylobacter, crypto and STEC. Great reminder to wash your hands before preparing

food and consumption of such food. Currently, there are no linkage or outbreaks associated with those cases. STI surveillance: increasing rates associated with warm weather, social events and gatherings. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) is offered in Yellowstone county to assist with medical services, medications and support for low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The total in the State for Measles is 20 with 2 hospitalizations. The two cases in Yellowstone county are not a concern as they were exposed and spent their isolation in another county, before they returned home to Yellowstone county.

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) updates: VFC funded vaccines: updated contract approved, continuing to receive more vaccines. Expecting another VFC site visit this year that is unannounced. Noticing a trend of uninsured (Medicaid) children: these children are part of a family that is insured but are missed during re-enrollment. Our office is seeing more uninsured. In 2023 the total for uninsured was 23. In 2024, there are 67 uninsured. So far this year we are at 46 uninsured. Those who are uninsured are offered the Vaccine-For-Children (VFC) funded vaccine or 317-funded vaccine, depending on eligibility. BCBS Care Van (the Caring Foundation of Montana) has provided multiple mobile vaccination clinics in partnership with our office. This partnership not only helps those with access to vaccines but removes the financial burden of needed vaccinations. We partner with them to offer back-to-school shot clinics, flu/covid clinics, and assist with KRC round-up (car seat installs, record review, education for parents, etc...). In 2024, they covered \$6,570.34 in Big Horn county. On August 7th, the Care Van will come back for back-to-school shots at two locations. In the morning, the van will be located at the 406 greenhouse just beside Mike's Lube. In the evening, between 5pm and 7pm, the van will be moved to the River Valley Farmers Market (RVFM). Childcare reviews are complete. The next childcare review will be in Lodge Grass at the Little Chickadees daycare during the fall.

Maternal Child Health (MCH) updates: The contract is due at the end of the month. The new contract will need to be signed in July. Car seat installations and education are offered as scheduled appointments, walk-ins or provided during outreach clinics. Chandale and Megan provided 11 installs for the month of March, 11 for April, 5 for May and 2 so far this month. The Evenflo account for car seats has been created. Megan has brought in a grant from AARP, a total of \$1,000 for car seats. The grant has been utilized to purchase 25 car seats. The FICMMR MOU has not been signed by the Crow tribe Chairman or the Northern Cheyenne tribe Chairman. Reminder emails have been sent to both Frank and Selena. Maddie at the State has been notified of these changes and has resent information on 12/4. Next Fetal Infant Child Maternal Mortality Review (FICMMR) meeting has been set for September 1st at 10:00am in the Big Horn Center. These meetings are to review recent deaths in Big Horn county and come up with strategies to help prevent them in the future. Child birth class will resume in September. Safe sleep grant offered by Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) has been awarded to Kelsey. This grant is used to offer books, educational supplies and safe sleep cribs for those that do not have them for their infants. Crib dispersement averages 1-2 per month. Will purchase owl and canopy today for outreach.

COVID updates: Funds have been carried over. Everyone that has MIDIS access has taken the training for the new system. Roll out for the new system is pending. All old fobs for MIDIS access have been sent back to the State. There have been random COVID cases, with one hospitalization at the end of May.

STI Outreach: Monthly advertisements are placed in the bathrooms at the Hardin High School - will resume in the Fall. Advertisement sleeves purchased with MCH funds. Reproductive Health education provided at the Hardin Middle School on 3/27/25. STI/Reproductive Health education provided at the Hardin High School 4/17/25. Currently working on closing out cases in MIDIS. All STI testing supplies have arrived. Put the order out for a centrifuge (only out of pocket expense for testing). PH staff completed training on labels/ordering labs for STI testing. Kelsey has made a billing sheet/intake form for STI testing. Working on standing orders, proper storage cabinets and ordering meds. State will reimburse if no funding is available and certain criteria is met. Applied for a limited licensed pharmacy and is currently pending approval at the State. Stephanie Chosa our pharmacist;

she works at One Health. 340B OPAIS registered under the State of MT (HRSA). Will talk to Mike about a possible new account for STI testing and meds. Received the Condom Grant from the Coalition of STD Directors. Condoms have been delivered and a small portion is located at the Big Horn Hospital.

Billing updates: Still waiting for the approval letter from CMS. Medicaid EFT problem resolved. Claims and denials are being worked. Increased billing demands with changes made by insurance companies. PacificSource site visit done on 6/11/25. Requesting sponsorship for upcoming vaccine clinics.

Outreach work updates: Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) / Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will hopefully be completed prior to the end of June; working with the Hospital/State/MSU. Will set up booths at the River Valley Farmers Market and Little Big Horn days. Working on updating instructor certification to offer CPR course with Tim Quanbeck. Looking at monthly classes. There will be costs associated to offering these classes. Megan Spry is offering ServSafe class July 21st.

#### **Tobacco Prevention - Jane Lamb:**

Spoke about vaping and House Bill 390 that passed. She has passed on stickers to Kelsey for distribution. These stickers are for businesses to put in windows. They are the no-smoking signs, but also include no marijuana or vaping.

