

Board of Health

Minutes

January 15, 2019

Vice Chairman Greenough called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with Commissioner Perry, Chairman Novotny (by phone), Dr. Cotant, DDS, Dr. Mark Schueler, M.D., Trisha Thompson, RN, Public Health, Bill Hawley, Prevention Specialist, and Sheila Newcomb, Commissioners Assistant

Commissioner Perry moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2018 Chairman Novotny seconded. Motion carried.

Reports were presented:

Trisha Thompson, RN

Johnson County had a cat that was tested positive with the plague down in Kaycee. This was taken care of and no one had to do any follow-up testing. The Public Health Office has received a lot of applicants for the Administrative Assistant position. Dr. Schueler's county Health Officer contract was received and needs to be signed by Dr. Schueler and the Commissioners. Commissioner Greenough asked if the Commissioner's office could receive a copy of the contract. The Public Health Office will make sure that the Commissioner's office receives a signed copy. They have been out of the flu vaccine for a while and since they have been out around 15 people have called. They were able to refer them out in the community. Shopko and the Prescription Shop still have them.

Dr. Schueler, M.D.

The newspaper article about the flu was out of date by the time it went to press. The flu has tapered off and it may have peaked in this area. Dr. Schueler said he has been concerned about the mental health situation in Johnson County and he has talked with Bill Hawley, Prevention Specialist at times about staffing. He met the new director of the Northern Mental Health Center, Diana Foster. He felt the county was very short handed and that services began to suffer as a result. This is beginning to improve; there are now two counselors and the director, who also does some clinical work. He spoke with Chief Carder about some recent incidents where mental health services were not well met and he hopes that this is a passing thing and we will have better leadership and better availability.

Mr. Hawley spoke about the concerns for better mental health coverage in Kaycee. He is hopeful that things will improve in Kaycee. He stated that if you talk with the past county managers of the Northern Wyoming Mental Health or the Community Mental Health Center and ask them what a fully staffed mental health center looks like, it is more than 2 counselors, it is a county manager, it is 4 counselors, therapists, it is a couple of case managers and support staff. The Alliance for Hope in Kaycee still have concerns because there are still unmet needs. There is one individual who does not have the ability to get to Buffalo or Casper to get services. They don't own a vehicle so they are trying to arrange rides. His opinion is that Kaycee is not being serviced by the mental health center.

Chairman Novotny asked about the individual that cannot find transportation why isn't the BATS or KATS system being utilized to get this person where he or she needs to go? Also he said he was just down in Kaycee with the Alliance for Hope and had not heard that complaint. He asked to be given some specifics. He can raise the issue with Mr. Dimple. If there are not specifics it is hard to raise the issue. If people cannot get an appointment or they are getting cancelled please let us know.

Mr. Hawley said that he would relay this to Mr. Turk and Ms. Buckingham. They are the two primary leaders for Alliance for Hope.

Chairman Novotny said to get specifics then the Commissioners can try to fix it.

Dr. Cotant, DDS:

There is still nothing new with Dental Medicaid. He has not been made aware of anything with the current legislative session. There has not been any more information about the dental health therapist. Medicare Expansion is still a ways down the road. They did the candy buy back and this was one of the lesser years. He is not sure what caused this but he believes that the flyers got to the schools later than usual. They did the school screenings and this is the first year that there wasn't an urgent need, i.e., visible abscess. Dr. Cotant talked with Dr. Hein about getting into Kaycee School and Dr. Hein said that he would look into it. He has tried before and he isn't sure if it is miscommunication or bad rapport. But he will continue to try.

Chairman Novotny said that Mike Tobias has been nominated to be the new head of health and so hopefully we can address Dr. Cotant's concerns about the Medicaid reimbursement rate.

Dr. Cotant said that they like to see how it starts off and then make sure we are being heard. Wyoming is one of the better states for reimbursement but we have declined as far as state rankings. If people see a decline in the percentage that they receive than we will probably see a decrease in participation.

Bill Hawley, Prevention Specialist

The Alliance for Hope in Kaycee is doing some wonderful things. They are providing monthly soup suppers at the Harold Jarrard Park. In November an ASIST Training was held with 12 participants. This is more than QPR it is actual intervention, participants including several EMS personnel. Fit for Life was launched on January 7, they have Hannah Rugner, a fitness coach, who is showing proper weight lifting techniques and other physical activities and Erin Perry is teaching Yoga. On January 7 they had 70 people attend. Social isolation can be a part of suicide, they feel alone. What can a small community like Kaycee do for connectedness? The soup suppers as well as Fit for Life are providing that connectedness which is a primary protection factor for people who might be struggling or feeling alone. The Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition is holding their annual scholarship fund; they raise funds for scholarships for graduates of Buffalo and/or Kaycee High Schools. These are for someone going into a health seeking career. They are trying to raise \$4,000 this year, first by asking coalition members to give and then second the coalition members go out and ask family and friends for donations as well. They have currently raised \$1,300. They are serving at Pizza Hut on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 and will receive 20% of the profit and are able to keep the tips. A free movie will be shown at the Buffalo Theatre on Wednesdays, January 16 and 23 at 7:00 p.m. called Suicide the Ripple Effect.

Commissioner Greenough asked Dr. Schueler about his Public Health Officer contract. He stated there is a change in funding and wanted to know if he has a contract. Commissioner Greenough said that we do not have copies of the contract in the Commissioner's office. Nurse Thompson said they are kept in the Clerk's office. Dr. Schueler said these are done annually. Dr. Schueler raised the issue about a letter from Chairman Novotny to Dr. Ryan Ludwig about replacing Dr. Schueler as the county health officer.

Chairman Novotny said that there were concerns about Dr. Schueler's attendance. That the Commissioner's Assistant was not notified. He said that Dr. Schueler serves as the health officer is on the hospital board. Chairman Novotny would like to give an opportunity to other doctors in the community to serve as the public health officer. The county public health officer is appointed by the Commissioners. Dr. Schueler still has the original letter from 1992 when he was appointed and it states that these are optional meetings. Chairman Novotny has spoken with Dr. Ludwig to see if he has any interest and he will let the Commissioners know by the end of the week. At this point there isn't a change. Commissioner Greenough asked when the contract is up and that she was under the impression that it expired at the end of last year. Nurse Thompson said that the contract is

from July 1st to June 30th. Commissioner Perry stated that the Commissioners are trying to appoint new members to the boards in order to have fresh ideas.

Bill Hawley expressed a desire to nominate Diana Foster, Northern Wyoming Mental Health Director as an Ex-Officio of the Board.

Trisha Thompson moved and Commissioner Perry seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

(A recording of the meeting is available upon request)