



311 South Virginia St. Suite 1
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**Minutes
Coalition Meeting
June 18, 2020
Pondera County Health Dept. Conference Room**

Present: Laura Erickson (PMC), Dale Seifert (Commissioner), Jim Carroll (CPS), Julie Gafney (Valier Schools), Shauna Wood (Public Health), Nicki Sullivan (Public Health), Katharine Boadle (Alliance for Youth-Pondera)

Pondera County Health Department (PCHD) received a grant from the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division at the State for \$40,000 to focus on mental health during COVID-19. The Health Dept. has used funds to purchase 30 iPads, which will be dispersed to the Horizon Lodge, Beehive, PMC Long Term Care and some kept at PCHD to check out. PCHD is also paying travel/training fees for Steve Baliko, local counselor to become an instructor for Mental Health First Aid, so we have somebody local to provide this class to the community. Shauna Wood, PCHD RN will be teaching a ReBoot Mental Health program with the youth in the community to address mental health concerns. This program is done outdoors and through games such as soccer. PCHD has partnered with Cowboy Academy to provide this to the Summer school kids and will also provide a day camp for students 2-6th grade.

PCHD also received grant funds from the Cares Act, which will be used to cover costs of PPE, extra wages for work related to COVID-19.

COVID-19 update was given, the Pondera County Board of Health (BOH) has requested that any events over 50 people have a plan written up, specifying how they plan to follow guidelines. Nicki has received several plans for the BOH to review, ranging from retirement parties to baseball tournaments. Upon reopening, PCHD has provided businesses/schools/hospital with thermometers to monitor employees, sanitizer and sanitizing wipes. DES was able to get 990 gallons of sanitizer free from FEMA. Windrift has been very supportive and assisted the County on ordering gallon jugs and pump bottles. They have also repackaged into these smaller quantities for the community.

Currently Pondera County has no active cases, we have only had the 2 cases early on. The State reported 25 new cases today for a total of 655 cases statewide. PMC has received testing supplies to begin sentinel testing for the community. They have already done the testing on Long Term Care residents and employees. They also have the capability to perform rapid tests on higher risk patients.

PCHD will also be getting their own website. Hopefully will be up and running by the end of the Summer.

Maternal Child Health (MCH) prevention activities are based on deaths that have happened in the County. Most recently we had an ATV death of a teen with no helmet and a car accident in which a teen driver was killed and not wearing a seat belt. Asked for coalitions input on activities to focus on these areas. Community has done a lot on seatbelts. Hoping to focus on helmets and ATV use. Mr. Carroll does state that they do discuss safety on other vehicles during drivers ed.



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Katharine Boadle was introduced as the Pondera Prevention Specialist with Alliance for Youth. She added that she has been at this position for 1 yr. 3 months. Her position is to work closely with the community providing resources to assist in facilitating healthy communities through drug & alcohol activities, educational curriculum for the public and in the schools. The programs and curriculum are funded by a Block Grant, which Alliance for Youth manages to allow her to distribute throughout Pondera county. However, she cannot be as effective without the assistance of community members sharing what you think this community would benefit by.

She first discussed the

#LetsTalk -- H♥PE. You can download on your phone to explore the app. It is a suicide prevention cell phone app that can be downloaded on one's cell phone. Individuals can be connected with the National Suicide Prevention lifeline which will in turn locate where the individual is that is in need and call our local police dept. or Sheriff dept to get assistance to the individual. The app has been paid for by The Pondera Healthcare foundation. There are billboards and banners around the community. Included in packets handed out are words of reaching out for help, Game of life, Warning Signs of someone who may be at risk of suicide and coloring page with logo.

Next Parenting Montana was discussed. It is full of tools & resources for youth, parents, grandparents, community members. Ultimate goal—of Parenting Montana is to reduce underage drinking by strengthening social & emotional skills through education & support of a strong coalition. We want to work with parents as well as with community stakeholders to support and actively engage these efforts, to access the program to Parenting Montana.org

Thumbs-Up is a program that acknowledges youth in the community doing something positive. A poster is put out in the community acknowledging appropriate, positive behaviors. Working with law enforcement giving them gift certificates, prizes of encouragement, framed certificates with possible photo of officer and student.

Prevention Plus Wellness (PPW) is an evidenced based program for prevention. Katharine has contacted school and community members to take the training, which her grant will cover. This training is done online. Valier schools is still considering this. Conrad is on board.

Katharine requests if we all could help keep Facebook current and sharing her articles.

Hoping for a Youth Advisory Board—working on getting a youth advisory team together to educate and inform about the current salts, and new synthetic drugs being sold on the street and stores, encourage. We want our youth to lead the discussion on what they know for fact as opposed to adults telling them what is fact to us may not be the full story for the youth. Want 7, 8, 9th grade students.