

# BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

New Meeting Location:  
200 N Mitchell Ave  
(Community Room)  
Hardin, MT, 59034



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

## BIG HORN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD MINUTES March 13, 2026 10:00 AM

### 1. Call to Order

The Big Horn County Health Meeting was called to order by chairman George Real Bird III on March 13th, 2026 at 10:02am.

#### **New 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: Mar 13, 2026 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83781474003?pwd=ixGgmxcQ49cQKFKOLusWxPvvG066a.1>

Meeting ID: 837 8147 4003

Passcode: 336594

One tap mobile

+17193594580,,83781474003#,,, \*336594# US

### 2. Roll Call

#### **In Attendance:**

##### Members:

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

##### Reporting:

Anna Hein, Kelsey Roebling, Alyssa Pitsch

### 3. Review / Approval

#### **Annual Review: Board Objectives and Bylaws:**

The Board reviewed the Board Objectives and Bylaws. No changes to the bylaws were proposed or made. The Board approved the bylaws as presented at 10:05 a.m. upon a motion by Larry Vandersloot, seconded by Paula Small-Plenty.

#### **Officers of the Board:**

The Officers of the Board roster was reviewed and updated as recommended.

#### **Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes 12/12/2025:**

The Board reviewed and approved the Big Horn County Health Board meeting minutes from

December 12, 2025. Approval was granted at 10:06 a.m. upon a motion by Kelsey Torske, seconded by Paula Small-Plenty.

Annual Review: Board Objectives and Bylaws

Officers of the Board

Big Horn County Health Board Meeting Minutes 12/12/2025

#### 4. County Sanitarian Report

##### **Kelsey Roebling Reports / Status of the County Sanitarian:**

Anna Hein (Big Horn County Health Officer), is reviewing and signing 2026 licenses as they come in. Anna and Bailey worked together on a food establishment license; the county will have until December to complete the inspection. With the new system at the State Food Consumer Safety Section; it has created an issues with sending out new licenses. Will keep an eye out for updates on the system. The BHC Commissioners will be interviewing for the Sanitarian position after the meeting. List for follow up for the future County Sanitarian is being maintained and updated by Public Health. Stahly's has continued to work on septic and subdivisions.

Status of the County Sanitarian: update

#### 5. Public Health & WIC Report

##### **Kelsey's Report:**

###### **Public Health:**

Montana was awarded 233 million in December of 25 for the Rural Health Transformation. Working on the start of an application for a mobile unit for Public Health outreach. AED policy is completed. Child Find is on March 31st at the Big Horn Center. Public Health plans to set up a booth for car seats, immunizations, and WIC outreach. BI-Monthly CPR classes will start April 14th and will be held the second Tuesday of ever other month at 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Will be attending the Confluence on April 14th, 15th, and 16th. State has scholarship available to attend the Confluence. Confluence will go over funding, powers of the Health Board, how boards can be more effective, and strategic planning. Strategic planning for Public Health will be April 17th at the Big Horn Center. Family Fun Day is on May 16th. The Hospital, Parenting Montana, Best Beginnings, Early Learning Center, Early Childhood Intervntion from Billings, Kindergarten Readiness Center, and One Health have partnered with us for the event. Working on a respiratory policy for Public Health; that is approved by OSHA.

###### **WIC:**

Sophia is now working in the Hardin office two days per week, Lodge Grass on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Crow on Fridays. She is registered for CPA classes. Sophia will be able to independently change food packages, which will significantly benefit services in Lodge Grass and Crow. Sophia will be attending the Car Seat Installer Certification 4 day course in Billings, beginning April 6th. Need updated contracts signed by the Commissioners.

WIC participants:

January: Crow 2, Hardin 414, Lodge Grass 72

February: Crow 2, Hardin 402, Lodge Grass 68

Currently, 26 pregnant.

###### **DIS:**

Disease Surveillance extended through June of 2027. MIDIS reconciliation is complete. Total measles case count in the State is 36, 2 hospitalizations and a new exposure in Fort Belknap; with no new cases. Avian Influenza surveillance: no human cases identified at this time. Utilized \$7,000 grant for jackets, testing kits, AMPHO dues, vaccine cooler and portable data logger. Continued cases of COVID-19 (1 case) and Influenza (1 death). Last week, reported 15 flu and RSV in a uprise of cases. DPHHS HAN : extending the RSV vaccination through the end of April. All hospitals are currently on

respiratory precautions with limited visitors. No current outbreaks at any of the facilities. Upward trend of Syphilis and Hep C; Gonorrhea and Chlamydia staying the same.

**IAP:**

Planning outreach clinics for the Summer, for immunizations. Working on new consent forms for immunizations with CDC and AAP having different guidance. Have not heard if these changes will affect coverage.

**MCH:**

Contract is complete. Semi-annual report is due in April.

Car Seat Installs: Available on a walk-in basis every day.

January: 9

February: 1

March: 5

MDT order of 300 car seats will not ship until September. Will be working on car seat referral process with Sheriffs office / Legal. Childbirth classes are scheduled for April 13th, 20th, and 27th, starting at 5:00pm in the Big Horn Center. Awarded the \$5,000 State Injury Prevention Grant, planned to use for Bike Rodeo: helmets, reflectors, and tail-light distribution. The Bike Rodeo will be incorporated into Family Fun day and partnered by Big Horn Hospital and the CareVan.

Discussion: Kelsey Torske, Anna Hein and Kelsey Roebling discuss immunizations at the physicals clinic, put on by the School and One Health. Larry Vandersloot would like to have a list of events from Public Health sent to him.

6. PHEP Report

**Alyssa Pitsch's Report:**

Tabled: Extension to June 31st was given for the Transport of Specimens/Samples of Immediate Concern Plan, due to the vacant position.

FY 2027 concurrence letter has been reviewed, signed and emailed to the State by Kelsey. The PHEP grant workshop for FY 27 will be in Miles City on June 2nd. Wrote down all of the emergency plans affected and what gaps there are with the vacant position. The next LEPC meeting is 4/6 at 1pm in the Sheriff's office. Dropped off the 24/7 call list at Dispatch and brought to the last LEPC for review. Sylvan (DES) ran a scenario at the LEPC meeting that tested the response to a large chemical spill. Volunteer Management and MHMAS is on hold; the State PHEP section leader position is now vacant, and they are looking for a way to fill it. Notification and report have been sent to Kelsey and Dulcie for RXNT email. Teams group has been created by Dulcie for Cybersecurity Response and documents for reporting have been uploaded there. PHEP regional collaborative meeting topics and ideas: Mental Health: HOPE squads at schools, Mental Health First Aid training. HPAI ideas: Backyard bird kits in baskets and handouts for chicks bought at feed stores. Outreach idea: resource days, once per month outreach booths set up for the public on certain topics. This can be related to specific days/weeks of the year for awareness. DOL held a stakeholder meeting on 1/13 for communication and movement during a (animal) disease outbreak. MRSE went well at the Hospital on 2/19.

7. Old Business

No update on Private Burials.

Private Burials

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Public Comments

No public comment.

10. Discussion

Last approved Fee Schedule for BHCEH was given to the Board for reference.

Paula - BHHA: Big Horn Hospital Fish Fry will be March 27th at the fairgrounds. Volunteers will show up at 4:00pm. Burn Out series information will be sent to Peri for April.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on 3/13/2026 at 10:39am.