

**Madison County Board of Health**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 23, 2020**

On Thursday, April 23, 2020, a meeting of the Madison County Board of Health came to order at 4:37 p.m. via web/phone.

Board Members in attendance were, Douglas B. Young D.V.M, Melinda Tichenor- MVMC Lab Director, Dayna Thergesen – CPNP, Molly Biehl – D.O. and Whitney Marsh – RN Ennis Schools. Also in attendance were, Melissa Brummell – MCPHD Director, Jennifer Martens - Public Health Clerk, Lisa Roberts – Town of Ennis, Van Puckett – Sanitarian, Kacey Smart – Sanitarian clerk, Phil Fortner – Madison County Sheriff, Craig Schroder – Madison County Undersheriff, Bob Bates – Madison County Safety Coordinator, Bonnie O’Neill – Chief Administrative Officer, Joe Lazarus – Sanitarian in Training, Allison Treloar – Madison Valley Medical Center, Chris Gentry – Madison Foods, Tammy Belice – Twin Bridges School, Bob and Jessica Kudelski – Sportsman’s Lodge, Tammy Mahlstede – Madison County Human Resources, Stacey Croy – Ennis Pharmacy, Lynda Holt – Madison County Dispatch, Joe Brummell – DES, Rob Wallingford – DES, Chris Christensen – County Attorney, Justin Ekwall – Deputy Attorney, Commissioner Jim Hart – Madison County, Kevin Jermaine – Lone Mountain Land Company, Dale Olson – Forest Service, Darcy Taylor, Mark Allen, Allen Rohrback, Michael Bias, Hannah Kearse, Christina, Steve Primm, Gay Rossow, Shane Brozovich, Robin Blazer, Rachel Linn, Rachel, Tommy Luksha, Carol, Samantha Dalton, Kathy Barnes, JE, Amy Grice, Beth, Jack Albrecht, Kristie Turck, Darcy, Stacey Gordon, Dane Huzarski, Kristine, Greg J, Steve Kack, Justin Gatewood, Jackie, Jason Fleury, JL, Mike Wetherbee, Chris McGrath and various others phone numbers from the public that did not identify themselves.

**Recommendation to hire part time RN for Public Health**

The Madison County Commissioners received a recommendation to hire a part time RN for Public Health on Tuesday April 21, 2020. The recommendation was approved. This will bring Public Health up to 1.25 RN’s. Dayna Thergesen made the motion to hire the part time RN for Public Health. Molly Biehl second the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation to change Public Health Director to full time status**

Melissa requested to return to Public Health at full time status. She informed the Board that she resigned from the Madison County Care Homes IPO position on April 20, 2020 and it will end May 18, 2020. Dayna Thergesen made the motion to approve Melissa Brummell’s return to Public Health at full time status. Molly Biehl second the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

**Forest Service Crew Recommendations**

Dale Olson from Forest Service asked if the Board had any questions or concerns regarding fire service and summer crews. He is looking for guidance and recommendations to protect crews and surrounding communities. He gave a

recap on what the Forest Service has planned for the summer crews. There are 13 individuals coming in from various areas including out of state. They will implement a 14 day quarantine. The crews will be housed by group in bunk houses on forest service grounds and they will implement sanitation resources. They have prepared 1 extra facility for isolation if needed. They also have a tree planting crew arriving in June and a tree cutting crew later in the summer. The Board feels the Forest Service is headed in the right direction. Doug Young recommends submitting an article to the media with information on what they are planning on implementing to ease any worry from the public.

## **Coronavirus COVID-19**

### **A. Orders for Public Health and Safety by Governor Bullock**

Melissa gave a brief summary of Governor Bullock's current reopening phased directive. She also reiterated that Board of Health orders are in effect until April 30<sup>th</sup> and the Governor's directive expires April 25<sup>th</sup>. It was also explained that the Governor's 14 day quarantine order is in effect with no expiration date. Everyone is urged to follow the Governor's website for updated directives and current information. He has a frequently asked questions section with detailed information as well. Other Public Health Departments have asked for guidance on youth sports. Virginia City tourist facilities will not have as many resources as other stores for hand hygiene. Van recommends hand washing stations over sanitizer for effectiveness. Van also reiterated that businesses have the right to make their own decisions regarding gloves and masks being worn in their individual businesses. Big Sky representative Kevin Jermaine wanted to know if the Board of Health will tighten up the Governor's directives for Madison County. Doug stated that we use it as guidance and have the ability to tighten up the restrictions as needed. A motion to align with Governor Bullock's orders regarding non-essential closures was made by Melinda Tichenor. Dayna Thergeresen second the motion, all voted Aye, and the motion was passed unanimously.

