

Missoula City-County Board of Health
February 16, 2006

Board Members Present: Chairman Bill Rossbach, Vice Chairman Garon Smith, and Board Members Dr. Alan Gabster, Dick Haines, Sandy Kuntz, and Eileen Sansom

Board Members Absent: Jean Curtiss

Health Department Staff Present: Health Officer Ellen Leahy, Director of Health Promotion Greg Oliver, MOVE Coordinator Jeanne Koester, Nursing Supervisor Trudy Mizner, Environmental Health Specialist Travis Ross, and Administrative Aide Julie Mohr

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rossbach called the February Board of Health (BOH) meeting to order at 12:19 p.m.

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2006 BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

Minutes of the January 19, 2006 meeting were approved.

ITEM 2: JOURNAL REPORT

Board Member Kuntz presented a report on the experience of home quarantine in Toronto during the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). See **Attachment A**, “The Experience of Quarantine for Individuals Affected by SARS in Toronto”. As noted in the handout (**Attachment B**) she provided, study participants expressed common themes of uncertainty, isolation, and coping. Researchers concluded that when isolation or quarantine is implemented, Public Health must do more than measure compliance. The public needs timely, specific directions. Those directly impacted also require information, education, and physical and emotional support. Other needs include protection of the healthcare workforce and an enforcement plan—even if quarantine is “voluntary.” Group discussion that followed addressed: 1) the challenge presented by public expectation for quarantine during certain health threats—compounded by confusion over “quarantine” versus “isolation”; 2) the need for public education before an event occurs and how to proceed; 3) the need to engage the medical community so it knows its role; and 4) the need to periodically test response plans and related policies. Ellen Leahy, Health Officer reminded the Board of the quarantine/isolation policy it adopted two years ago, which follows JAMA recommendations but remains untested. Although Toronto officials used the term “quarantine”, they actually employed home isolation during the SARS outbreak.

Director Leahy reaffirmed that mass quarantine is not recommended for control of influenza because its short incubation period makes it infeasible. Thus, the report and recommendations submitted to the Board in January by the Pandemic Influenza Planning Incident Command, which were accepted and approved by the Board, would point toward home isolation for individuals ill with influenza and voluntary quarantine when feasible.

She offered to provide a review of the quarantine/isolation policy at a future date, since several members of the Board began service after the policy was adopted.

Follow-up: *Director Leahy will add a review of the Board's quarantine/isolation policy to a future agenda.*

ITEM 3. UPDATE ON THE MCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

In December 2005, the Board approved a resolution allowing the Maternal Child Health Advisory Council (MCH) to take an active role in issues related to school wellness but requested monthly updates, particularly if Health Department staff members contribute to the development of model policies. Ellen Leahy shared that Nursing Supervisor Trudy Mizner previously was a school nurse. She is a member of the committee that the school system will employ to advise the school board's policy decision.

Sandy Kuntz advised that MCH supports an approach to school meals that adopts a quality improvement method developed by North Carolina, which focuses on showing improvement. MCH recommends that the proposed draft Missoula County Model Nutrition Standards (**Attachment D**) be accompanied by a cover sheet Missoula Public Health Recommendation on School Wellness Policies (**Attachment C**). The cover sheet's recommendation supports: 1) use of a quality improvement framework by schools to measure progress; and 2) a commitment to build on the draft model policy through ongoing activity by a community-based team to plan, oversee, and evaluate progress. This group would address new topics and issues important to the wellness of the school-age population.

Trudy Mizner said that Dr. Clark, Superintendent of Schools, specified the model wellness policy offered must be clear and concise and undergo review by the Wellness Policy Ad Hoc Committee. (She is a member, representing the Health Department. Other members include the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, a School Board trustee, the Curriculum Coordinator for Missoula County schools, the Food & Nutrition Service Supervisor, an elementary school nurse, a representative from Health and Human Performance at the University of Montana, one high school parent, and one high school student.) The last opportunity to meet with the school committee will be April 26, 2006. Time must be allowed for public comment, and the policy must be adopted by Fall 2006. Board Member Kuntz asked what the Board needs to do. Greg Oliver, Director of Health Promotion, indicated that the physical activity component of the model policy is simpler than the nutrition piece and provided a brief overview. He noted as an example that the Board could provide a recommendation that the school committee should approve that component.

Board Member Kuntz shared that changes in wellness policy require culture changes, as demonstrated by her visit that day to a local elementary school, where discussion arose about the current process of providing incentives to children by using food as rewards. Jeanne Koester, MOVE Coordinator, pointed out that an important advance has been made, even though the nutrition standards are still a draft. Three nutritionists—Blakely Brown from the University of Montana, Laura Del Guerra from St. Patrick Hospital and Mary Pittaway from the Health Department—are involved in the discussions about local school lunches. She also mentioned the

concerns raised by a Special Education teacher regarding the food served to her students and their weight issues.

Board Member Kuntz asked how the Board can best encourage adoption of the policy. Ellen Leahy indicated that the policy recommendation will be stronger if the Board can endorse the approach of a continued team partnership between the schools and other key players such as those represented on the current ad hoc committee and this department. The idea is not to impose the policy but to endorse it as a starting point. Vice Chairman Smith noted that it could be beneficial and interesting to create charts and plot the progress of various schools. It would generate friendly competition between the schools to do well and provide a metric to document progress. Schools could also use the information to “sell” the wellness policy to parents. Board Member Haines expressed interest in newspaper coverage. Board Member Sansom asked if the school system presently has a wellness policy. Ellen Leahy responded that the group does not know of any policy. Board Member Kuntz advised that this is why MCH and the Health Department are recommending the approach presently outlined. Ellen Leahy also pointed out that having the recommendation come from a count-level entity (the Board) provides the opportunity to encourage both District 1 and non-District 1 schools, noting that half of the school-age population attends school outside of District 1.

