

# Board of Health

## Minutes

October 18, 2022

Chairman Novotny called the meeting to order. Commissioner Greenough, Commissioner Perry, Dr. Mark Schueler, and Jody Telkamp, Commissioners' Assistant, Bill Hawley, Community Prevention Specialist; Robin King, Public Health Response Coordinator and Dr. Dwayne Christensen were present.

Commissioner Greenough moved and Commissioner Perry seconded the approval of the July 18, 2022, minutes. Motion carried.

### **Robin King, Public Health Response Coordinator**

- Kristin Friedrich is on maternity leave.
- Public Health has hired a second public health nurse, who will be onboard middle of November.
- They have four applications for the office manager position. Kristin will be coming in to help with the hiring.
- Sheridan Public Health has sent a nurse to Buffalo to administer both flu and Moderna COVID shots. Public Health distributes Moderna vaccines and the hospital administers the Pfizer vaccines.
- October 26<sup>th</sup> a Sheridan nurse will be onsite administering flu shots at the Sr Center from 9:00 am to noon, then at Public Health in the afternoon.
- Bill Hawley requested the minutes reflect appreciation for Robin King for her hard work and thorough understanding of the department's operations in order to keep Public Health operational during their staffing shortage.

### **Bill Hawley, Community Prevention Officer**

- September was National Suicide Prevention Month. A news clip from the Denver7 News channel was played highlighting Wyoming as being one of five states in the nation to make available an AgriStress hotline.
- Operation Green Light is a NACO initiative to show support for our Veterans, and inquired how far the Commission would like to push this. He was instructed to push.
- The JC16 Wellness Alliance, a collaboration of a shared vision for a safer, healthier, kinder community, is being formed. Commissioner participation would be appreciated.

### **Dr. Dwayne Christensen**

- The Avian flu epidemic is ongoing. There have been a couple of cases in Johnson County. Serious problem for states with poultry and egg farmers.
- Chronic Wasting Disease a slight problem for deer and antelope. A killing frost will abate it.
- No reports of rabies. This year is quiet.

### **Dr. Mark Schueler, MD**

- A Right Road presentation was made at the high school. This was an honorable and well-intentioned effort from the community to help high schoolers make wise decisions that could affect the rest of their lives.
- Because of the high transmission rate of COVID, the hospital is back to enforcing the wearing of masks. There are no serious hospitalizations.
- There are a few cases of Monkeypox in Wyoming; none in Johnson County. No one has natural immunity, but vaccines are available. This is not a fatal illness.
- The Polio cases reported in New York State were vaccine derived by someone who traveled from Pakistan. This can happen from the oral vaccine; which is most common in third world countries.

- As a follow-up on the VA issue; we had a clinician and a couple of administrators visit with the Sheridan VA over their inability to take one of our patients. Due to the severe nursing shortage, they are only able to staff five hospital beds, nine psych beds, and the out-patient care is closed.
- The hospital has a new PA and a new ER doctor. Thirty three out of 44 nursing home beds are occupied. They have raised wages and offered classes to entice recruitment. The hospital side has as many nurses as needed.

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

The next meeting is January 17, 2023, at 1:00 pm.