



# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

[www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/](http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/)

## Administration

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## KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

### Minutes

Thursday, January 20, 2005  
10:05 a.m.

**Present:** Chairman Perry Huston, Vice Chair Carolyn Booth, Board Member David Bowen, Alan Crankovitch, Dr. Don Solberg (arrived late), Administrator Nancy Goodloe, EH Director John Wolpers, HP Manager Ann Riley, CHS Manager Bonnie Corns, Secretary to the Board of Health Nora Ludlow, Emergency Response Specialists Colleen Riley and Jerry Harris, BOHAC Secretary Margaret Condit and Dr. De Palma, Linda Wichers, Cle Elum Family Medicine, Rosemary Meyer, Sean Kelleher.

**Minutes:** Carolyn Booth moved that the minutes of December, 2004 Board of Health meeting be approved as presented. Perry Huston seconded. Motion carried.

**Election of Vice Chair for BOH:** As the chair of the Board of County Commissioners, Perry Huston is ex-officio the chair to the Board of Health. The Board of Health needs to elect a new vice chair each year. Perry called for nominations. Dr. Solberg received a majority of the votes and was elected the new vice chair.

**Recognition of Community Partners:** Perry Huston handed out certificates of appreciation for our Community Partners support during the flu vaccine shortage this year. The recipients were: Dr. Art De Palma – CWU Health and Counseling Services, Carolyn Booth – CWU Paramedic Program, Linda Wichers – KVCH Employee Health, Sean Kelleher – Fred Meyer Pharmacy, Karen Green – Cle Elum Family Medicine, Rosemary Meyer – Aging and Long Term Care. All recipients posed for a picture with Perry Huston and Nancy Goodloe. Cle Elum Family Medicine started the generosity by selling ½ their doses to Public Health; this snowballed with CWU selling some also. In total Public Health and all other providers were able to vaccinate over 5,000 high risk persons in our county. Perry Huston added that there is a ripple effect that makes this generous work a very important decision, such as loss of income by selling doses to Public Health.

**Introductions:** Nancy introduced Colleen Riley and Jerry Harris as our new Emergency Preparedness Specialists that will be giving the BOH an update late in the meeting.

### **Contracts and Amendments:**

Yakima Region II, AIDS Service Network Contract (AIDSNET) is an annual renewal contract with Yakima Health District for our outreach work with AIDS and high risk population in our community.

**Carolyn Booth moved to approve the Administrators signature on the Yakima Region II AIDS service network contract. David Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

American Lung Association (ALA) subcontracted compliance checks contract. Compliance checks are used to prevent the sale of tobacco to minors and the liquor control board enforces the citation by our staff. Until now, these compliance checks were done by Kittitas County Public Health Staff and local area minors. Concerns arose with this process as youth frequently knew the store personnel they bought from and there have been some unpleasant issues with store personnel who sold illegally and were ticketed. This is a contract to have Yakima ALA do our compliance checks. The liquor control board will continue to do the enforcement. We will use the money we receive for compliance checks and pass it on to the Yakima ALA. We will keep the education piece of our State contract and keep in close contact with the Yakima ALA for violations so that we can immediately offer education to county offenders.

**Don Solberg motioned to approve the Administrators signature on the American Lung Association Contract. David Bowen second the motion. Discussion to the motion: The ALA contract is approximately ½ of the Tobacco money received annually; the other ½ is for education. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Kittitas County Personnel policies manual by Board of Health brought by request of Human Resources. Perry mentioned that the Board of Health needs to follow all Kittitas County policies to be uniform for all County bodies. Alan clarified there is no union at Public Health.

**David Bowen motioned to approve the Kittitas County Personnel Policies. Carolyn Booth second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Updates/Reports:**

**Food Born Illness Investigation:** On January 4, 2005, Public Health was contacted by Diamondback's restaurant and sick patrons of the restaurant. An investigation was conducted and the restaurant was closed until January 8, 2005. We had approximately 114 patron calls, 15 had not been sick. There were 19 of the 20 restaurant employees and 14 of the 25 casino employees that were working while they were ill. On January 7, we received results of samples previously collected from ill patrons and workers that indicated a norovirus. We were not able to identify an index case. Norovirus is typically thought of as "the stomach flu" and has 1 to 3 day duration. John instituted corrective and preventive compliance measures before the restaurant could open again. He also added a Barrier Policy, including training on glove use and hand washing. He used the department glow germ machine to demonstrate how easily germs are spread. The owner and manager of the establishment were very cooperative. John also required a complete cleaning and sanitization of the kitchen and casino before opening, as well as destruction of all ready to eat food that had been prepped. There will be heightened checks over the next 6 months. Alan asked about sending obviously ill food workers home. John said that will be part of the upcoming regulations, he pointed out that the biggest issue in food service is hand washing. John also pointed out that not all Diamondback employees had food handler cards. Public Health conducted a food handler class at the restaurant for their staff. Public Health will be conducting weekly checks for use of gloves and the hand washing logs and monthly checks for progress. We did receive calls from other restaurants in that area asking for information to make sure this sort of thing did not happen to them. We

reinforced the use of gloves and a lot of hand washing with these calls. Nancy informed the BOH that we activated our internal Incident Command System. The Board of County Commissioners should have received daily updates. We also got several regional people involved in the investigation for communication and support, as well as Department of Health staff. Overall, many of the resources that were used to manage this incident were in place because of the emergency response planning that has been going in the county and state for the past two years.

