

# Public Health System Improvement Task Force

February 24, 2021 from 10 to 11:30 AM via Zoom

## Purpose of meeting:

The Public Health System Improvement Task Force (PHSITF) meets regularly, typically every other month, to discuss the Public Health System Improvement Plan and opportunities for coordination. This was put on hold during 2020 due to COVID-19 and meetings were held irregularly. This meeting represents an intention to reinstate a regular meeting schedule and review the PHSI Plan according to new developments in Montana's public health system over the past year.

## Action items:

- Anna Bradley will reach out to Tony Ward, Hillary Hanson, Terry Ray, Kerry Pride, and Aaron Wernham about reviewing the 2019 PHSI Plan to incorporate changes to Montana's public health system.

## Attendees, in alphabetical order by last name:

- Bradley, Anna
- Hanson, Hillary
- Harwell, Todd
- Hunthausen, Andy
- Ireland, Bailey
- Lund, Blair
- Moyer, Melissa
- Myers, David
- Ray, Terry
- Tassaró, Stefanie
- Ward, Tony
- Weiler, Emily
- Wernham, Aaron
- Wier, Lora

## Maternal & Child Health Block Grant Review

Blair Lund, Maternal & Child Health Block Grant Program Specialist, [blund@mt.gov](mailto:blund@mt.gov)

- See the [block grant application submitted for fiscal year 2021](#)
- March 2020-February 2021 Highlights:
  - Statewide 5-Year Needs Assessment completed in April (performance measure details on next slide).
  - Guidance from HRSA was issued in March on flexibility for using MCHBG funding for COVID-19 response, and they informed states that the Annual Application & Report due date was extended to September 15.
  - County Public Health Departments (CPHD) completed a pre-contract survey in June indicating performance choices (map on upcoming slide). Additional information they provide is used in the Annual Application & Report.

- FFY 21 CPHD Task Orders included the option to redirect most MCHBG funding towards COVID-19 response (all MCHBG reports and FICMMR death reviews are still required).
- State MCHBG staff met with a Federal Review Panel via Zoom on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for usual review of Annual Application & Report. State presentation included information regarding the extreme workload on CPHD staff for COVID-19 response, and the hostility some have experienced from local residents.
- Work has started on the FFY22 Application & FFY2020 Annual Report

MCHBG: County Public Health Department Totals for FFY 2019 (50 Participants)	
Individuals Served - Listed by Population Category	
MCHBG Population Category	Unduplicated number of persons served
<b>Pregnant Women</b> Any pregnant women receiving any service.	2,699
<b>Infants: &lt; 1 year</b> All infants under 1 year of age receiving services.	6,737
<b>Children: 1 to 22 years</b> All children 1 year of age through their 21st year, not including CSHCN. DO NOT count school screenings.	26,289
<b>Children with Special Health Care Needs</b> Children birth through their 21st year who have problems requiring more than routine and basic care and/or have a diagnosed disorder.	1,155
<b>Others</b> Particularly non-pregnant women age 22 to 45 (through their 44th year)	9,144
<b>TOTALS</b>	46,024
<b>Group Encounters</b> Include school and day care screening numbers. <i>Group Encounter numbers are not included in above categories, as there is probably some duplication.</i>	48,966

## Upcoming Survey Projects

Hillary Hanson, COO, Montana Public Health Institute, [hillary.hanson@mtphi.org](mailto:hillary.hanson@mtphi.org)

- MPHI is partnering with the Public Health System Improvement Office on the annual survey of lead local health officials.
- Adding questions to learn more about COVID-19 impacts, including departures due to COVID, postponement of special programs and reasons for postponing, and budgets with and without COVID funding.
- Distribution planned sometime around June—normally in February-March.

Bailey Ireland, AmeriCorps VISTA, Public Health System Improvement Office, [bailey.ireland@mt.gov](mailto:bailey.ireland@mt.gov)

- Survey being developed to evaluate Boards of Health (BoH) training needs and better understand BoH functionality in Montana
- Planning on engaging lead local health officials, Montana Assoc. of Counties, Montana Public Health Training Center, MSU Center for Local Government, and any other interested parties in the review of the survey.
- Recommendations from attendees include:
  - Administer to all BoH members, not just the Chairs
  - Get contact information from health officers/lead locals
  - Use MPHA/MEHA/AMPHO survey as a starting point
  - Wait to administer until the fall and include any changes from the 2021 legislative session

## 2019-2023 State Health Improvement Plan Updates

Anna Bradley, Plans Coordinator, Public Health System Improvement Office, [abradley@mt.gov](mailto:abradley@mt.gov)

- Collaboration with the Office of Rural Health includes a coordinated effort to build a database that will visualize health improvement planning data, a co-branded survey tool for use in community health assessments/health needs assessments, joint marketing efforts to promote health department and hospital collaboration, and an MOU template for health departments and hospitals to use to encourage collaboration.
  - Feedback from the attendees is that the database would be useful for reducing duplication, highlighting successful implementation strategies, encouraging collaboration between communities with similar goals, and making connections across the state.
- Motor Vehicle Crashes Workgroup: Impaired Driving Risk Map project will rank Montana counties by risk of being involved in a crash related to impaired driving. Any concerns about this project?
  - Feedback from attendees included ensuring that the final results are not distributed without including support for counties deemed at higher risk than others and that it should be clear which data are used in the index.

## Montana Workforce Development Plan

Emily Weiler, Montana Public Health Training Center Coordinator, [Emily.Weiler@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Emily.Weiler@mso.umt.edu)

- The statewide workforce assessment is ready for publication. Send any final comments or questions to Emily. The statewide workforce development plan will be available soon.
  - \*Note: The assessment has been published and [made available on the MPHTC website](#).

## 2019-2023 Public Health System Improvement Plan

Anna Bradley, Plans Coordinator, Public Health System Improvement Office, [abradley@mt.gov](mailto:abradley@mt.gov)

The 2019-2023 PHSI Plan should be updated to reflect the impacts of COVID-19 on the public health system. A request was made for any volunteers interested in participating in reviewing the plan. Hillary Hanson (MPHI), Aaron Wernham (MHCF), Tony Ward (UM), Terry Ray (PHSIO) volunteered.

## Wrap-up

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021. [View the 2021 meeting schedule online](#) at the PHSITF's page on the [A Healthier Montana website](#).