



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Board of Health



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Thursday, January 11, 2024  
5:30 PM

Regular

Department of Public  
Health and Human  
Services Health  
Training Room 1, 1005  
W. Worley St

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** 7 - Harry Feirman, Elizabeth Hussey, Mahree Skala, Michael Szewczyk, Kathleen McKinney, Rosann Geiser and R. Wade Schuette

**Excused:** 1 - Sonita Simelus

**Absent:** 2 - Jonathan Heidt and Jacqueline Fernald

a. Skala called the meeting order at 5:32 pm.

City Staff Present: Stephanie Browning and Peyton Oliver

County Commissioner Present: Janet Thompson

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Geiser moved to approve the minutes, seconded by McKinney. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Skala moved to amend the minutes to make changes to the staff members present. Geiser moved to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Feirman. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments: [BOH Draft Meeting Minutes 10-12-23](#)

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. None

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Update on the Central Missouri Humane Society with Michelle Casey

Michelle Casey introduced herself to the Board and briefly explained the history of the Central Missouri Humane Society, which has been in continuous operation since 1943. CMHS is the only open-door shelter in Boone County. The CMHS will take in any animal no matter the breed, age, health, or temperament. CMHS is a private shelter and does not receive funding from any national humane organizations.

CMHS was recognized as a 501 c (3) nonprofit in 1968. The new and current shelter was built at the Big Bear Blvd location. Since then new kennels and cat condos have been added to the shelter. In 2015, CMHS achieved a 92% placement rate which would qualify CMHS as a "no-kill shelter." CMHS received a grant to conduct a needs assessment survey. In 2020, CMHS's placement rate rose to 97%.

As the largest adoption facility in mid-Missouri, CMHS offers a variety of services. This includes low-cost veterinary services such as spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchips. CMHS operates the Pet Food Bank for pet owners in need. In 2022, 20,000 lbs. of food were distributed. The Community Cat Program runs the community trap/neuter/release project. Community cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and receive a small ear notch, then released back into the wild. CMHS runs Safety Net Programs such as the Animal Safety Net, which offers temporary shelter to pets owned by people experiencing domestic violence. The CRASH Fund provides medical intervention for stray and owned pets in the community.

CMHS maintains a network of fosterers and volunteers who take care of the pets at the shelter. A favorite program among volunteers is Doggy Day Out which allows for adoptable dogs to be taken off-site for an afternoon. The Be Kind Program is a Humane Education program where Columbia Public School students are taught about companion animal care through in-person learning.

Animal Control works with CMHS to enforce city codes. Animal Control brings stray, missing, or cruelty cases to the shelter. CMHS will provide veterinary care if needed and will care for the animal until it is reclaimed. If the animal is not reclaimed, CMHS will put the animal up for adoption.

Currently, CMHS's shelter has become quite dated and is looking to move to a new location. CMHS has been using its current shelter since 1976. A new location has been found and work on the new shelter is being planned.

CMHS is always looking for volunteers and fosters. People can also donate supplies from their Amazon Wish List. Donations and sponsorships were made through the Shelter Me program.

## VI. REPORTS

### a. Director's Report

The reaccreditation documentation was submitted to the National Public Health Accreditation Board in December. The site visit has not been scheduled, but we expect to hear more in the next few months.

The Community Health Assessment is completed and will be published soon. Staff will be meeting with our community partners to identify which priority issues will have an improvement plan developed.

We are seeing an increasing number of syphilis and new HIV cases. There has been a notable increase in influenza reports since December 10th. Influenza A is most common and the highest rates are among 0-14 year-olds. Reported cases of COVID-19 have been on the increase since December 2, 2023.

The Health Promotion staff, along with our community partners, continue to hold monthly Save a Life naloxone training. During the calendar year 2023, staff provided 1,705 boxes of Narcan to the community.

In October, Health Promotion staff began implementing the "School of Hard Talks" program. This is a four-part, evidence-based program to improve communication skills for families, including parents of teens and adults who live with mental health and/or substance use conditions.

The program uses adaptations of Motivational Interviewing, a communication style that health professionals use to encourage lifestyle changes. Effective skill building will include approaching a topic with curiosity, asking good questions, listening carefully, repeating back what you heard, and offering suggestions effectively.

The two-hour sessions are held in the evenings via Zoom. The current series kicked off on January 9th.

PHHS and University of Missouri Extension are partnering to host Youth Mental Health First Aid training on January 27, 2024, from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at the PHHS building.

Human Services hired a Social Services Specialist last year and has successfully implemented the Divert program which provides social services support for the Municipal Court Community Support Docket and the City's public safety departments, including the Familiar Faces initiative which seeks to address high utilizers of public safety services.

Human Services hired a Public Health Planner to coordinate the City's efforts around homelessness. Agreements are in place with Columbia Interfaith Resources Center to provide year-round services for Room at the Inn (RATI) at the Ashley St. Center and Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church to expand operating hours for Turning Point. Staff, in partnership with other community partners, piloted the Shower to Empower program using the City's mobile shower trailer to provide showers for the unsheltered population.

Jean Easley, Animal Control Officer, retired on December 8th. Molly Aust, Animal Control Supervisor, retired on January 2nd. Janet Dutton, Administrative Supervisor (over the clinic staff), retired yesterday, (January 10). Mary Martin, Community Health Manager, will retire on April 12th. The combined years of service for these four employees is 150 years.

**VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

- a. None

**VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

March 14, 2024

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Hussey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Feirman. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

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