#### **Best Beginnings / Early Learning Center (ELC) / Daycare - Shelley Sutherland:**

Spoke on the Best Beginnings program and the resources they offer to the community. The Early Learning Center is offered in the Big Horn Center (community room) every afternoon on Wednesday. She has created a daycare coalition for Big Horn county and would like to help local businesses with set up of an employee daycare. She will send a follow-up email to Peri for any questions.

Tobacco Prevention - Jane Lamb : presentation

Best Beginnings / Early Learning Center (ELC) / Daycare - Shelley Sutherland : presentation

### 6. WIC Program Report

#### **Kelsey Roebling:**

Marissa Roth (new BHC-WIC aide) will be in Crow Mondays & Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays in Lodge Grass, and Fridays in Hardin for clinics. Pending clearance for IHS locations in Crow and Lodge Grass. The clearance process started in the first week of March. Gas cards and mileage logs have been given to the WIC program for travel purposes. Kelsey will be making amendments to the FY25 WIC signed contract for the addition of the new WIC aide for Crow and Lodge Grass. FY 26 WIC budget cut. Requested \$282,000 and was approved for \$271,138 by the State. We have the option to request more half-way through the fiscal year. This budget was requested before the insurance premium rates increased and the annual raise. The State will conduct a site visit on July 31st, 2025 for review. Farmers Market vouchers for Big Horn county this year is \$4,900 (\$30/participant). Participants have been notified to pick up their vouchers as there is a limited supply.

### 7. PHEP Report

#### **Alyssa Pitsch:**

Old: Reminder that North Western Energy is offering a \$100 rebate to residential customers for an energy-efficient air purifier until the end of June. Great idea as we are entering wildfire season. March 19th was the highly infectious disease ttx, AAR/IP created and will be utilized for the next FY tabletop. March 20th: Biosafety/Risk Assessment web training. May 21st helped Sylvan by cleaning out the old Public Health building for the Red Cross to set up a shelter for those affected by the

flooding in Crow. Observations from this were better communications and volunteer management. May 27th completed web CHEMLOCK training put on by CISA. Attended the Narcan training, Kelsey was brought to the Big Horn Center by DPHHS and Region 4 Opioid Education & Naloxone Distribution Program on April 8th. Signed up for OD Maps resource offered by Sheriff Middlestead. Please contact Sheriff Middlestead if you are interested in signing up for OD Maps. April 17th was the power outage; AAR has been created and passed out to the board. Hosted the Disabilities Resource Fair on May 8th brought to the county by Big Horn Hospital and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Would like to host this fair again in the future but would be support for advertisement in our area as many parents were unaware of the great resources offered at the fair. Attended the Department of Livestock interactive foreign animal disease response plan meeting/ discussion on May 20th in regard to HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza). They plan to offer the tabletop in 2026 and will invite our county and will send out their plan once finished. DOT PHMAS ALERT course (rail car incident response course) on June 9th was a great offering for first responders and receiving facilities. A brief summary of the course is posted in today's copy of the original briefs. The county's new DES Director is Sylvan Covers Up. ICS 400 course is on hold until there is support. As DES has funding to offer these classes. The State PHEP section offered the ICS 300 course as a supplement during the open period.

-

Paula Small-Plenty with Big Horn Hospital: *SRHCC Medical Response Surge Exercise went well. The exercise is offered annually to hospitals that can respond to regional hazards, along with DES, Ambulance and PH. The active shooter functional exercise is on pause or canceled for August 7th because of cuts made to the National CISA team. Waiting on the healthcare coalition to set a meeting for discussion between all organizations on continuing the exercise.*

-

The State PHEP section would be glad to help with the functional exercise.

New: June 18th is the next scheduled LEPC meeting at 1pm in the Big Horn county Sheriffs office. All members of the LEPC will be asked to adopt the bylaws and elect officials. June 25th, I will be in Red Lodge for the annual SRHCC workshop. I will attend the Disease Investigation Specialist course with Chandale in Billings on August 5-7th. Still waiting on details for travel and lodging to the TEEX Cybersecurity training in TX on August 10th -15th. DIS is currently working on a network map for the Big Horn Center. Ordered postcards and bags for the community preparedness booth at the River Valley Farmers Market on 8/21/25. The request for DES to help with the booth has been sent. The follow-up tabletop for the Highly Infectious Disease TTX is scheduled for September 9th. It will feed off the AAR/IP from the tabletop on March 19th. As soon as I get the flyer it will be sent out for invites. New FY deliverables will be: plans inventory and updated POD exercise. Currently, receiving replenishments for the CBAT and DWES kits. I will attend the HERT training for the hospital on 9/10th-11th.

-

Paula Small-Plenty with Big Horn Hospital: *Waiting on details from Jason Mahoney for the HERT training in September.*

-

## 8. Public Comments

No public comment.

## 9. Discussion

Discussion on moving the Teams link (virtual meeting) back to the Zoom link. It was decided by the board to move the virtual option back to Zoom and request in-person attendance. Meetings will also be held in the Big Horn County Commissioners' office for recording purposes.

10. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned on 6/13/2025 at 11:25am : Initial motion made by Paula Small-Plenty with second by George Real Bird III.