

Board of Health
Minutes
July 18, 2016

Chairman Novotny called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with Commissioner Hicks, Commissioner Greenough, Dr. Schueler, MD, Dr. Christensen, DVM, Dr. Cotant, DDS, County Clerk Vicki Edelman, Sheila Newcomb, Commissioners Assistant and Levi Hamilton, Medical Student out of the state of Washington.

Dr. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Greenough seconded. Motion carried.

Reports were presented:

Dr. Christiansen, DVM: Right now in the middle of summer there is danger of leaving pets in hot cars, even with windows cracked, it only takes 10 minutes for the car to heat up to 110 degrees. Heat stroke and death are a real possibility. There is still the possibility of ticks so be careful as you go through sage brush and check your animals afterwards.

Dr. Schueler, MD: The medical facility interviewed a position candidate that will graduate a year from now, who grew up north of Sheridan. She was a student, doing rotation, three years ago. The medical facility is trying to keep their medical staff the same size. One of their members has indicated that a year from now they would need to cut back significantly on their hours. Hiring Elise Williams would keep the staff at its current level.

The new nursing home has been open for 4 weeks. There is a reduction in staffing so we have people on a waiting list that we are not able to admit. We will have a group of aides available in mid to late August and hopefully be able to admit the remaining of the people that are on the waiting list. Staffing isn't only a problem in the nursing home but also in the hospital, we have a lot of business, barely enough nurses, some are willing to work 60-80 hours a week to take care of the patients. That isn't a good long term solution.

The fluoride issue was determined not to be in the best interest to the City of Buffalo by the city Council. It was a well-orchestrated anti-fluoride campaign. Sheridan has added fluoride to their water.

The Helicopter landing pad will be completed in October. The demolition of the old nursing home will be completed in October. The Helipad will be adjacent to the south side of the ER.

We have been fortunate to have a dry year, few mosquitos, low instances of mosquito borne illness, but the tradeoff will be higher fire risk.

The budget cuts have affected staffing to a minor degree. We will not be hiring new staff or replacing staff that was lost through attrition in many cases. We may or may not be able to pay pension contribution this year. The staff has been given, approval by the board, a 3% pay increase, which is a tough decision to make in this time of decrease revenue. We have to compete with Gillette and Sheridan for nursing staff. We cannot afford to get too far under what the competition pays. We have made some adjustments and have not had to make major changes to staffing. A question was asked about the limited staffing at the Nursing home if this was the result of pay. Dr. Schueler stated that this might be a factor. Many of the aides have limited skill. They have to pass a nurse's aide certification test, which involves several weeks of training and testing before you can be license to provide care. That is also a hurdle, because not everyone passes or is willing to go through that

process. The hospital funds this program. Recently the loss of aides has been related to them moving out of the area.

The average census through the ER year round is just under 8 people a day. We are currently seeing double that now. The use of the ER is changing into more of a walk-in clinic or urgent care, where people are accustomed to coming for things that are non-emergence but they want something done. Which isn't very efficient from a resource utilization standpoint but none the less that raises the numbers.

Dr. Cotant, DDS:

With the budget cuts, we are going to see a reduced amount of funding for Medicaid patients. The state senior program which gave \$800 for work to be done has been decreased. The fluoride outcome is disappointing.

With no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Christenson moved and Dr. Cotant seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be October 18, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Newcomb