



Cheyenne Laramie County Public Health Board of Health
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center – Meeting Room C
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 @ Noon

Present:

Lorie Chesnut, DrPH, MPH, Chairman
Dr. Tracie Caller, MPH, Secretary
Gus Lopez, Member
Dr. Max Silver, Member
Commissioner Troy Thompson, Ex Officio
City Councilman Jeff White, Ex Officio

Staff Present:

Dr. Kathy Emmons, Executive Director
Kasey Mullins, RN, Director of Nursing
Jennifer Escobedo, Director of Environmental Health
Dr. Stan Hartman, Chief Health Officer

Guests Present:

Tammy Deisch, Laramie County Treasurer
Rebekha Dostal, County Attorney

Absent:

Sue Hume, Vice Chairman
Dalene Frantz, Director of Operation/HR
Laura Malone, Chief Financial Officer

Chairman Chesnut called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. There were no guests in attendance.

Consent Agenda: Dr. Chesnut asked for input on the consent agenda which included the agenda and minutes for February 21, 2022. Dr. Caller moved to accept the consent agenda, Mr. Lopez seconded, the motion approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report for February 2023: Laramie County Treasurer Tammy Deisch reviewed the treasurer's report for February 2023. Dr. Emmons pointed out that the deposit for \$362,820 was in large part for the last payment from COVID funds for the Mobile Response Vehicle. Dr. Emmons also reported that PHPR payment has been received for the month of December. Mr. Lopez moved to accept the treasurer's report with Dr. Caller seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Revenues and Expenses for February 2023: Dr. Emmons presented the February Revenue and Expense report due to Ms. Malone's absence. Dr. Chesnut asked for clarification of the Ryan White



revenues because they are 132% of revenue. Ms. Mullins explained that it was because some of the funds were for services provided during the last fiscal year but received this year. Mr. Lopez moved to approve the February report and Dr. Silver seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Mental Health Moment: Dr. Caller presented information regarding mental health. She shared information from the Wyoming Department of Health regarding suicide statistics in the state. The number of suicides has decreased 20% from last year. In 2022 there were 149 suicides, 190 in 2021, 182 in 2020 and 170 in 2019. She also pointed out that due to our small population we need to consider that it only takes a few cases to impact the percentages significantly. Dr. Caller noted that in 2022, 93 suicides were from overdoses. Dr. Hartman asked if that statistic was specific to intentional overdose or if it also included unintentional actions. Dr. Caller clarified that she believed it was only intentional. Dr. Caller noted that the new 988 hotline being staffed by Wyoming individuals and the Governor's focus on suicide prevention has most likely impacted the decline in suicide rates.

Dr. Chesnut noted that we will include a Mental Health Moment on the monthly agendas going forward.

Contracts and Agreements – No contracts or agreements for March

Official Business

- **FY2024 Budget Update** - Dr. Emmons presented the draft 2024 budget for review. Dr. Emmons explained the process for developing the budget including the work of all divisions in preparing their own budget, and the philosophy behind the process. Dr. Emmons took the board through the budget power point that was given to each board member. The draft budget document which was sent to the city per their request on March 5, 2023, included a request of \$1,164,557 and a request to the County of \$952,820.

Councilman White inquired as to what led to the increased request to the city. Dr. Emmons explained that primarily the increases were due to recruitment and retention efforts, increase in benefits cost, building repair and renovation, a part time education and outreach position, a placeholder for staff salary increases, staff training and education and software needs. Additionally, we are anticipating a decrease in EHS revenues due to the slowing building cycle, and loss of funds from PHR.

Commissioner Thompson asked why the mosquito funds and computer/IT funds were broken out from the general county request rather than included in it. Dr. Emmons stated that she did not see a reason for the breakout and Commissioner Thompson recommended consideration of rolling the three areas together into one request.



Dr. Emmons explained that the draft budget presented today has been submitted to the city and will be submitted to the County in May. Once the City and County have developed their allocations the budget will again be presented to the board for finalization. Dr. Caller moved for acceptance of the draft 2024 budget and Mr. Lopez seconded with a unanimous vote from the board.

Information for the Board:

Executive Director Update

- Dr. Emmons told the board about the events with Granite Rehab Center from Saturday March 18, 2023. The facility had to be evacuated due to the lack of heat and hot water. Ty Snarr, PHR coordinated the response activities with EMA. Kasey Mullins, CNO coordinated the move of patients with five of our staff including Terry Thayne, RN, Amy Dyer, RN, Sami Brodahl, RN, John Goetz, RN, and Alisia Sanchez. Dr. Emmons was involved with the initial stages coordinating with EMA and the Wyoming Department of Health. Dr. Emmons complimented the staff on their work and leading the activities. The Board also thanked the employees for their work and response.
- There have been some increased security issues around the building which are of concern for staff safety.
- EHS went live with the new Health Space program on Tuesday, March 21 after a lengthy process that had begun prior to the current administration.
- Dr. Emmons also explained that three directors have had surgery in the last 3 weeks which has led to delays in some processes.

Environmental Health Report – Ms. Escobedo shared with the board more information about the new Health Space program and hopes that it will give staff more tools to accomplish their jobs efficiently. She also let them know that we have a new EHS specialist, and a new part-time receptionist hired who will begin shortly. Mr. Lopez noted that septic inspections are down from previous years. Ms. Escobedo agreed and explained that due to a slowdown in building those numbers have decreased in the last several months.

Dr. Chesnut requested that EHS provide information at the next board meeting regarding the pockets in the city that the county and city are working on annexing and how that will impact water issues.

Nursing Division - Ms. Mullins related information on the new Plan of Care program that was approved by the legislature during the last session. Laramie County is serving as a pilot county for the program. We have entered into buying agreements with pharmaceutical companies to try and offset the increasing costs of medication for our clients. We should also be seeing some cost sharing benefits that were established earlier this year.



On April 17th, nursing will go live with Cure MD, their new patient platform which will be beneficial for scheduling, payment, sharing information with the state and documentation. Dr. Chesnut asked Ms. Mullins if we have an additional staff person completing a medical transcription program. Ms. Mullins explained that the state offered to fund training for another medical translator.

Dr. Chesnut adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.