

## CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

### Board Meeting

April 23, 2025 | 7:30am

#### **PRESENT:**

Tom Overn, Chair

Dick Gulman, Vice Chair

Ashley Horner, Health Officer/Secretary

Mike Schwehr

#### **ABSENT:**

Tommy Bergan

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Katie Beyer, Administrator

Evonne Johnson, Admin. Specialist

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Health Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 am by Tom Overn, Chair, in the CCHD conference room or by remote.

#### **AGENDA:**

Agenda was reviewed, Motion made by Mike to approve agenda with changes, seconded by Ashley. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### **MINUTES:**

Reviewed. Motion made by Dick Gulman to approve previous months minutes presented, seconded by Mike Schwehr. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Concerns of Home Health in the red so early in the year, we will discuss further. The Public Health office is seeing appointments for vaccinations, medication management, footcare, and walk-ins. There were 85 boxes of Narcan given away at the VCSU wellness fair. We continue to do the background work to prepare for Measles response – there is no funding for these efforts.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Katie Beyer noted that \$688,035.60 is the account balance with a cash reserve balance of \$374,321.88 at the end of March. Home Health is in the red \$4,797.47 for March and in the red \$32,006.00 for the year. Dick Gulman made a motion to approve financials as presented, seconded by Ashley Horner. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### **VOUCHERED EXPENSES:**

Reviewed. Dick Gulman made a motion to approve the February/March voucherred expenses, seconded by Ashley Horner. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### Environmental Health

A second letter was sent certified to Wesley Acres. Marcie is following up with the installer in Litchville from last fall to see what their intent is with the property.

### Buildings/Grounds

The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor project has been moving along nicely.

Tom would like to know what heating costs were for this past winter.

### Assets

We are not allowed to sell the 2021 Haulmark trailer or the Ford pickup as they were purchased with Covid Dollars, technically owned by the state. They suggested if we want to keep it and allow other agencies to use it, keep insurance updated and allow usage with an MOU in the event something goes wrong.

### Population Health Status

Cases continue to grow with a confirmed 800 cases. Montana now has cases. CCHD is attempting to work with schools and childcare centers on vaccination and protocols in the event of an outbreak. Approximately 30 families would be impacted from not being vaccinated. VCPS, Maple Valley, Barnes County North and St. Kate's are all receptive in checking records and getting kids vaccinated. VCPS Administration response was that they are declining to review any hazard plans and do not want any tabletop exercises or any engagement with preparedness activities. They do not consider it urgent or a priority right now. We were able to meet with the local emergency planning team to brief the group.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Annual Report 2024

Annual Report was reviewed. The Board was very impressed with the report. Dick Gulman made a motion to accept Annual Report, seconded by Mike Schwehr. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

### Funding Brief

There are concerns about reserves on hand. Home Health agency is changing landscape: difficulty in getting reimbursed and loss of Occupational and Speech Therapies. We are losing referrals due to only having limited Physical Therapy available. Consistently declining census has interrupted our ability to balance the flex pool with other fee-for-service programs. Other cost saving measures that have already been implemented: low census staffing, increase fee for services (not updated since 2017), program evaluations to ID efficiencies, etc. Due to the loss of key, flexible grant funding at the federal and state levels, the Board determined that a full-time flex pool position would be eliminated effective May 31, 2025. This decision helps avoid broader layoffs down the line. This decision was made in alignment with the Board's responsibility to ensure the financial sustainability of the health district and to prioritize the allocation of limited resources. The Board acknowledged the impact of this action and affirmed that all appropriate steps would be taken to support staff and maintain continuity of services. The Board directed administration to extend sincere thanks to impacted staff for their dedicated service to the community.

### Contract Review

The Board voted to discontinue contracted nursing services with Valley City Public Schools (VCPS), effective May 31, 2025. The total compensation package for a Registered Nurse in the FT Flex Pool exceeds \$100,000 annually; however, VCPS maintained that \$20,000 was an appropriate contribution for these professional services for 35 weeks per year. Despite discussions around shared billing models and reimbursement strategies, the school district is not interested in covering actual costs and instead emphasized the "non-monetary value" of having a nurse present in the school. The Board affirms that while the value of public health may be priceless, its delivery is not.

A notice is to be sent to school administration detailing what will remain the same and what will be discontinued. There are no-cost services the health district provides as part of normal operations, including health screenings, supporting school immunization survey obligations, health education, health policy support and on-site clinics for vaccination. VCPS will need to arrange to meet their own adolescent health and development obligations (aka “puberty talks”).

Jail contract: \$55/hour, no adjustments need to be made as we are maintaining level income/expenses. We can look at the contract again in the fall as their census increases and we work to establish the in-reach program through the HRSA grant.

Motion made by Ashley Horner to discontinue the in-person Health Services Contract with VCPS and continue the Barnes County Correctional nursing contract at \$55/hour, seconded by Dick Gulman. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### Fee for Service Schedule Review

Fee Schedules have not been updated since 2017. The board was presented with the following:

- Nursing Encounter (in-office health maintenance, per 15-minute increments) – RN \$18.49
- Foot Care (in office) – RN \$40.00
- Foot Care (in home/facility) - RN \$50.00
- Fingernail Care (additional charge with other Foot Care service) – RN \$5.00
- Home Visits (PH Self-Pay) RN/Aide \$50.00
- Extra/Unplanned Visit (over 15 minutes) – RN/Aide \$25.00

Motion by Ashley Horner to accept and implement the proposed fee schedules, seconded by Mike Schwehr. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### Approve Revised 2025 Budget

Looking for approval for the revised 2025 Budget. Reflects increases in health insurance costs, removal of FTE, removal of position from HRSA grant and revised fees-for-service under Home Health Agency. Motion made by Mike Schwehr to accept revised 2025 Budget as reviewed, seconded by Dick Gulman.

#### 2026 Budget Requests

Letter received from Barnes County to request mil levy dollars. In 2025 we requested 5 mils/\$488K and we were approved for \$388,527. Since we are in a projected budget deficit for the next few years the board is in agreement to request \$500,000. Tom Overn, Chair, signed the request to be submitted.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 am.

**Next monthly meeting:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 7:30 am in the CCHD conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ashley Horner, Secretary