

Board of Health
Minutes
April 17 2018

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

Commissioner Greenough moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2018 meeting. Dr. Cotant seconded. Motion carried.

Reports were presented:

Dr. Christiansen, DVM

Dr. Christian said to be aware of Tularemia which is a disease of animals and humans. Humans can become infected through tick and deer fly bites. He said not to handle the carcasses of prairie dogs, that the fleas on them carry the bubonic plague. Care should be taken when handling aborted fetuses or placentas of sheep and cows, as all the pathogens that cause abortion can be transmitted to humans. Sanitation in the areas of lambing and calving is recommended along with personal hygiene. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a serious respiratory disease transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings or saliva. Humans can contract the disease when they breathe in the disturbed nesting material and come in contact with the droppings. To clean the areas infested with nests and droppings from mice spray everything down with a Clorox solution and let it sit for a while before cleaning.

Trish Thompson, RN:

Nurse Thompson reiterated the need to clean thoroughly with the Clorox solution in your cabins and campers that have been closed up for the winter months. Also to open doors and windows to air everything out before you start cleaning.

The Department of Health has changed the immunizations schedule that affects the children going into school or daycares. This use to be school related and now they are making it age related. With the Affordable Care Act people are seeing their pediatricians more and getting the immunizations for their children.

With the budget season coming up Robin King with Public Health may have to split her time with Sheridan County and Johnson County. This hasn't been finalized yet.

There have been cases of gonorrhea and syphilis in Johnson County. The era of on-line dating has been the most significant contributor to that.

Flu season is waning and is now considered regional because there are some places in Wyoming that have cases of the flu.

Dr. Cotant, DDS:

Dr. Cotant reminded everyone that the dental association meeting is in June 2018. He anticipates hearing about what is happening with Medicaid.

Dr. Schueler, MD:

Emergency Management will host a tabletop exercise on Thursday, April 19, about Long Term Power Outages and the consequences to the community. Medicines, food, back-up generators, heating and fuel are some of the issues that need to be addressed. Dr. Schueler stated that the more prepared we are locally and at home, the less burden we are to the community. Stockpiling food, medicine and having a backup generator are some of things that we can do personally to prepare.

We have had a remarkable flu season. The vaccine matched those strains rather well but for some reason vaccine effectiveness was in the low to mid 30% range. This means that a lot of people got vaccinated but some still got the flu. We were in a widespread flu pattern until the beginning of April which is at least a month longer than average.

Dr. Gonzales is not doing obstetrics anymore but he is continuing to work in the clinic and emergency room. This summer two of the hospital doctors will not be working in the ER, Dr. Mullen who is having a baby and Dr. Tabb who will be gone for a year. The hospital has utilized some part-time help in the ER, Dr. Gard, works in Sheridan but lives in Johnson County; Dr. Gilbert who works at the hospital in Sheridan, and Dr. Radosevich, works in Casper but will come up and work some days this summer.

Kaycee is looking for a full-time paid ambulance director. To have continuity this is a step that needs to happen.

Commissioner Greenough said that they have not heard about prevention funding from the Department of Health. Nurse Thompson asked that once the Commissioners do hear from the Department of Health if they could inform her. Chairman Novotny said that with the 8 million that is going to come back that there is money in there for suicide prevention, opioids and tobacco prevention. The county will have some flexibility in programing that can be offered. The 8 million is allocated by population.

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

(A recording of the meeting is available upon request)