

BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

Change of meeting location:
200 N Mitchell Ave
(Community Room)
Hardin, MT, 59034



Members

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

BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD MINUTES December 12, 2025 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

The Big Horn County Health Meeting was called to order by Larry Vandersloot on December 12th, 2026 at 10:04am.

In person:

Change of location for the Health Board meeting.

Big Horn Center — community room
200 N Mitchell Ave
Hardin, MT, 59034

Virtual Link:

Topic: Big Horn County Board of Health

Time: Dec 12, 2025 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82443609271?pwd=cdVFecBUqm7ZXB27AHfCERFXbNFIlv.1>

Meeting ID: 824 4360 9271

Passcode: 444816

One tap mobile

+17193594580,,82443609271#,,,,*444816# US

+16699006833,,82443609271#,,,,*444816# US (San Jose)

2. Roll Call

In Attendance:

Members:

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

Reporting:

Megan Spry, Kelsey Roebling, Alyssa Pitsch

3. Review / Approval of Minutes

Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes from 09/17/2025: Board approved at 10:05am with initial motion made by Paula Small-Plenty and second by Larry Vandersloot.

4. County Sanitarian Report

Megan Spry Reports:

Inspections required for full funding are up to 100% complete. One septic permit and one truck wreck were reported. Neither DES nor Megan were notified of the truck wreck. DPHHS FCSS is

experiencing technical difficulties with its system.

Environmental & Licensed Inspections Update

5. Public Health Report

Kelsey Roebling Reports:

Sixth week of influenza case reporting, and the county is at 14 for case count as of week five. Having some issues with One Health reporting case numbers. The numbers are creeping up. No influenza hospitalizations for BHC as of today. MIDIS reconciliation for the quarter is done. Two new measles cases have been reported in Gallatin county last week. From those cases there is no concerns of transmission at this time. BHCPH did receive additional funding for Avain flu. With that funding Influenza/COVID19 tests, and new data loggers have been purchased along with a few other items. Immunizations are going great. BHCPH has had over 500 appointments in October for flu season. Had an uptick on COVID as well. The VFC site visit back in mid-September went great. The data loggers have been recalibrated. Site visit contracts are due this month and Dr. Mark plans to sign them. The Maternal Child Health contract is pending and has been signed. Car seats are still being issued to individuals who are in need and are by a walk-in basis. Working with Sheriff Middlestead and Ernie JOP for people who need a car seat. They are to fill out a referral and send them over to have a car seat installed. Megan has put in and received 300 car seats from the State program to help. BHCPH CLIA wavier is up for renewal and has been sent off. Applied for a limited license pharmacy and have been approved. Currently looking for a vendor and then we will be able to test and treat for STDs. Billing is going good. Received a \$5,000 mini grant to purchase helmets for a bicycle rodeo. Partnering with the Hospital for trauma care. Blg Horn County saved Toys for Tots, with County Fire helping with the truck delivery and housing the event. They will also be offering Toys for Tots in Pryor and Lodge Grass on the 22nd.

6. WIC Program Report

Kelsey Roeblings Reports:

WIC has started in Lodge Grass for two days of each week. WIC in Crow has started and it will be every Friday. WIC is using the county car for reimbursement and mileage.

7. PHEP Report

Alyssa Pitsch Reports:

Annual Review: Functional Annex D: Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response Protocol:
The 2025 review of the Functional Annex D: Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response Protocol has been completed. Changes have been presented to the board and legal. The motion for approval of the Functional Annex D: Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response Protocol was made by Paula Small-Plenty with the second by George Realbird III. It was approved unanimously as of 10:12am.

PHEP updates:

The next LEPC meeting is scheduled 1/5/2025 at 1:00pm in the Sheriff's office. Bylaws for the LEPC are waiting for approval, as more membership is needed. The Point of Dispensing plan was exercised during the off-site vaccination clinic at the Hardin Middle School auditorium on 11/14. The CareVan partnered with Kelsey to provide a pneumococcal and RSV vaccine clinic. All participants were screened. After registration, a copy of their record was printed off for Kelsey to review and properly administer vaccines. Quarter two deliverables will be submitted at the end of June. HERT train the trainer course is completed and able to instruct classes in Montana. Volunteer Management training was completed during the Summer Institute. Hoping to get more information on software used by the State for volunteer management. The cybersecurity meeting went well with Dulice.

Duclic is working with Sylvan to create a cybersecurity plan for the county. Missed the PHEP collaboration meeting in Miles City due to illness and waiting for notes from the meeting to be sent by the coordinator. The Department of Livestock put on a H5N1 tabletop, waiting for an invitation for the next meeting.

Annual Review: Functional Annex D: Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response Protocol

8. Public Comments

No public comment.

9. Discussion

Private Burials:

The County Attorney's Office is currently working on this matter an update has been noted for the next meeting. In many counties across the state, private burials are regulated to protect groundwater and surface water. Some counties require a surveyed easement for burials on private property to ensure family members have permanent access to the burial site. At this time, Big Horn County has no specific recommendations in place. Primary concerns involve inorganic compounds released during decomposition that may enter the groundwater. Big Horn County has relatively high groundwater levels, increasing the risk that decomposition could impact aquifers. Groundwater from these aquifers may flow into wells used for drinking water, creating potential public health concerns.

Applications for Membership/Terms of Members and Appointment of Member:

Paula Small-Plenty recommends that the Big Horn County Board of County Commissioners reappoint Kelsey Torske to the Big Horn County Health Board for an additional three-year term. The Board of County Commissioners plans to vote on this reappointment at their next scheduled meeting.

Applications for Membership

Terms of Members and Appointment of Member

10. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned on 12/12/2025 at 10:27am, with initial motion made by Paula Small-Plenty and second by Larry Vandersloot.