

**Approved 5/28/20**

**Anaconda-Deer Lodge County  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

Friday April 10, 2020 at 1000

Phone conference - 425-436-6356 access code 204098

**Present:** Karan Kunz (BOH), Megan Rediske (BOH), Leigh Ann Holmes (Public Health Director), Mark Syverson (Sanitation), Mike Huotte (ADLC Commission)

**Absent:** Rebecca Clark (BOH), Angie Galetti (BOH)

**Guests:** Sierra Sizpaprck, Melissa Rosenleip (Tobacco Prevention), Tami Martin

Meeting called to order 1003 - Quorum not met

**Reevaluate Health Officer William Reiter appointment**

- A. Karan informed the Board that Dr. Reiter had resigned his position as Health Officer by email on 4/8.

**Health Officer going forward**

- A. Karan discussed that at this point going forward the county is without a medical doctor as a health officer – she said in Montana code a health officer could be a medical doctor, someone with a master’s in public health or someone with an equivalent work experience
- B. She nominated Leigh Ann Holmes (Public Health Director) to an interim health officer as she has equivalent work experience in public health
- C. The board went around stating how well of a job she is doing with the COVID-19 response.
- D. Members asked if the Health Officer had to be a medical doctor – Karan read the code and confirmed that Leigh Ann’s work experience counts.
- E. Megan asked about how the standing orders would be signed and if the public health department had any concerns with not having a medical doctor – Leigh Ann discussed the process and for the near future they will be fine without a health officer as the orders are up-to-date.
- F. A discussion occurred about how the process is going forward and how will it look in the future. Leigh Ann said they have several people in mind that maybe interested, but they want to find the right person to help grow the BOH and public health department. Melissa stated with Leigh Ann as interim health officer, it gives the BOH and the public health department time to find the right person. A provider with the same philosophy as the BOH and public health department can be found. Someone who engages with the department and shows strong leadership.
- G. Megan asked if the BOH could formally vote Leigh Ann in through email. Mike answered that it had to be at a scheduled meeting to allow for public comment. The Board decide to formally vote at their next schedule meeting – 4/23 at 500.

**Public Comment:**

Karan announced the Tami Martin is interested in joining the BOH. She is working on completing the paperwork and getting the commissioners' approval.

Sierra brought forward a proposal to have the Easter Bunny drive around town and deliver candy to children.

- A. The public health department and the BOH had recently denied this event due to concerns with COVID-19 precautions. The governor had just yesterday declared the Easter Bunny an essential worker,
- B. Megan discussed her concerns with the distribution of the candy and potentially spreading the illness.
- C. Leigh Ann voiced concerns over people, especially children congregating and how difficult it maybe to enforce social distancing.
- D. Leigh Ann also discussed the importance of Easter fun and how some children may not be able to get candy or gift at this time. It was suggested that the candy be given to the school to hand out with their sack lunches.
- E. Sierra asked what the difference between the school passing out candy and them passing out candy. Melissa discussed how the school is able to maintain social distance rules while this event would be difficult to enforce.
- F. Board decided that the Easter Bunny could drive around town and wave at people, but not distribute candy. Sierra stated they would save the candy for a future event.

Meeting adjourned at 1030

The next Board of Health Meeting will be on April 23, 2020 at 5:00 on phone conference: phone number: 425-436-6356 access code 204098