



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/

Administration
Community Health Services
Health Promotion Services
507 N. Nanum Street, Ste 102
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone: (509) 962-7515

Environmental Health
411 North Ruby Street, Ste 3
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone (509) 962-7698
Fax (509) 962-7052

KITITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2005
10:00 a.m.

Present: Chairman Perry Huston, Board Members David Bowen, Alan Crankovich, and Don Solberg, Administrator Nancy Goodloe, Health Officer Rosalie Miller, Environmental Health Director John Wolpers, Health Promotion Manager Ann Riley, Community Health Services Manager Bonnie Corns, and Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill.

Absent: Board Member Carolyn Booth.

Minutes:

Motion 04-01: David Bowen moved that the minutes of March, 2005 Board of Health meeting be approved as presented. Don Solberg seconded. Motion carried.

Contracts and Amendments:

Consolidated Contract # C13037(2)

This is the second amendment to the Consolidated Contract. Amendment reflects adjustments pertaining to EHP drinking water, PHBG local prevention, PHEPR Focus E, and WIC/USDA nutrition and local support issues.

Motion 04-02: Don Solberg made a motion recommending that the Board of Health approve the signature of the Administrator for the Consolidated Contract. David Bowen seconded. Motion carried.

Updates/Reports:

Staffing Updates

The Public Health Department (PH) has been interviewing nurses for Melissa Rapp's position; and will make a decision by the end of the day whether or not to repost the position.

Susan Merrill was introduced as the department's new Administrative Assistant.

Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercises

Nancy Goodloe stated that two tabletop exercises are planned. One is the department's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercise on May 26. One main purpose of the exercise is to introduce health department staff to the process of activating the EOC and to learning incident command system roles and responsibilities.

The second exercise is the June 29th regional tabletop which will activate the county's EOC and simulate a pandemic flu outbreak. Nancy invited all Commissioners and Board members to attend this exercise. Legal matters pertaining to quarantine will be addressed.

Alan Crankovich asked about the definition of pandemic flu. Rosalie Miller, M.D. and Don Solberg, M.D. stated that the population has no immunity to a pandemic flu and it spreads rapidly. It is a new virus, and associated illness and deaths are higher, and it affects healthy adults and not just high risk people. "Pandemic" means that there is high penetration into society whereby 15 to 45% of the population can be affected.

Perry Huston asked that the tabletop exercise be placed on the Commissioners' calendar. (It is an all-day event on June 29, the last Wednesday in June.)

Nancy Goodloe mentioned that since Health Officer Rosalie Miller is unable to attend the regional tabletop, the Health Officer from Benton Franklin County Health District, Larry Jecha, M.D., had been asked to represent Public Health in the county's EOC. There was some discussion over the rationale behind this decision. Nancy stated that the county has never exercised its EOC with Public Health, and this will provide a good learning opportunity to do so.

National Public Health Week Activities

Nancy Goodloe asked Ann Riley, Health Promotion Manager, and John Wolpers, Environmental Health Director, to provide reviews of events that had occurred in coordination with National Public Health Week.

"The Future of Kittitas County: Planning for Healthier Communities" Workshop (April 6, 2005): Workshop focused on "how future building will impact the health of residents; and how can the County remain a livable place and create healthy growth" and was sponsored by the Shape Up/Kittitas County grant with Kittitas County Public Health Department.

Ann Riley reported that there was good attendance with 33 people and representation from all targeted disciplines (i.e., county planners, city planners, county commissioners, school board members, city council from Upper and Lower County, chamber members for Ellensburg, Environmental Health, builders, and developers). Ann provided a review of the keynote and panel speakers. Ann particularly complimented the panelists for a great job of engaging and educating the community members in attendance. Panelists were: Dr. Elise Herman, Pediatrician in Ellensburg, Darryl Piercy, County Community Development Services Director, Ted Barkley, City Manager for Ellensburg, and Mike Jackson, local builder.

Ann Riley said that afternoon workgroups focused on Upper and Lower County issues regarding ways that Public Health can be advocates for health in planning and provided great discussion and feedback to department staff.

Ann provided an overview of what the "next steps" will be. These encompass follow-up discussions with Darryl Piercy and Ted Barkley for their assessments, meeting with Commissioner Huston for ideas on how health can be addressed in the planning process, evaluation of the different roles to be embraced by Public Health and other groups, and development of a video on health and community design. In June, a progress report will be sent out to all attendees.

Ann Riley provided a general description of Shape Up activities, including the development of a logo which amongst other uses will accompany a column in the paper titled "Healthy Bites," preparation and distribution of health sheets on fitness and nutrition (to be shared with schools), continued work with schools and child care centers, and development of a community website (with indefinite IT support and student updating from CWU) to promote opportunities for healthy activities and events in the community. Ann concluded by stating that once exemplary policies are developed with the School District and approved by the School Board, they will be shared with other school districts in the county.

Workshop on the Revised WA State Food Rule (April 7, 2005): educational workshop highlighting changes and additions to the state's food service regulation which goes into effect May 2, 2005.

