

Board of Health

Minutes

July 18, 2022

Chairman Novotny called the meeting to order. Commissioner Greenough, Commissioner Perry, Dr. Mark Schueler, and Jody Telkamp, Commissioners' Assistant, Barry Crago, County Attorney; Michelle Pearce, Interim Public Health Nurse; Bill Hawley, Community Prevention Specialist; Robin King, Public Health Response Coordinator.

Commissioner Greenough moved and Commissioner Perry seconded the approval of the April 19, 2022, minutes. Motion carried.

Bill Hawley, handed out a report updating the board on projects he is working on.

Robin King, Public Health Response Coordinator

- Public Health has dealt with a home having three bats enter the house. Game and Fish have collected the bats and have driven them to Cheyenne for rabies testing.
- They have interviewed two local candidates for the nurse manager position and should have a decision by end of week. Their decision will then have to be sent to the state for approval.

Dr. Mark Schueler, MD

- COVID in Johnson County continues; however, the severity is low. There are now oral antiviral therapies that reduce symptoms if they are taken within 4-5 days.
- Monkeypox is affecting fewer than 100 individuals across the United States. There are no cases in Wyoming. It is contagious through direct contact with an infected individual; it is not airborne. Vaccines are available to prevent contracting the disease.
- There are communication issues between the health care center and the VA hospital in Sheridan, which has caused concerns with staff safety. Dr. Schueler is formulating a plan to better cooperation with the VA hospital.
- Currently there are two inpatients at the hospital. ER traffic is up 150%; typical for summer. The long-term care facility has 44 beds; they can staff to care for 33 beds.

A member of the public, Kerry Aggen, addressed the board requesting to cease offering the COVID 19 vaccine immediately as it does not work and people are being harmed. Dr. Schueler stated that he is responsible for analyzing data and consult with other health care professionals on proper protocols. Doctors are obligated to utilize whatever treatments are available to help people, even if there is potential for harm. Interim Public Health Nurse Manager, Melanie Pearson, stated she has not seen any adverse reactions or deaths in Johnson County from the vaccine. People are provided information from the manufacturers on the vaccines so people can make a choice whether or not to get vaccinated.

Commissioner Greenough moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting is October 18, 2022, at 1:00 pm.