

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Missoula City-County Board of Health
July 20, 2009

Board Members Present: Dr. Garon Smith (Chair), Dr. Sandy Kuntz (Vice Chair, participated by conference call), Jean Curtiss, Dr. Alan Gabster, Ross Miller, Renee Mitchell, and Eileen Sansom

Staff Members Present: Administration: Ellen Leahy and Julie Mohr; Environmental Health: Jim Carlson, Mamie Colburn, and Ben Schmidt; and Health Services (Nursing): Trudy Mizner

Legal Counsel Present: Marnie McClain (Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney)

Others Present: Matt Arno, Guy Hanson, Ruth Licitra, Ron Scholl, and Daniel Westberg

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Dr. Garon Smith called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

ITEM 1 APPROVE JUNE 18, 2009 MINUTES

The minutes will be reviewed at the August meeting.

ITEM 2 BOARD ELECTIONS

Dr. Smith and Dr. Kuntz were nominated and then elected by acclamation as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

ITEM 3 JOURNAL REPORT

- **Attachment A** – Kuntz, Sandra W., Winters, Charlene A., Hill, Wade G, Weinert, Clarann, Rowse, Kimberly, Hernandez, Tanis, and Black, Brad. 2009. Rural Public Health Policy Models to Address an Evolving Environmental Asbestos Disaster. Public Health Nursing 26(1): 70-78.

Dr. Kuntz is part of a team looking at records of cohorts diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases for a health status study in Libby. The article examines rural cultural influences that affect health status, as well as policy gaps and the state of care in Libby. Three models for use to affect health outcomes are discussed: an ecological public health model, a rural access to care model, and a Multidimensional Model for Community Response to Slow-Motion Technological Disasters. She explained why lessons learned in Libby are not applicable to other environmental disasters.

ITEM 4 AUGUST JOURNAL REPORT

Dr. Smith will provide the report.

ITEM 5 ADOPT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING CHECKLIST

- **Attachment B** – Missoula City-County Health Department. *Communicable Disease Reporting Checklist*, 2009. Missoula, MT.

Staff Request: Some required deliverables for the public health emergency preparedness grant must be presented to the board for review or to make policy decisions. Director Leahy asked the board to adopt **Attachment B**—the framework for communicable disease report protocols. She mentioned past work to develop documentation and reorganize communicable disease activities, as well as ongoing efforts to train backup personnel and prepare protocols. The checklist suggests elements to include in communicable disease reporting; lack of an item is not counted as failure. The department’s checklist is complete except for item “e.” in the first section on page 1. This past year, the department set up how the information is developed, stored electronically, and secured by use of passwords but it is not yet described in the protocol. The checklist must go to the state in August. Item “e.” will be addressed before then but perhaps not in full. All items should be in place by next year. Director Leahy will find out if the black fill in certain cells in the “NA” is a formatting error: the items are marked as being included. Ms. Curtiss moved to adopt the checklist with approval to fix the likely formatting issue.

Public comments: No comments were given.

Motion: The motion was unanimously approved to adopt the communicable disease reporting checklist, with approval to remove black fill/shading from cells.

ITEM 6 STAFF UPDATE ON DRUG DISPOSAL EVENT

Trudy Mizner, Supervisor of Nursing Services, is the Fetal Infant Child Mortality Review (FICMR) Coordinator for Missoula County. The committee reviews infant and child deaths and then provides community education or starts an initiative or program if the deaths are deemed preventable. Maureen O’Malley, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, is also on the committee. Due to an increase in deaths among adults and children by prescription drug overdose, a new committee was formed with partners from the department, the Sheriff’s Department, the hospitals, and with connections to hospice. Clark Fork Coalition was added after 30% of participants interviewed in a survey said proper disposal of drugs is to flush them down the toilet. Issues also include:

- Young people are sharing medications found at home.
- The elderly save medications after they are no longer taking them.
- People steal medications from homes, including during open houses for home sales.

Last year in Missoula County, 19 people died due to overdoses of prescription drugs; 341 people died statewide due to overdoses involving 4 drugs—including OcyContin, hydrocodone, and methadone, whereas 266 people died due to auto accidents. After looking at models in other states, the committee sent a letter to realtors explaining that drug thefts may occur during open house events and held the first prescription drug disposal event in Montana on June 27th at the Health Department; the Sheriff’s Department assisted. Ms. Mizner described the event’s media campaign and coverage; 136 pounds of drugs and packaging were collected. Department personnel have been invited to represent public health on the State Attorney General’s task force and to speak at the Montana Board of Crime’s October conference.

OcyContin was collected at the event; categories of drugs taken in were not identified. Last year, 8 of 19 county deaths by prescription drug overdose were confirmed suicides. The number of suicides among the 341 deaths statewide due to overdose is not known.

The disposal event will be repeated quarterly. Most participants were over the age of 50. Missoula Aging Services and others who want to assist might help determine how to address this population's transportation needs. Legislation to create a statewide prescription monitoring program in Montana was defeated this year. Items collected were stored by law enforcement until they could be incinerated in Silver Bow at the Department of Justice's incinerator. FICMR block grant money paid for flyers. Deputies donated their time.

Dr. Smith suggested announcing disposal events at the university's employee wellness events and to find ways to provide infrastructure to maintain the program. Mr. Carlson said the events will help reduce the amount of endocrine disruptors and other drugs being flushed down toilets, which affect the water supply and aquatic life. The group discussed lack of a requirement in Montana to show identification when picking up prescriptions.

Follow-up: *Include disposal events in strategic planning. If Ms. Mizner prepares a write-up, Ms. Curtiss will submit it to the Montana Association of Counties (MACo). Ms. Mitchell will set up a referral for Ms. Mizner to speak to the City Council's Public Safety and Health Committee.*

ITEM 7 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

No meeting was held in July.

ITEM 8 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Flu planning continues. Dick Lewis is working short term as Deputy of Logistics to help prepare for flu shot clinics. Investigation continues on a possible foodborne illness outbreak. Director Leahy will miss the August board meeting; she is taking her daughter to college.

ITEM 9 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No comments were given.

ITEM 10 BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Dr. Smith asked if anyone could confirm whether transients in other counties are put on the bus to Missoula because there is infrastructure here to deal with them. Director Leahy said periodic head counts—not the formal census—show Missoula has about 50% of the state's overall homeless population. Many of the homeless served by Partnership Health Center and others are families and are not transient. Dr. Smith encouraged support to cover the Poverello Center's funding gap for its daytime, drop-in Salcido Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Leahy
Health Officer

Garon Smith
Chair