

Board of Health  
Minutes  
January 17, 2017

Chairman Novotny called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Greenough, Dr. Schueler, MD, Dr. Cotant, DDS, Trisha Thompson, RN, Dr. Christiansen, DVM, County Clerk Vicki Edelman, Civil Deputy County Attorney Barry Crago and Sheila Newcomb, Commissioners Assistant

Commissioner Perry moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Greenough seconded. Motion carried.

Reports were presented:

**Dr. Christiansen, DVM**

Chronic Wasting disease has been found within the local hunting areas with the migration of elk and deer. There hasn't been any evidence of transmission to humans. The chronic wasting disease has been mostly found in the deer family. Hunters need to be careful on what they shoot; if the animal looks emaciated and they are strange acting they need to refrain from shooting. If a hunter dresses out a deer that looks emaciated they should limit contact with the brain and spinal cord. Chronic wasting disease does not transfer to cattle.

**Trisha Thompson, RN**

The State has been able to get public health offices under the 340B funding. The restrictions have changed. Medicaid patients are not able to get public supplied TB skin testing or STI antibiotics. This is because there is an insurance that can actually be billed. Nurse Thompson will refer them to the office because Medicaid will cover it. If they had to carry private TB the cost would be \$75 a bottle. A whole bottle would not get used by the expiration date of 30 days when it has been punctured.

The flu activity is increasing tremendously. In the last couple of weeks over 100 cases have been reported each week. A lot of the cases have been an unknown sub-type A. The vaccine is still recommended. There are a lot of people that are still unvaccinated; Public Health has 55 doses that can be administered.

We are fully capable of doing comprehensive STI testing. Dr. Schueler was beneficial in getting Public Health the blood tubes to administer the testing. With this capability, cases of Hepatitis C, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia have been diagnosed. Public Health is encouraging the Baby Boomer generation to come in and get tested for Hepatitis C. This age group is at a high risk of getting chronic Hepatitis C.

The new Public Health staff nurse is now a certified passenger safety technician. She can help Robin King with providing car seats to the public. The cost for the car seats have increased but still in the cost affordable range.

**Dr. Cotant, DDS**

They are still waiting to see the budget cuts for Medicaid. Dr. Cotant's office has mailed out forms for the senior population to apply for the Delta Dental of Wyoming and have seen a fairly good number returned. The screenings took place. There were fewer cases of cavities found. There hasn't been any progress on the fluoride treatments through the school. They are going to try to get applications in the school by spring and in the fall.

**Dr. Schueler, MD:**

We are in the height of the flu epidemic which is a good match for the vaccine. We are past the benefit of getting a vaccine. Two weeks ago there were 4 patients within a day in the walk-in clinic. The clinic has been seeing 3-5 a day, including the ER during the past week.

Zika Virus reported in Texas. Pregnant women who contract this virus can have babies with small heads and severe retardation. Until a vaccine is developed it is recommended that women who are pregnant avoid areas where the Zika virus has been detected. The Zika Virus was prevalent in Central and South America but now is reaching the southern USA.

Helicopter landing pad is still not completed. Certain paint was needed to be applied to the pad that had to cure at a certain temperature and if this wasn't done the pad could not be insured. The hospital is still using temporary landing by the School administration building.

Senator Kinskey is interested in talking about the Title 25 process. This is an expensive legal issue where patients are committed to a mental health hospital against their will, they are suicidal or psychotic. Involves law enforcement, transportation, going to WBI in Casper and it costs a lot of money. There are times when WBI can't take the patient. Law Enforcement has to sit with the patient until they can go to WBI in Casper. They are unable to go out of state because of financial reasons. Senator Kinskey and Paul Demple, Director of Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center are interested in talking about some options. Wyoming Behavioral Health sent a couple of their administrators to meet and they want to be involved in the planning.

Nicole Hobbs is the new CEO for the hospital. She is from Cody where for 3 years she was doing health care administration. She will start on April 1, 2017. The hospital's current CEO, Sandy Ward, has been battling cancer for 8 years.

The Nursing Home administrator's license requires someone to have a 4 year degree, take a 6 month mentoring course and pass an examination to be qualified. You can't have a nursing home without an administrator. Mr. Ward is the current administrator and when he retires, Ms. Hobbs will need to go through the process to get her license. It is unclear whether Mr. Ward's health will prevail long enough for Ms. Hobbs to complete the requirements. Maternity leave and time sensitive issues will also need to be considered. We may need some creative arrangements made to keep our Nursing Home opened depending on how things progress during the course of the year.

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

The next meeting will be April 18, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Newcomb

(A recording of the meeting is available upon request)