



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Public Health and Safety Division ♦ PO Box 202951 ♦ 1400 Broadway ♦ Helena, MT 59602-2951

Phone: (406) 444-4141 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-6943

Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

Public Health System Improvement Task Force Minutes

August 24, 2016

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Task Force Attendees:

- **Todd Harwell** (DPHHS, PHSD) – Co-Chair
- **Lora Wier** (MPHA Representative) – Co-Chair
- **Heather Jurvakainen** (Park County Public Health Department – Medium County Representative)
- **Janet Runnion** (Rocky Boy’s Health Board — Tribal Health Department Representative)
- **Kathy Moore** (Lewis and Clark Public Health — MEHA)
- **Melanie Reynolds** (Lewis and Clark Public Health —Large County Representative)
- **Joe Russell** (Flathead City-County Health Department — AMPHO Representative)

Other Attendees:

- **Tony Ward** (University of Montana)
- **Terry Ray** (System Improvement Office, PHSD)
- **Denise Higgins** (Family and Community Health Bureau, PHSD)
- **Kerry Pride** (System Improvement Office, PHSD)
- **Tia Hunter** (System Improvement Office, PHSD)

Excused Task Force Members:

- **Jean Curtiss** (County Commissioner — MACo/Local Boards of Health Representative)
- **Kristi Aklestad** (Toole County Health Department — Small County Representative)
- **Craig Molgaard** (University of Montana — Montana University System Representative)

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- No comments on previous minutes. Minutes were approved.

Announcements

- The department was awarded the CDC Opioid grant a few weeks ago. The grant will start in a couple of weeks and it will be a three year grant. The goal is to bring State and external partners to identify gaps with prescription drugs, opioids, and heroine. The data will be used to identify communities with higher burdens and target interventions. Todd will send out ideas and an outline for the October meeting.

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Update

- HRSA federal site visit completed that reviewed the 2017 application and the 2016 annual report.
- Program is trying to make the public input process more formal.
- Participants requested the links and contact information to be included with the meeting minutes.
- Local health departments would prefer longer and more stable contracts. Would also like the contracts in a timelier manner.

- Denise will send the MCH Block Grant Report to task force members, lead local health officials, and other partners for feedback. If anyone has feedback, please send it to Ann Buss (at abuss@mt.gov) before September 9, 2016.

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHS) Discussion

- Terry Ray announced that the Diabetes program pulled out of the PHHS BG leaving an extra \$100,000. Terry will coordinate with the Task Force and the CDC to reallocate funds.
- There will be a public meeting in October to authorize the reallocation.
- Terry will send out the proposed changes to the task force.

Workforce Development

- The initial survey was sent out statewide.
- The next step is a two hour meeting at the MPHA preconference. The meeting will address statewide workforce assessment needs.
- There are several free trainings in September for Local and Tribal Health Department employees.
 - Performance Evaluation and Metrics Training on September 6-7, 2016. This training is a free hands-on learn and practice session about program evaluation, stakeholder identification and engagement, data management and analysis, logic models, and metrics.
 - Quality Improvement Training through the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center starting September 8, 2016. There will be three online learning sessions and an in-person workshop in conjunction with the MPHA conference.
 - Strategic Planning Training through the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center starting September 21, 2016. There will be five online learning sessions.
 - Workforce Development Training webinars with Katie Loveland starting September 14, 2016.
- At the October meeting, the task force will talk about training and delivery.

Certificate of Public Health

- The University of Montana website has information about the certificate of public health. However, don't submit an application to the University. All applications must go through the Public Health and Safety Division.
- The Public Health and Safety Division will pay for half the costs and is looking at the cost of books.
- The next step is to send applications to the Public Health and Safety Division. A committee in the Division will review the applications and send them to the University of Montana. Students must have an undergraduate degree, transcripts, and GRE scores (if the student wants to use the courses for graduate work).
- Details about the Certificate of Public Health will be sent out in October.
- The Division is working with Tony Ward and staff to work on logistics, marketing materials, etc.
- The Division requested three core courses. These courses include the following: Introduction to Epidemiology, Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health, and Health Policy. Students can select an elective from the following: Program Evaluation and Research, Special Topic: Community Partnerships, and Environmental and Rural Health. The Division will collect feedback after the first semester.
- The credits from the Certificate of Public Health can slide into the Master of Public Health program.
- The Division will look into options for people without bachelor's degree. Options could include the Public Health Management Certificate and the Leadership Certificate.
- The course will start in fall 2017 and take about a year to complete. The cohort going through the Certificate of Public Health will be a mixed group (not all students will be from health departments).

State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan

- The State Health Assessment will begin next year.
- The Division is planning on hiring a facilitator. The new CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) candidate will also help coordinate parts of the State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan.
- At the October meeting, the task force will be given a proposed timeline for the State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan.

Public Health System Improvement Task Force

- There will not be a major reorganization of the Task Force.
- When the state health improvement plan (SHIP) was developed 300 stakeholders were involved. The Governor then created the Healthier Montana Task Force to implement the plan, but there wasn't movement in the direction that the department would like to see movement. There are different ways to get the Public Health System Improvement Task Force, Local and Tribal health departments, and other parties to review the SHIP and provide annual feedback of revisions.
- Substance abuse and mental illness come up as priorities in community health assessments. Key state agencies will coordinate development of the SHIP. Members from the task force will also be involved. The main group will reach out to coalitions and workgroups for additional recommendations.
- At the October meeting, the task force will talk about SHIP process.
- Feedback about lessons learned from community health improvement plans.
 - It is better to build one community strategic plan rather than have everyone go their separate ways after working on the improvement plan.
 - To make progress you must nail down who is responsible for each piece and follow up with the workgroups on activities. Contracting with Katie Loveland decreased the workload and kept the process flowing.
 - Having a community event to unveil the community health improvement plan.
- Are local health departments conducting a community health assessment every three years?
 - Yes
 - The State is thinking about staying on the same timetable and providing statewide data on a three year interval.
- If the task force can think of a way to make the state health improvement plan more productive or effective, let PHSD know.

Follow-up Items

- Todd will send out CDC opioid grant ideas and an outline for the October meeting.
- Denise will send the MCH Block Grant Report to task force members, lead local health officials, and other partners for feedback.
- Terry will send out the proposed changes to the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant the task force.

The next meeting will be October 5th, 2016 in Helena, MT