

January 18, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in a regular session in the Commission Office of the Granite County Courthouse with Chairperson Scott Adler, Commissioner Charles Hinkle (via Zoom), and Commissioner Blanche McLure attending. Also attending were Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who attended (in-person) for a portion of the agenda items set for the day. The session was livestreamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and comment. The public was also allowed to attend in person and provide comment. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance.

Also in attendance were; Granite County Board of Health Chairperson, Michael Kalarchik; Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn; Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson; Granite County Public Health Assistant & DES Coordinator, Jackie Bolster; Tri-County Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Bohrer; Granite County Mental Health Coordinator, Robyn Grinolds; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; Public Health Director, Leigh Ann Holmes; Healthy Granite County Network Director, Kayla Sanders; Granite County Dam Tender, Brandon Parret; Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper; and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano.

QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING: The Board of Health commenced with Chairperson, Michael Kalarchik, and the Commission to hear reports from those serving the County. Chairperson Kalarchik asked that Commissioner Adler chair the meeting on a temporary basis, and Commissioner Adler agreed and led the meeting. Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes provided his report first, explaining that his office has issued more permits this year than ever before. They have also wrapped up the majority of outstanding health inspections. The Sanitarian's office has also facilitated Food Service Trainings for local businesses / restaurants, which has proven successful, so they will continue doing these in 2022. Chad Lanes then moved the Board's attention to the Cooperative Agreement between Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Board of Health, which is an annual agreement that needed to be signed off on for calendar year 2022. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept and sign the Cooperative Agreement between Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Board of Health. Chairperson Michael Kalarchick seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking which document posted online was being discussed. Chad Lanes clarified that it was the Cooperative Agreement between Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Board of Health. There was no further public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson provided a quick update on COVID-19 cases across the County. Currently, Granite County has 27 cases and the Omicron variant has been detected within the County. There are two hospitalizations, of which both are in the ICU. The County's PHEP report has been submitted and the State is happy with the submission. Jennifer Robinson then presented six documents that she updated for the County and needed the Board of Health to sign off on, three of these documents were already

signed by the Commission during a previous session. The documents included the Specimen Transport Plan; 2021 COOP for Public Health; AAR IP Procedures; Chempack Plan; Granite County Communications Plan; and the Granite County PH Rabies Policy. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept and sign the Specimen Transport Plan; 2021 COOP for Public Health; AAR IP Procedures; Chempack Plan; Granite County Communications Plan; and the Granite County PH Rabies Policy. Chairperson Kalarchik seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano regarding reviewing specific findings in the documentation, including an error in the population. Jennifer Robinson responded that she would correct the error in the document. With no further public comment the motion passed unanimously.

Granite County Mental Health Coordinator, Robyn Grinolds introduced herself to the Board and explained that she will be working to connect law enforcement with CIT Trainings, and that the next training will be in March of 2022. Commissioner Adler asked for more information about the program, and what the benefits are. Robyn Grinolds responded that the CIT Trainings will teach law enforcement to use different tools for crisis intervention, and that the program is available for law enforcement officers and dispatchers. Commissioner McLure asked if this is voluntary attendance, Robyn Grinolds replied that it is, however there are reimbursements available through the grant.

Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn joined the session to respond to some questions concerning COVID-19 testing, relating specifically to cycles and thresholds. The question came from Elena Gagliano, who was able to comment and clarify her question for Dr. Conn. Elena Gagliano explained that she was asking about the threshold for COVID testing, since anything over 30 was not advisable based on her findings, because it could provide a false positive. Dr. Conn responded that there are two parts to the question, the first is the cycle and how many cycles a PCR test would have to run before it becomes positive; and depending on the PCR test being used that cycle amount will be different hospital to hospital, it is not a consistent rate. The other part of the question is in regards to a threshold, which is how many viral particles have to be present in order to tell that test that it is positive. The cycle and threshold are two different numbers. Dr. Conn went on to explain that a patient can meet with their doctor and ask for the breakdown of what their test numbers mean, and that it would require the patient to visit with their provider.

Dr. Conn then asked that the Department of Public Health provide consistent recommendations for those who test positive for COVID through Public Health to communicate with their physician about the diagnosis. The options for treatment of COVID have changed and have proven effective and most patients are candidates for these treatments that are readily available, however these are only available early in the disease.

Tri-County Tobacco Prevention Specialist Amanda Bohrer discussed various initiatives she has been working on across the County including delivering signage to businesses and working within the community to provide resources to those who want to quit using tobacco, or develop smoke free policies for their multi-unit housing rentals or businesses. Amanda Bohrer has also been working with the County schools and is preparing to do a Lock-In event