

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 September 17, 2025 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Zoom (virtual meeting link):

Topic: Health Board

Time: Sep 17, 2025 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84843015104?pwd=BMfU1m5I57UeDwvIibzv4QxUzI2QXi.1>

Meeting ID: 848 4301 5104

Passcode: 463147

Dial by your location

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

• +1 719 359 4580 US

• +1 253 205 0468 US

Meeting ID: 848 4301 5104

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kjCz14EE4>

2. Roll Call

In Attendance:

Members:

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

Reporting:

Megan Spry, Kelsey Roebling, Alyssa Pitsch

3. Review / Approval of Minutes

Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes from 6/13/2025: Approved at 10:13am with initial motion by Paula Small-Plenty and second by Kelsey Torske.

Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes 6/13/2025

4. County Sanitarian Report

Megan Spry Reports:

Several septic reviews completed. Over 50% of inspections completed. Stepped back due to illness.

Private Burials:

No current county policy for private burials. Need guidance to protect water sources. The state requires burial plaques to be recorded with Clerk & Records Office. Plotting requirements must follow MCA and BHC standards; some situations may need grandfathering. Paula asked if funeral

homes had a policy. BHC Board of Health would have to enforce. George requested examples of guidance documents. Potential legal consequences for noncompliance include civil cases; easements may cost \$200,000–\$300,000. Jeanne Torske is not opposed to developing guidance. The Board has asked Megan and Jeanne to draft it and bring it to the next meeting.

Discussion of the Health Board Resolution for Bed Bug Control:

Currently, only Section 8 offers protection; common rentals have no local regulation for bed bugs at this time. Discussion of: tenants may request inspection; landlord permission not required for health-driven inspection. The [Landlord-tenant act](#) provides tenant protections against eviction for retaliation. The Board is considering establishing a mitigation timeline and enforcement mechanism. Jeanne, Kelsey, and Megan will draft a proposed rule and bring it before the board.

Private Burials

Discussion of the Health Board Resolution for Bed Bug Control

5. Public Health Report

Kelsey Roebling Reports:

Communicable Disease Update:

STD surveillance ongoing. No new measles cases in the state, still at 31 in total with 2 hospitalizations. West Nile Virus: 14 cases statewide; 7 in Yellowstone, 1 in Big Horn. Two of those cases were neuroinvasive.

Vaccine Update:

VFC site visit completed. One data logger has been sent back to be recalibrated. May consider purchasing a new data logger. In 2024, the State provided \$69,000 in VFC vaccine for children who are eligible. Childcare inspections completed. Two sites left: 9 Mile and Little Chickities. Preparing flu shots for late September and early October. Article drafted for flu season to publish. No new COVID hospitalizations this week, with 11 new cases. COVID19 vaccine ordering paused until updated ACIP recommendations; expected Friday. Pfizer COVID19 vaccine is ready to ship. No info yet on state-supplied COVID19 vaccine availability. School flu clinic is scheduled for 10/2/25 at the HMS Auditorium. The schedule for upcoming flu clinics handed out to the board members.

STI standing orders complete and will be sent off to the Medical Director for signature. Our limited license pharmacy application was accepted. Stephanie with One Health will be our pharmacist. Megan & Chandale received grant funding for 300 car seats. Car seats are expected to last approximately one year. A new rule established: one car seat per child. The Community Health Improvement Plan is nearly complete. Farmers Market outreach is complete. County employees CPR classes planned for November or December; need manikins — hospital granted permission to use theirs. Three AEDs are not FDA-approved and need replacement in the county buildings. Recommended replacement: **HeartSine AEDs** (cost-effective, user-friendly). Estimated cost: **\$8,500 total (≈6 units × \$1,400)** including combined pad/battery packs (more cost-effective). Funding: possible use of CAP project under health & safety. George and Larry agreed to proceed with the purchase of new AEDs. Kelsey will obtain a PO and bring for signature next week. Kelsey will order AEDs for the Fairgrounds and Senoir Center as well. Kelsey Torske reminds Kelsey Roebling the AEDs must be registered with the State to assist first responders. Lodge Grass Senior Center is getting one. Sheriff's Office & EMS use PulsePoint/AED apps for mapping. Discussion about PH

staffing to assist with inmate health checks. Monthly or bi-weekly health checks discussed; Kelsey will consult Victoria for required qualifications. The Board asked if the Hospital could contract services for health checks.

6. WIC Program Report

Kelsey Roeblings Reports:

Newly hired Sophie Old Crow will aid Lodge Grass and Crow WIC at the family center in Lodge Grass (temporary until IHS clears). Article is planned for Deb as she was awarded WIC Person of the Year. Farmers Market program moved from paper vouchers to app-based system. WIC contract renewal pending; operating in "good faith standing". Lawrence will sign the new WIC contract once received. Deb is working on the menu at the jail for nutritional review. Victoria requested this review, based on state requirements. These services will be billed to Victoria's department. Payroll authorization is needed as it is not a WIC service.

7. PHEP Report

Alyssa Pitsch Reports:

Pandemic Influenza Plan review and approval:

The 2025 review of the Pandemic Influenza Plan has been completed. Changes have been presented to the board and legal. Motion for approval of the Pandemic Influenza Plan was made by Larry Vandersloot with second by Paula Small-Plenty. It was approved unanimously as of 10:39am.

PHEP updates:

The next LEPC meeting is scheduled 12/8/25 at 1:00pm in the BHC Sheriff's office — conference room. Officers were elected at the last meeting. Bylaws have been moved to 12/8/25. Updates have been made to the bylaws by Heather and the LEPC Officers. The Point-Of-Dispensing plan will be used for the Influenza vaccine clinic on 10/9/25. Invitation will be sent out to key stakeholders. The After Action Report and Improvement Plan has been created from the Highly Infectious Communicable Disease Plus Tabletop Exercise on 9/3/25. DIS has created the network map for Public Health; changes will be made. Dulcie has requested a network map to be made for the entire Big Horn Center. The Public Health server went down 9/16/25 from 8:29am to 11:20am. Back-up plans were used during that time. Public Health will join Paula at the Hospital for a SIM MT mental health crisis drill tomorrow morning (9/18/25). Quarter one deliverables will be submitted in October.

Annual Review of the Pandemic Influenza Plan

8. Public Comments

No public comments.

9. Discussion

Board of Health - Members Terms:

Paula Small-Plenty's term ends in 2027. Kelsey Torske's term ends 2025. Next meeting notice will need to be published in the newspaper, including letters of interest for membership. Will be added to the next agenda. Peri will publish notice for two weeks. Kelsey Torske will send letter of interest to Peri. Public posting will be the caulk board and county website. The Board approved: move meetings back to Friday and move the location to the Big Horn Center (200 N Mitchell Ave in Hardin) for in-person attendance requirement.

Next Meeting Date:

12/12/2025 10:00am at Big Horn Center (200 N Mitchell Ave in Hardin).

Next Meeting Date: 12/12/2025 at 10:00am

10. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned on 9/17/2025 at 11:28am : Initial motion made by Paula Small-Plenty with second by Kelsey Torske.