



# Panhandle Health District

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Panhandle Health District**

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**District 1 Board of Health**

**July 8, 2020**

**ShoBen Room/Zoom/Conference Call**

**Board Members Present:** Marlow Thompson, Commissioner Walt Kirby, Commissioner Mike Fitzgerald, Dr. Allen Banks, Dr. Richard McLandress

**Staff Present:** Lora Whalen, Director; Don Duffy, PHS Division Administrator; Joe Righello, EHS Division Administrator; Mashelle Kenney, Human Resource Specialist; Christine Crummer, Finance Manager; Jill Ainsworth, Management Assistant; Katherine Hoyer, PIO.; Jeff Lee, Epidemiologist; Kim Young; Amy Alberts; Cindi Richardson, Aria Mangen

**Guests:** Kootenai County Commissioner Bill Brooks; Kootenai County Commissioner Leslie Duncan; Marc Lyons, PHD Attorney

1. Chairman Thompson called the Board of Health meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. Lora shared that the Board was meeting to discuss the BOH position on the current COVID-19 status in Panhandle Health District and to advise the public that the Board is engaged in protecting the health of the region.
3. Lora Whalen, Director shared that she, Joe and City of Coeur d'Alene Mayor Widmyer met with multiple bar owners to create awareness of the increase in COVID-19 cases associated with bars in CDA. Currently 11% of our cases are associated with bars and or restaurants.
4. Jeff Lee, Panhandle Health epidemiologist presented a slide show of the current status of COVID 19 in our community. There are currently 596 cases in our district.
5. Dr. McLandress stated we are continuing to learn about this virus daily. We are learning how the virus is acquired, and the primary and secondary effects, and others continue to be discovered. Lora presented the board with a draft position paper for consideration.
6. Dr. Banks stated he does not support -asymptomatic individuals wearing masks, he stated the risk of acquiring the virus from an asymptomatic individual is low. Dr. McLandress responded that there is evidence to the contrary, and as we continue to learn more about the virus, the wording should remain as is. Jeff Lee offered that CDC has revised their position on masks and as of yesterday, is strongly recommending as a way of prevention. He added it is also important to remain outside the area of transmission of 6 to 9 feet.
7. The Board discussed the position paper and identified that it needs to be based upon science and evidence. The document contains CDC recommendations; nothing mandatory; but identifies the Board may consider actions as necessary, to protect the health of our community.
8. Motion by Dr. McLandress to adopt the Position Paper as written. Seconded by Commissioner Walt Kirby. In favor of the motion Dr. McLandress, Commissioner Kirby, and Commissioner Fitzgerald; Opposed: Dr. Banks. Motion passed.

9. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

*Marlow Thompson* 8/7/20

Marlow Thompson, Chairman      Date

*Lora Whalen*

8/7/20

Lora Whalen, Director and  
Secretary to the Board

Date