### **B. Ban on RV parks, hotels, motels, short-term rentals and other lodging facilities including licensed guides and outfitters from renting or providing housing to people for non-essential purposes.**

The Board of Health lodging order went into effect April 10, 2020. It is set to expire April 30, 2020. Melinda recommended the Board align with the Governor's orders on April 27, 2020. A motion to amend the Madison County Board of Health lodging restriction orders to align with Governor Bullock's orders to expire April 26, 2020 for places of worship and main street businesses including lodging on April 27, 2020 was made by Melinda Tichenor. Whitney Marsh second the motion, all voted Aye, and the motion was passed unanimously.

### **C. Discussion with BLM representative**

BLM representative updated the Board with their summer plans regarding COVID-19 precautions. They are aligned with the Forest Service. They have 35 employees coming on in June. 4 current local employees already working recreation facilities on the Madison River. They have plans to reopen with the phased approach and maintain facilities. They are working on sanitation procedures to adhere to the CDC recommendations. The Board has no further

recommendations at this time.

#### **D. Big Sky discussion**

Kevin Jermaine notified the Board that the Gallatin County Board of Health met this morning and voted to align with the Governor's orders at this time. He thanked the Board for working together. He will have a call tomorrow to keep dialogue with Melissa Brummell in sync between the two counties.

#### **Additional Agenda Items**

Tammy Belice with Twin Bridges School asked for recommendations on school reopening plans. Molly and Dayna think remote learning would be best at this time especially with very little school time left to go. Beaverhead County has made a directive to not reopen schools and we should probably follow as well.

Michael Wetherbee with Sheridan School District asked for recommendations on graduation. They would prefer it in the gymnasium but due to social distancing recommendations Melissa Brummell thinks it's best to try and hold it outdoors. She told the schools that have reached out to her that once they make a decision please contact Public Health and we will work together to make it safe for everyone while adhering to CDC guidelines. Doug recommends we look into a possible co-op agreement between Public Health, Board of Health and local schools if they would like to pursue that avenue. Melissa read a public comment email that asks the Board to take into consideration healthcare availability when making decision regarding reopening.

Dan Albrecht with the Madison County Library wanted to propose a possible co-op agreement with the Board of Health, Madison County and the Library Association. Melissa suggested they watch what the Library Association recommends since it is not specifically addressed in the Governor's directive.

Lisa Roberts with the Town of Ennis asked for guidance regarding the wearing of masks. She was directed to the Governor's directive. She would like to see highway signs notifying out of states of the mandatory 14 day quarantine. It is believed to be in the works with the Governor's office at this time.

Melissa wanted to remind others that with the reopening of salons and businesses alike that proper sanitation needs to be strictly followed per CDC guidelines in order for us to be successful at the reopening phase. Distancing in waiting rooms, wearing masks when possible, no community drinks such as coffee pots need to be followed closely to help with prevention measures. She also informed everyone that there is a COVID-19 webpage in the works for the county lead by the Incident Command team. They are also keeping everyone up to date as frequently as possible on the county webpage and Facebook page. She is also in contact with the local newspaper regarding any changes. She is working with the County Public Relations officer Bonnie O'Neill and they are currently only doing a weekly press release when Madison County has any updates.

The community posed numerous questions for clarification regarding the Governor and Board of Health directives such as: When will the 14 day quarantine end? If out of state guests bring their own food and stay in cabins are they allowed to still rent from the businesses? Can out of state guests still fish if they are on 14 day quarantine? What is allowed vs. not in quarantine? Are the orders enforceable and who enforces them? All questions were answered.

Bonnie O'Neill and Madison County Commissioner Jim Hart wanted to thank Melissa Brummell for all her help running the COVID-19 Incident Command and juggling Public Health and the Infectious Prevention position within numerous facilities in the county. She

has done an outstanding job. Thank you Melissa!!!

**Approval of Minutes:**

Melinda Tichenor made the motion to approve the April 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting minutes as written. Dayna Therghesen seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting date:**

The board will wait for future directives from Governor Bullock.

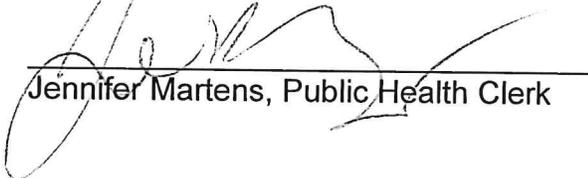
**Meeting Adjourned:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Molly Biehl at 7:03 pm, Dayna Therghesen second the motion, all voted Aye, and the motion was passed unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas B. Young, Chairman  
Madison County Board of Health

Date Approved: May 28, 2020

Minutes prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Martens, Public Health Clerk