Flu Vaccine: Kittitas County Public Health dispensed or redistributed close to 3,000 doses of flu vaccine since October 2004. Currently there is an outbreak of Influenza A at a Job Corp dormitory in Grant County. There are 200 people reported ill and the Health Officer has quarantined that dormitory. Kittitas County has 5 confirmed cases of Influenza. All influenza cases are in 15 to 24 year old students at high schools or colleges, the population not vaccinated during this year's flu vaccine shortage. The biggest symptom is a sore throat.

TB Update: Dr. Miller spoke about our 2004 active TB client. In November, he was released from voluntary isolation and admitted himself into a substance abuse clinic. He is now in the Yakima Health District and VA is helping him with support and job location. He continues to take his medications and will need to do so until April 2005. Our staff did a good job working with this client, and this is a real public health success story.

There is a new potentially positive case of TB in our county. We received a call on Christmas Day 2004 from the KVCH Emergency Room regarding a 44 year old male complaining of unexplained weight loss, cough and night sweats (all of which are symptoms of TB). His PPD skin test came back positive, but his x-ray was negative. We are currently trying to work with him to get sputum samples, which is the only way to confirm for sure. This person has become uncooperative, hostile and threatening. There will be a restraining order against him for the Health department. There are underlying mental health concerns that are currently untreated. He is mistrustful due to past problems with medical people. We have supplied him with a list of local area providers that take Medicaid. Dr. Miller is working with Doug Mitchell to get a court order for the sputum samples, where a police officer goes with a Public Health staff member to the suspected TB client's house. If he does not cooperate, we can have him arrested and put into a Yakima jail. Perry Huston offered council to move quickly on this and have Doug Mitchell, Prosecutor, work on it now.

2004 TB Funding Update: Nancy spoke about the 2004 active TB case. It was initially diagnosed in the Community Clinic. The Community Clinic had a HRSA Grant and they put some of the money at KVCH for work the KVCH would be doing for the clinic. The Community Clinic later found out they could not do this and needed to expend the money. Personnel at the State Department of Health coordinating the grant suggested that the funds be used to support Public Health TB activity during the course of the grant, July 2003 through June 2004. This amounted to a little over \$11,000 and was used to pay for staff time, medications, and x-rays, but not the lodging costs for the TB client. That amount will be reimbursed to KCPHD from KVCH. Perry Huston reminded Public Health to prepare all appropriate budget amendments.

DOH Healthy Communities Grant: We have hired Emily McLaughlin for the Health Educator position. She will officially start on 1-24-05. Her first day will be spent going to Florida for a meeting. We are using the grant money and splitting it between Sarah Bedsaul (current staff) and Emily. Emily is a certified Health Educator Specialist. She has a lot of experience and will also work with the Healthy Childcare Washington grant. The Healthy Communities grant we received is

\$50,000 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year and if our objectives are met the funding will continue for 4 more years. In March, Sarah and Emily will give a presentation to the Board of Health about the meeting and information gained during their Florida travel.

Emergency Response Preparation: Colleen and Jerry are trying to identify facilities for a mass vaccination clinic. Currently the focus is on the fairgrounds and the high school, possibly looking at CWU. Colleen passed around one floor plan idea. They have not identified a facility in Upper County. We may not be able to staff a clinic in Upper County and they are discussing bussing people from Upper County to a Lower County clinic. They will be reactivating the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) and hope to have monthly meetings with this group. Our department tabletop will be on May 25 and will address a Pandemic Flu response. The DOH is also having a Regional exercise on Pandemic Flu on June 29. Part of our planning is to have a system in place to vaccinate everyone in our county in 10 days. Eventually we will need to shorten that to about 4 days. Two days for the Strategic National Stockpile to arrive and two days to vaccinate everyone. We are also working with the schools, pharmacies and hospital. Jerry has noticed that the County emergency response agencies are very disconnected. They are planning on twice monthly meetings with the Sheriff's office and once monthly meeting with the LEPC. Jerry and Colleen are working on our internal command structure. Nancy added the monthly community meetings will also help build the community command structure. We have a good document from the CDC that outlines each responsibility in the ICS Dr. Solberg asked if we are planning for a mass flu vaccination clinic. We hope to do that for the 2005-2006 flu season.

Carolyn Booth moved to adjourn and David Bowen seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board of Health meeting will be February 17 at 10:00 a.m.

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Perry Huston, Chair of the Board of Health

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Nancy Goodloe, Administrator

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Nora Ludlow, Secretary to the Board