Board Member Kuntz moved that the Board approve the cover letter (**Attachment C**), the draft model nutrition standards (**Attachment D**), and to have Trudy Mizner take both to the Wellness Policy Ad Hoc Committee. Chairman Rossbach asked if there was any further discussion.

Public Comments: Chairman Rossbach called for public comments. Tony Tweedale asked if soft drink concerns are reflected in the proposed policy. Board Member Kuntz said the policy does address soft drinks.

Motion: Chairman Rossbach called to question the motion to approve acceptance of the cover letter and the draft model nutrition standards and to send them forward through Trudy Mizner to the school committee. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4. MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

Ellen Leahy stated that the objectives of the mid-year review are to: 1) formally ensure that the budget is on track; and 2) manage the budget for the rest of the year. The goal is to set the stage so that the Board is able to approve the budget when it meets in March. She then reviewed the information presented in the handouts Health Department FY06 Mid-Year Budget Review (**Attachment E**) and Appendix to FY06 Mid-Year (**Attachment F**). For each fund, the areas under, at and over budget were identified.

ITEM 5. COMMUNITY HEALTH PROFILE INDICATORS

Greg Oliver asked which indicators (**Attachment G**, Missoula City-County Health Department Community Health Profile Indicators) would be useful to the Board for the upcoming strategic planning session. He noted that Missoula Measures contains a great deal of information so other topics can be assembled for the planning process if needed. Vice Chairman Smith asked if the indicators can be posted on the Internet. Chairman Rossbach affirmed that the information is a great resource to provide to the public. Ellen Leahy and Greg Oliver said the material can be

posted to the Health Department website. Vice Chairman Smith asked if it would be possible to get the *Missoulian* to do a monthly Health Board report. Board Member Haines said that the Health Department lacks the publicity needed to put important issues before the public's attention.

Follow-up: *Director Leahy noted that the Missoulian has done a number of stories on this issue recently, and is more likely to respond to associated events than to press releases. She will continue to identify opportunities that might interest reporter Mea Andrews in doing a story. Julie Mohr will work with Greg Oliver and Lorena Hillis to post the indicators to the Health Department website.*

ITEM 6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Rossbach asked for the Director's report. At the request of Marnie McClain, Deputy County Attorney, Ellen Leahy stated that the *Paws Up Resort* submitted a licensed establishment application for the *Tank & Trough*—the restaurant and bar—and passed their pre-opening inspection. The resort withdrew its application for a public accommodation license and has not resubmitted another application. The public water supply was approved by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Vice Chairman Smith will receive a service award at an upcoming University event on Friday.

Director Leahy is applying for the Northwest Public Health Leadership Institute and may need Chairman Rossbach's signature on the completed application.

Director Leahy distributed copies of an e-mail message (**Attachment H**) from Gary Glynn regarding the Study Commission's invitation to receive written comments from the Board and the Health Department regarding possible changes to Missoula City government. She will respond to certain questions but does not want to speak for the Board. Chairman Rossbach noted that most of the areas of interest identified by the commission do not seem to be in the Board's bailiwick. Board members commented that the interlocal agreement for this board works well. The Board does need to work more with neighborhood groups to disseminate information. Although improvement can be made in that area, Chairman Rossbach noted that communication between the Board and the City Council and Board of County Commissioners is good, which is aided by having members from both groups on the Board of Health. Board Member Sansom asked how information is transmitted from the Board of Health to those groups. Since this is his second meeting with the Board of Health, Board Member Haines said he needs to ask former member Ed Childers how to take updates back to the City Council. According to Chairman Rossbach, he and Ellen Leahy sometimes reported to the Committee of the Whole on specific issues when Ed Childers identified that there were questions that he could not answer. Board Member Haines suggested that a more proactive approach would be better.

Ellen Leahy shared that she went to the January Public Safety and Health Committee meeting and is planning to attend on a monthly basis. Selected topics could go to the Committee of the Whole. Vice Chairman Smith suggested that Maternal Child Health Advisory Committee topics would be good to report.

Director Leahy reminded the group that the strategic planning meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2006. Finding a date that works for all parties is challenging so she recommended that those able to attend could act as a committee. Chairman Rossbach asked if the session output can be turned around in six days. She responded that the City budget deadline is the cause of the time constraint, so their best attempt will be made. Board Member Haines asked what occurs at the planning session, and Director Leahy provided a brief overview. Chairman Rossbach asked if the group needed to vote. Board Member Kuntz and Director Leahy indicated that a vote was not required.

ITEM 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED

Chairman Rossbach asked for public comments. Tony Tweedale reported that he is making progress with his campaign to get the city to commit funds to the use of ultraviolet for disinfection at the public pools. He would like the Board of Health to provide formal support for the City Finance Department to commit \$100,000 dollars to this project. Chairman Rossbach stated that consideration of such would require placing the topic on the Board agenda and public notice. Mr. Tweedale also informed the Board of a study critiquing the CDC's claimed numbers of death due to flu and expressed his concern over the flu immunization strategy applied in the U.S.

Follow-up: Chairman Rossbach indicated to place reconsideration of City public pool disinfection issues on the March agenda.

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rossbach declared the meeting adjourned and convened the Air Pollution Control Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Leahy
Health Officer

Bill Rossbach
Chairman