



Cheyenne Laramie County Public Health Board of Health  
**Cheyenne Regional Medical Center – Meeting Room C**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 @ Noon

***Present:***

Lorie Chesnut, DrPH, MPH, Chairman  
Sue Hume, Vice Chairman  
Dr. Tracie Caller, MPH, Secretary  
Gus Lopez, Member

***Staff Present:***

Dr. Kathy Emmons, Executive Director  
Kasey Mullins, RN, Director of Nursing  
Dalene Frantz, Director of Operation/HR  
Laura Malone, Chief Financial Officer  
Jennifer Escobedo, Director of Environmental Health  
Dr. Stan Hartman, Chief Health Officer  
Tiffany Gaertner, Environmental Health Supervisor  
Ashton Brodahl, Environmental Health Specialist I

***Guests Present:***

Tammy Deisch, Laramie County Treasurer  
Rebekha Dostal, Deputy County Attorney

***Absent:***

Dr. Max Silver, Member  
Commissioner Troy Thompson, Ex Officio  
City Councilman Jeff White, Ex Officio

Chairman Chesnut called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

**Consent Agenda:** Dr. Chesnut asked for input or changes to the consent agenda which included the agenda and minutes for March 21, 2022. Ms. Hume moved to accept the consent agenda, Mr. Lopez seconded, the motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurers Report for March 2023:** Laramie County Treasurer Tammy Deisch reviewed the treasurer's report for March 2023. Ms. Deisch reviewed the cash in the bank account and in the investment account. Dr. Caller moved to accept the treasurer's report with Mr. Lopez seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Revenues and Expenses for March 2023:** Ms. Malone presented the March Revenue and Expense report. There are still some grant billings that will need to be done for March 2023.



Nursing fees are at 96.06% for the FY through March 2023 and Environmental Health fees at 65.51% FY through March 2023. Ms. Hume moved to approve the March Revenues and Expenses and Mr. Lopez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Mental Health Moment:** Dr. Caller discussed the challenges our state and county face including how to handle people who have a severe level of mental health needing a higher level of care. Currently we do not have a Psychiatric ICU (PICU) which allows for low stimulation and a quiet environment as most beds are in Casper. Currently in Laramie County there are only 2 beds for PICU. This is a challenge for the whole State of Wyoming. Ms. Hume asked if these services have improved for pediatrics and Dr. Caller said unfortunately, they have not. Dr. Hartman asked if the Emergency Room (ER) at CRMC still holds some of these patients. Dr. Caller stated that some of these patients are held in CRMC's ER.

Ms. Mullens added that Volunteers of America are planning on new beds for women and children.

Dr. Caller also discussed the Governor's Mental Health meeting today, April 18, 2023, which is sold out. Dr. Caller stated that she can send that Zoom link to anyone who is interested.

**Contracts and Agreements** – Dr. Emmons reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding and renewal of the Small Government Enterprise Agreement (ERSI for GIS resources) for a 3-year term beginning January 20, 2024. After discussion, Ms. Hume moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, with Mr. Lopez seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Official Business**

- » Dr. Chesnut discussed that the Cheyenne Laramie County Public Health Board of Health meetings are currently on Zoom and can also be streamed on Facebook. These two types of meeting were due to COVID. After discussion, it was recommended to stop streaming on Facebook but keep the Zoom meetings for those members who are unable to attend in person.
- » Dr. Chesnut discussed the presentation delivered by Juliet Daniels, Community Vitality and Health Educator from the University of Wyoming on County Appointed Board Member Roles and Responsibilities. Ms. Daniels stated that each board can create their own rules and procedures. Dr. Chesnut would like to have members of the Board meet to develop meeting protocol. Ms. Hume and Dr. Caller offered to help. Once these protocols are developed and accepted by the Board, the protocol document will be referred to in the by-laws.

### **Information for the Board:**

#### Executive Director Update

- » In India there is a new Omnicom variant but has not yet been put on the CDC's high watch list. Currently this variant is resulting in children acquiring conjunctivitis. Dr. Emmons also discussed the findings of a study of pregnant women who contracted COVID during



pregnancy showing some developmental delays are evidenced in male children. Lastly, the new COVID booster vaccine is now out with CDC guidance on who should receive the booster which are those immunocompromised and over age 65.

- » The budget will be submitted to the county by May 1, 2023. Dr. Emmons stated that she believes that the city will adjust our request and Dr. Emmons has requested additional information from the mayor.
- » CureMD went live in Immunizations and Family Planning Clinics yesterday. Healthspace has gone live in the last month in Environmental Health. These two programs will help streamline processes.
- » Dr. Emmons also stated that the Legislature has taken Mental Health Funding as an interim topic during prior to the next session.
- » Leadership training happened last weeks for all the leaders on trust which went well.
- » The new compensation philosophy and the changes in PTO were discussed with all staff last week to get their input. The staff were very receptive to the changes presented.

Environmental Health Division - Ms. Escobedo shared with the board that the department is gearing up for the summer season, which is busy for the division. The mosquito grant request has been submitted and a decision on funding will be held April 27, 2023. The department is currently fully staffed. Dr. Chesnut asked that Ms. Escobedo add a "c" to the YTD numbers for ease to remember they are on a calendar year rather than a fiscal year.

Nursing Division - Ms. Mullins said CureMD is going much smoother today. The MRU was out in Carpenter and Burns on Monday this week and 36 vaccines were given. The MRU will also be in Pine Bluffs and Albin this week. The community enjoyed touring and receiving vaccines in the new MRU and the capabilities available. A new Immunization and Logistic Coordinator has been hired and comes with many years of experience with military pharmacies. Family Planning has been very busy with 20-30 more patients per month that prior. Ms. Mullens believes this is due to having 5 day a week availability, and our Nurse Practitioner Lindy's personality and educational approach. The University of Wyoming has begun to help with provider access in rural areas with a new PA program and a bridge program for NP's.

Small Wastewater Presentation - Ms. Escobedo introduced Tiffany Gaertner, Environmental Health Supervisor and Ashton Brodahl, Environmental Health Specialists I who presented on Small Wastewater with a demonstration of how a septic system works, a handout on septic systems, pictures of good areas for septic systems and bad terrain for a septic system. Ms. Gaertner and Ms. Brodahl then discussed drinking water and sources of contamination including nitrates and where nitrates come from.

Ms. Hume moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 1:04 pm seconded by Mr. Lopez. Motion carried unanimously.



The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 1:24 pm. With no further business, Dr. Chesnut adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.