

Sweetwater County District Board of Health Special Meeting
December 2, 2014

Present:

Board members:

Chuck Sykes, Chairperson
Brienne Crofts, Vice Chairperson
Mark Sanders
David Okano

Craig Wolfing
Cathie Hughes - absent
Donald West, Secretary

Board of Health Director:

Grant Christensen

Board Attorney:

Dr. Jean Stachon

County Health Officer

Commissioner Reid West

Nursing Staff/Environmental Health Staff - absent

Rocket Miner Newspaper - absent

Meeting opened by Chuck, Chairperson at 6:11 PM.

Motion moved to adopt with addition of home health issues was made by Mark, seconded by Craig. Motion carried.

Grant suggested not taking any new home health patients since we are not a 24/7 agency. Grant stated since we have the MOU in place with the State, he feels like the nurses are going to be busy doing more public health services such as the STD program and he doesn't feel like he will have enough nurses to continue home health. He explained we have one patient that is a quad and we would keep him as long as needed. Dr. West suggested phasing out home health and give patients time to find a different agency they would be comfortable with. Motion to phase out home health with a 13 month notice to patients was made by Dr. West, motion did not pass. Reid said he was confused, he was under the impression the County subsidized the DBOH home health program for the no pay patients and unpaid balances due from insurances. Grant said he would revisit the budget. Mark stated he did not want to go back and reinvent the wheel again. He explained the board took a stand years' ago regarding State vs. County having control over the funding. Phasing out home health will be tabled at the December meeting after Grant researches the budget.

Grant discussed the MOU with the State of Wyoming states the County Health Officer will sign the Guideline/Physician Approved Order and Protocol before the State will fund the agency the \$31,250 quarterly for deliverables as stated including the STD program. Dr. Stachon, Dr. West and two of the public health nurses met to review policy and procedure for the STD program. Dr. Stachon doesn't feel comfortable with treating positive patients and their partners without seeing them without liability coverage. Grant explained that 22 out of 23 County Health Officers have signed the Guideline/Physician Approved Order and Protocol which are covered under the umbrella of the State. Grant said he also investigated this issue with the Local Government Liability Pool office and

they confirmed Dr. Stachon is covered if she is an employee of the District Board of Health. Dr. Stachon stated she talked with Dr. Wendy Braund, Wyoming Department of Health Director and she was under the impression the DBOH was liable for the CHO coverage. Karen Mahan from the State told Grant that Dr. Stachon was the only CHO who has not signed the Physician's Signature Page out of the 23 counties. Karen was considering contacting the Attorney General on the matter. If the physician's signature page is not signed then our agency will not receive the monies stated in the MOU.

Board members agreed to get some legal advice first and do some research with the board's attorney, Charlie Barnum. Also, other resources would be Janet Gerken, Garry McLean and Reid.

The DBOH members would like Grant to research when Dr. Stachon was re-appointed to the board and find out if the appointment is a two year or four year. Also, ask the board's attorney to look at the legal aspect of re-appointing Dr. Stachon.

After further discussion, Dr. Stachon agreed to sign the Physician's Signature Page as long as it was written in the minutes that she was defined as a DBOH employee and has liability coverage. Motion made saying Dr. Stachon is a DBOH employee was made by Dr. West, seconded by Dr. Crofts.

Chuck entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Dr. West, seconded by Craig. Motion carried.

Next DBOH meeting will be Tuesday, December 30, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy Allen
Administrative Assistant DBOH