

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 16, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman  
Commissioner Brent Mendenhall, Vice Chair/Trustee  
Bill Leake  
Commissioner Blair Dance  
Commissioner Greg Shenton  
Commissioner Leah Madsen  
Commissioner Shayne Young

**STAFF MEMBERS**

Geri Rackow  
Amy Gamett  
Angy Harwood  
Cheryl O'Connell  
James Corbett  
Kellye Johnson  
Steven Thomas

**1. Call Board Meeting to Order**

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 9:02 a.m. Commissioner Butts is absent from the meeting and appointed Commissioner Shenton as his proxy.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Shenton made a motion to approve the September 16, 2021 Consent Agenda.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Dance

**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2. COVID-19 Situational Report**

Chairman Reed announced that earlier this morning, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) announced the activation of Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) for healthcare entities statewide. Due to the current surge of COVID-19 cases, hospitals across the state are experiencing significant restraints and have/are exhausting their resources for providing normal levels of care.

**a. Vaccination Update**

Amy Gamett provided an update on the vaccine clinics provided at EIPH. Idaho's COVID-19 vaccination data can be found at [coronavirus.idaho.gov](https://coronavirus.idaho.gov).

- As of today, the state is reporting that 50.4% of eligible recipients are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 compared to 63.1% nationally.
- IDHW is reporting that from May 15-Sept 11, 2021, 89.9% of COVID cases are in unvaccinated individuals.
- Vaccine breakthrough data for cases of Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) are available on the EIPH's data dashboard.
- Vaccinated individuals continue to have less disease, hospitalization, and death.
- EIPH is offering at least weekly clinics in all 8 of our counties and we have all three COVID-19 vaccines available to clients.
- The Food & Drug Administration will be meeting tomorrow to consider booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

**b. COVID-19 Data Review**

- James Corbett reported that we are experiencing increased cases in most of our counties.
- Hospitalization numbers for vaccinated individuals are substantially lower than unvaccinated individuals.
- Mr. Corbett recommends that people stay home when they are not feeling well.

c. Regional Hospital Report

Dr. Rachel Gonzales reported on the current situation at Madison Memorial, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, and Idaho Falls Community Hospital. The availability of staff is the biggest obstacle for all the hospitals. People are encouraged to continue to seek healthcare as necessary, utilizing hospitals, urgent care centers, and their physicians.

- EIRMC currently has 41 COVID-19 patients and only has 2 beds available.
- IFCH currently has 23 COVID-19 patients and has 4 beds available.
- Madison Memorial has 4 COVID-19 patients and has 3-5 beds available.

d. Crisis Standards of Care (CSC)

Dr. Kenneth Krell provided information on Crisis Standards of Care in Idaho.

- Idaho's Crisis Standards of Care Plan will be implemented when a disaster event overwhelms usual health and medical capabilities and capacities resulting in an inability of the healthcare system to provide the standard levels of care to patients. This plan provides the structure needed for collaborative development of crisis standards of care clinical guidance by the State of Idaho Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, comprised of subject matter experts, and the dissemination of guidance to the seven public health districts and the healthcare system in Idaho.
- CSC are guidelines that help healthcare providers and systems decide how to deliver the best care possible under the extraordinary circumstances of an overwhelming disaster or public health emergency. When Crisis Standards of Care are in effect, people who need medical care may get care that is different from what they expect.
- Dr. Krell explained the scoring system used by hospitals to determine patient care when hospitals are full.
- All hospitals across the state are working together to provide patient care.
- Dr. Krell estimates that 90% of patients hospitalized for COVID are not vaccinated.
- To help with the situation, the community is encouraged to wear a mask, avoid public gatherings, and get vaccinated.

3. Interviews of Candidates for Board of Health Physician Position

The Board of Health physician representative is selected in accordance with Idaho Code 39-411,

*"One member of the district board, if available to serve, shall be a physician licensed by the Idaho state board of medicine, and no more than one member shall be appointed from any professional or special interest group. All members shall be chosen with due regard to their knowledge and interest in public health and in promoting the health of the citizens of the state and the public health district."*

The board members conducted interviews with Dr. Stewart Curtis, Dr. Aaron Gardner, Dr. Joshua Stringam, and Dr. Pamela Denson.

4. Executive Session – Personnel Matter [Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a)]

**MOTION:** Commissioner Dance made a motion to go into Executive Session, in accordance with Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a), to discuss a personnel matter.  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Young  
**ACTION:** Roll call vote: Commissioner Mendenhall – yes, Commissioner Young – yes, Commissioner Dance – yes, Commissioner Madsen – yes, Commissioner Shenton – yes, Bill Leak – yes, Commissioner Reed – yes

Return from Executive Session at 12:07 p.m.

5. Vote on Physician Board of Health Appointment

**MOTION:** Commissioner Shenton made a motion to nominate Dr. Aaron Gardner to the physician position on the Eastern Idaho Public Health Board of Health.  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Young  
**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**6. Announcements**

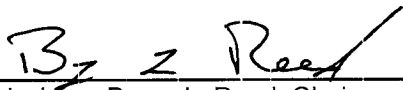
a. Staffing Updates

- Ms. Rackow announced the resignation of Angy Harwood, WIC Division Administrator. Ms. Harwood's last day will be October 1, 2021. The job announcement to replace her position has been posted. We wish Angy well and thank her for her service.
- We are currently hiring temporary disease investigators, nurses, and clerical staff to help with our continued COVID-19 response.
- Due to the increase in volume of activity in the Environmental Health Division, we are recruiting for an additional Environmental Health Specialist for Fremont County and a Customer Service Representative to work in Fremont and Teton County.

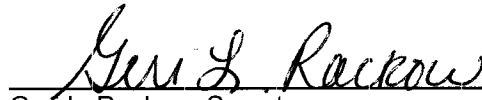
b. Septic System Enforcement Action Hearing -- October 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Legal proceedings related to an illegally installed septic system have begun because no progress was made with the owners to resolve the issue. A hearing is scheduled for Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Rackow proposed having a Board of Health meeting on that day in conjunction with the Enforcement Hearing. The Board agreed to meet at 10:00 p.m.

Chairman Reed adjourned the meeting at 12:17. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.



Commissioner Bryon L. Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary