



Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

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MACo Health & Human Services Committee

September 18, 2018

Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula, MT

8:30 a.m.

Minutes

Committee Members

Carl Seilstad, Chair, Fergus
 Deb Brandon, Toole
 Gale Decker, Lake
 Sidney Fitzpatrick, Big Horn
 Jim Hart, Madison
 Janice Hoppes, Pondera

Andy Hunthausen, Lewis & Clark
 Bob Mullen, Jefferson
 Bruce Peterson, Valley
 Bill Slaughter, Granite
 Joette Woods, Liberty
 Sandy Youngbauer, Fergus

1. **Roll Call & Introductions:** Roll call and introductions were conducted.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Brandon moved and Commissioner Hoppes seconded to approve the minutes of February 12, 2018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Committee Policy Statements:** The Committee reviewed and made numerous updates to their policy statements, mainly inserting wording related to "providing adequate funding" for services. Commissioner Hunthausen moved and Commissioner Hoppes seconded to approve forwarding the revised Health & Human Services revised Policy Statements to the membership for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - a. **County Sanitarians:** Discussion was held regarding the qualifications for county sanitarians and how the requirements inhibit counties from finding registered sanitarians. Staff advised they would try to gather more information on the process.
 - b. **Contracted Sanitarians:** Commissioner Youngbauer engaged a discussion about counties who contract with sanitarians and ask counties contact her with information.
5. **Speakers/Presentations:**
 - a. **President Barron:** President Barron thanked the Committee members and guests for their time, commitment and dedication to serving. He noted it was greatly appreciated on every level and advised members to keep up the good work.

- b. MSPOA:** Sheriff Gootkin reported that the significant cuts in funding for mental health services made during the special session have caused significant setbacks to the work that has been done through the last few sessions to provide community-based services to the mentally ill and those in crisis. This has caused mental health centers to conduct major reductions in staff and discontinue services, such as the elimination of case management. He added the number of transports to the State Hospital have doubled since the special session. It will be a priority with the Sheriff's and County Attorney's during the next legislative session to try to restore the funding.
- c. Public Health Officers:** Jackie Boyle reported that the Association's legislative priorities will focus on monitoring the DPHHS budget, supporting Medicaid Expansion, addressing substance abuse (opioids), funding and programs for mental health resources and suicide prevention, and amending the Clean Indoor Air Act to incorporate vaping.
- d. Department of Public Health & Human Services:** Kerry Pride thanked all for their support of the Community Health Plans and Health Assessments. She added that there is an opening on the Public Health Improvement Task Force and explained the work of the group. Ms. Pride also reported that a non-profit organization has been formed that is dedicated to improving public health practices and coordination of multi-organizations. The group will be seeking funding and/or legislative approval.

Ms. Pride noted the Statewide Health Improvement Plan is almost complete. You can view the full report at: www.healthiermt.gov.

- e. USDA Rural Development:** Lyle Coney reported there are loan and assistance funds available for mental health, distance learning, telemedicine, opioid abuse programs and critical care services for hospitals. He outlined the guidelines and matches for each of the programs. Information on these and other programs are on their website: www.rurdev.gov
- f. Congressman Gianforte:** Brett Simos reported that the Congressman is working hard for Montana and is working on CHIP reauthorization, restoring funding for Community Health Centers, rural access to health care, reduction prescription drug costs, EMS funding and addressing the opioid epidemic.
- g. Public Health System Improvement Task Force:** Sheryl Wood reported that the Department of Public health is looking for a Commissioner to serve on the Task Force. The member would also serve as a member of the new SHA/SHIP Coalition Sub-committee, which helps draft the State Health Improvement Plan. Members were asked to contact Ms. Wood if they were interested in serving in the position.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

GUESTS	
Name	Representing
Deborah Frandsen	U.S. Senator Jon Tester
Teddy Robinson	Garfield County
Jim Moore	Judith Basin County
Tom Kuka	Pondera County
Ruth Baker	Treasure County
Maureen Wicks	Liberty County
Jackie Boyle	Assoc. of MT Public Health Officers
Brian Gootkin	MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
Tory Scribner	US Congressman Gianforte
Brett Simons	US Congressman Gianforte
Robin Baker	US Senator Steve Daines
Joan Bjarko	Daniels County
Lyle Coney	USDA Rural Development
Kerry Pride	MT DPHHS – Public Health & Safety Division
Joe Skinner	Gallatin County
Dennis Teske	Prairie County
Laura Obert	Broadwater County
Alan Stempel	McCone County
Sheryl Wood	MACo