

Powder River City/County Board of Health

Date: 1/20/15

Members present: Jaci Phillips-Health Officer, Randy Sullivan, Darold Zimmer, Rod Schaffer, Dave Richards, Rebecca McEuen, Cherie Stachey, Darlynn Williams

Meeting called to order by Dave Richards.

Election of officers is held as set by the board by-laws. Darold Zimmer President, Dave Richards Vice President, Darlynn Williams Secretary

Minutes from last meeting are read and approved.

Old Business: Jaci reports that the clinic has been very busy with 10-13 patients daily. They are seeing patients who have not been treated in town for several years. She sees patients at the nursing home on Wed. Jeff Hostetter serves as her supervising physician, mentor and supporter. He visits the clinic monthly and sees patients there and at the nursing home. There has been no news on the Community Health Care grant that was submitted by OneHealth.

New Business: Nursing Home-Cherie reports that they have had 2 confirmed cases of influenza. The residents were sent to hospital for conditions not related to influenza and were not showing symptoms. Darlynn adds that there has been positive cases of influenza A and B reporting in the county.

Jaci brings up the topic of the recycle center. The center is very cluttered at times and could be a health hazard if not maintained. There is discussion on the groups that have maintained this in the past and it is decided that the groups are still in existence but not as active. The Powder River Recyclers and the Extension Office will be contacted to see what assistance they can offer in dealing with the situation. It is agreed that the general public uses the site as a dumping area to avoid landfill fees. A suggestion of a security camera is offered. The group decided through discussion that this may not be best option because there is no plan for enforcement at this time. This group suggests education provided to the public. It has been some time since this type of education was done. Dave will visit with Clinton Watters to see what is needed to help with the situation. Clinton has been doing most of the cleaning and maintenance.

Dave reports that the county contract for ambulance service with Jesse Ambulance services will expire in July. There is concern about the service if this contract is not renewed. We need to research what the county options are to assist or provide the service.

Next meeting will be April 21st 8:30 in the commissioners office.

Darold Zimmer, Chairman

Darlynn Williams, RN Secretary

Ambulance service research

I sent emails out to counties with similar taxable valuation as Powder River County. This included: Daniels (Scobey), Garfield (Jordan), Liberty (Libby), McCone (Circle), Prairie (Terry), Treasure (Hysham), Wibaux (Wibaux).

The questions I asked were:

Is your ambulance service private or county owned?

Do you have a hospital in your county?

Does the county subsidize the service?

If so how much (roughly)?

Is the ambulance located in the county or does it come from a neighboring county?

Is there ambulance crew on call 24/7?

Who dispatches the ambulance?

Here are the few responses:

Liberty is a very small county also and I don't know everything about our ambulance service but will answer what I know and pass this message off to our commissioners for the answers I don't know about.

Our ambulance service is county owned and we do have a CAH in our county, Liberty Medical Center. The ambulance is located in Liberty County.

The ambulance crew is on call 24/7, although there are no hard and fast rules about that. Sometimes many of them are gone all at the same time and they really have to scramble to find a crew. They are volunteers so how do you make it mandatory to be on call?

The ambulance is dispatched out of the sheriff's office.

I know nothing about the financial part of it, so hopefully you'll hear from the commissioners.

Good luck in your endeavors!

Meagher County

Is your ambulance service private or county owned? **County**

Do you have a hospital in your county? **Yes**

Does the county subsidize the service? **It has in the past with mills, but currently our ambulance is pretty self sufficient. Our crew has worked hard to get grants for new equipment and ambulance.**

If so how much (roughly)? **0.5mill to 1 mill**

Is the ambulance located in the county or does it come from a neighboring county? **In our County**

Is there ambulance crew on call 24/7? **Yes, but they are not paid to be on call**

Who dispatches the ambulance? **Sheriff's office dispatcher**

Garfield County

Is your ambulance service private or county owned? Our ambulances and equipment are County owned. We have a private non-profit (501 C(3)) which provides the personnel. The ambulance operate under the County Critical Access Hospital. All of our personnel are unpaid volunteers.

Do you have a hospital in your county? Yes, we have a clinic, 4 Bed CAH and a 22 bed Nursing Home which are County Owned. They provide all of our supplies and do all of our patient billing.

Does the county subsidize the service? Yes.

If so how much (roughly)? \$50,000.00 + per year. This is used to cover the cost of training, maintenance, replacing ambulances etc. In addition to the County Subsidy, we have utilized grant funds to purchase new Ambulances. In 2001 we used private grant funds for part of an ambulance purchase. We will be getting a new ambulance soon which was obtained through the Montana Department of Transportation Grant Program which is a 10% local match grant.

Is the ambulance located in the county or does it come from a neighboring county? We have two ambulances located in Jordan and respond to all of Garfield County.

Is there ambulance crew on call 24/7? Yes, everyone carries pagers and are expected to respond. We have no call schedule; so far we have had no major issues with getting a crew to respond. We currently have 21 EMTs on our roster and are conducting an EMT class this winter with 10 new students.

Who dispatches the ambulance? We are dispatched by the Custer/Garfield 9-1-1 consolidated dispatch in Miles City. They page us out over our county repeater system which covers almost all of the County. Please contact me if you have any other questions; I would be glad to help. I also serve on the Custer/Garfield 9-1-1 board of directors and can provide you further insight on how the consolidated dispatch works.

Treasure County

The best lady to talk to for Treasure County would be Noelle Pinkerton, EMS dept head. She has done amazing work over the last couple of years to address many of the issues of staffing, training, etc. Her email is رنpinkerton@hotmail.com

I have sent an email to Noelle but have not received a response yet.

Recycling Research

The recycling group has 3 members-Karen Amende, Diana Edwards and Betty LaRoche. They are not currently active. Karen is looking for a list of rules for the recycling center. According to Carol R. there has been a security camera ordered. This will be used to identify those who abuse the center. Rules are to be posted when they are found. The commissioners are working with the City on enforcement. Because the center is in the town limits any fines will be filed through the city. The city will have to have an ordinance to address this issue.