



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

Public Health System Improvement Task Force Minutes December 9, 2015 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Task Force Attendees:

- **Bonnie Lovelace** (DEQ — Ad Hoc Member)
- **Joe Russell** (Flathead City-County Health Department — AMPHO Representative)
- **Melanie Reynolds** (Lewis and Clark Public Health — Large County Representative)
- **Megan Olson** (Prairie County Health Department — Frontier County Representative)
- **Todd Harwell** (DPHHS, PHSD — Ad Hoc Member)

DPHHS Attendees:

- **Kerry Pride** (System Improvement Office, PHSD)
- **Terry Ray** (System Improvement Office, PHSD)
- **Tia Hunter** (System Improvement Office, PHSD)

Absent Task Force Members:

- **Craig Molgaard** (University of Montana — Montana University System Representative)
- **Janet Runnion** (Rocky Boy's Health Board — Tribal Health Department Representative)
- **Jean Curtiss** (County Commissioner — MACo/Local Boards of Health Representative)
- **Kathy Moore** (Lewis and Clark Public Health — MEHA)
- **Kristi Aklestad** (Toole County Health Department — Small County Representative)
- **Lora Wier** (MPHA Representative)

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- No comments on previous minutes.

Announcements

- The task force is still working on foundational standards. PHSD is looking at what is programmatically offered across the Montana. There will be a foundational standards proposal and more discussion at a later meeting.
- There are two upcoming surveys of lead locals.
 - Ellen Leahy is gathering data on accreditation readiness. This survey will also give PHSD a second data point about information like health department funding, FTE data, etc.
 - Kristi Aklestad is conducting a survey about workforce development and the workforce needs across Montana. Two workforce development surveys were done a while ago.
 - There was a national assessment about workforce training needs. This survey included questions about retirement plans and job satisfaction. PHSD will use some of these standardized questions.
 - Lewis and Clark Public Health completed workforce surveys of staff for accreditation. Counties can share their workforce plans and data with PHSD.
- Joan Miles will put on a two-and-a-half-hour training on Public Health Law for Lewis and Clark Public Health on Tuesday (December 15).
- There was a USA Today story about public health funding and public health benefits.
- There was a new Lead Local Public Health Official Orientation on December 2nd. Eleven people attended the orientation. Ten of the attendees were new lead locals. One attendee was an experienced lead local who attended with new person. This was the first time that PHSD coordinated with AMPHO and MPHA for the orientation. AMPHO and MPHA spoke about their areas of focus and what support they can provide.
 - One identified need for training is city and local finance, including mills. PHSD needs to identify a person who is knowledgeable about local finance to put on a webinar.
 - Health officers from larger jurisdictions have some knowledge about finance. There are different levels of depth.
 - Lewis and Clark Public Health has a financial PowerPoint that it presents to the board of health. The PowerPoint describes mills. However, the financial system is different in every country.
 - The financial game is getting political. Certain counties receive more funding and fees. County commissioners are not required to designate funds for public health.
 - There are some unfunded mandates in Title 50. For example, the inspection of licensed establishments.
 - New people need to understand how the system works. They need to know the resources available in their community and play the political game.
 - It's important to keep the CFO involved in what public health does.
- Some BOH still believe that they are an informal advisory group. We hope that the BOH trainings will help the BOH understand its roles and responsibilities.
- The Healthier Montana Task Force met in November. The task force walked through the SHIP progress and received feedback and recommendations on the strategies and metrics. There was an update and overview on substance abuse and mental health.
 - Mental health and the issues around mental health are rising to the top.
 - PHSD is working on ways to collaborate across divisions, particularly in regards to mental health.

Block Grant Update

- Unused funding was pulled back from some programs. EMS/poison control gave back about \$80,000 and Accreditation gave back about \$45,000.
- PHSD is considering what activities to do with the excess funding. There is about \$80,000 to \$100,000 of funding to consider. This funding could be used for infrastructure, capacity building, or workforce development.
- During the January 27th meeting, Terry will distribute the annual report and present a draft work plan for the next funding cycle.
- Funds will be released around May 2016.

Questions

- What was PHSD's PHAB fee?
 - The fee was around \$30,000.
 - The fees keep increasing and Montana's population was under 1 million when PHSD applied for accreditation.
 - The current fees can be found on the PHAB website.

Summer Institute Course Selection and Five-Year Training Plan Discussion

- PHSD is currently internally reviewing a three to five year training plan based on core competencies.
- There will be core programs like public health 101, public health law, epidemiology 101, and communication. There will also be some courses on leadership and management.

Questions

- Who is going to teach the courses?
 - It will depend on the topics selected.
- Is the Summer Institute connected with the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice?
 - There has been a transition. PHSD is technically supported through the University of Colorado.
 - The Rocky Mountain Public Health Regional Training Center will do webinars, but they are not doing face-to-face presentations.
 - The University of Washington has a more developed program with the leadership certificate and the management certificate.
 - PHSD will probably align with University of Washington, but use University of Colorado webinars. PHSD will benefit from both groups.
 - There will be another call in January with the University of Colorado.

Task Force Charter Discussion

Comments

- There is an extra arrow on page three.

Task Force Co-Chair Discussion

- The co-chair needs to be selected from membership.
- The agenda drafts will be reviewed by the co-chair.
- Please nominate a person to become co-chair. The task force will vote on the co-chair in January.

Discussion

- There is need to get people to understand public health
- Some counties have questions about the larger structure. It's important for lead local health officials to talk to other lead local health officials about how they have created change. For example, how to restructure a board of health.
 - There is great help out there. There are people with expertise.
- Some county commissioners don't want to hear from DPHHS and DEQ. It can be a tough sell to get boards to want training from DPHHS or DEQ.

Follow-up Items

1. Todd will send out the SHIP presentation PowerPoint.
2. Todd will finalize the charter and the task force will vote on the charter during the January call.
3. Task force members will submit co-chair nominations.
4. PHSD will ask lead locals to share their workforce development plans.

The next conference call will be on January 27th at 1:30 p.m.