John Wolpers described how handouts had been mailed to all food establishments in the county and that the Environmental Health Department (EH) was pleased with the attendance (i.e., 52 attendees who were owners, managers, and food handlers). John said a Public Health Advisor from the Department of Health (DOH) gave a PowerPoint presentation covering five basic topics and an evaluation was given at the end to assess understanding of the topics. John explained that the results were all positive, contained many useful comments, and a few attendees expressed great interest in forming a food advisory committee.

John Wolpers stated that this is one of the few times that EH has done an educational presentation to the community. Don Solberg asked what percentage of food establishments were represented. John said 10%. In addition, calls from "Mom and Pop" establishments were being received at EH. John explained that "this is good" as he is concerned about these establishments more than the national restaurants. The later receive in-house training from their national associations. Don asked about the plan for insisting on compliance with the new rule. John replied that EH provides food establishments with the standard, educates them on the new regulations and the need to abide by regulations to minimize problems, and makes notations as to how they are able to comply.

Nancy Goodloe said another item was accomplished during National Public Health Week: the emergency response webpage for the department was up and running.

Emerging Biosolids Issue in Kittitas County

John Wolpers provided background information on the application of biosolids by Natural Selection Farms. He said this company has been applying biosolids in Yakima County and Yakima has been satisfied with the application. Now the company plans to land-apply to over 4000 acres in Kittitas County. John stated that a representative from the company wants to meet with either the Board of Health (BOH) or Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to convey what they want to do in Kittitas County. John read part of the letter from the company to the Board regarding those sections describing the company's history of land application and their compliance with particular regulations.

At this point in time, John says his assessment is that it is beneficial application but that he wants to inform the Board as to what is happening.

In the discussion that followed, concerns were expressed about:

- monitoring biosolids application, especially any application close to residential developments or in areas where growth is occurring. Concerns were expressed over the current vacancy of the Department of Ecology's position charged with oversight within the central region, as well as, Kittitas County's lack of resources to monitor activity within the county.
- public safety.
- the potential for clean-up of toxins over the course of the next twenty years.
- whether adequate buffers (to inhibit transfer of fecal coliform) exist between application sites and waterways (including wells).
- whether the County has any influence on where applications are applied.
- whether the notice process was adequate (e.g., deadline for public comment).

Perry Huston said the presentation by Natural Selection Farms needs to occur in front of the Board of Health; and subsequently, a public hearing on the matter needs to be set. *Upon deliberation, Board members decided that the next BOH meeting would be a good time to hear the representative's presentation, as long as all county commissioners will be available.*

Business:

Kittitas County Key Health Indicators (Resolution)

Nancy provided an overview of the indicators and their purpose. She stated that they are used by regional and national agencies and have no political agenda. The only nontraditional indicators are a few of the “quality of life” ones (“hope for the future” and “homelessness”) and for Environmental Health, the addition of “meth labs.” The purpose of the health indicators is to track data; assess program effectiveness, long-term outcomes, and community efforts to address issues; and is an important part of standards assessment. Lastly, as data changes, Public Health works with community partners to change indicators too. Nancy explained that indicators are needed to determine if “we’re a healthy community.”

Discussion was far-ranging and included:

- the lack of data in the county on various indicators.
- how indicators are used by Public Health staff.
- what role Public Health has regarding meth labs. Perry Huston expressed concern over whether data collection would lead to monitoring of matters belonging to law enforcement, and to duplication of enforcement efforts between Environmental Health and law enforcement. Discussion addressed the question of when issues are driven by law enforcement or by health.

Rosalie Miller stated we do not have data on meth labs in this county and law enforcement is required to report to Public Health regarding clean-up. Thus, the indicators increase our awareness and promote actions for public education.

Nancy Goodloe said that PH is monitoring data in order to provide information to the community. If this information was already being made available to the community then there would not be calls to PH expressing a lack of it. Nancy stated that meth labs in people’s homes impact Public Health nurses providing in-home clinical services, impact the health of mothers and babies, and impose environmental health risks. Thus, there are multiple reasons for Public Health to directly work on meth matters.

Perry Huston commented that these concerns are not being disputed and yet they do not relate to the resolution.

- Don Solberg’s comment that using the indicators to set PH priorities beyond those of monitoring and throughout the year might address some of PH’s concerns. Don said indicators can be used to change direction as opposed to being used solely for reporting purposes. Nancy said that historically the indicators have been used as a reporting mechanism. Formal adoption of the list will enable the BOH to use the indicators more actively in setting health policy in the county.
- Don Solberg added that all the listed indicators have been in the medical literature regarding risk of negative outcomes and are recognized medically as health indicators. The meaning of what to do about any problem can be a political question. He said he has no problem with the list of indicators: it is reasonable to have such a list. And PH can use changes in assessment to change internal priorities and focus efforts where there are greater payoffs.

Discussion continued on the following matters:

- differences in perspective in terms of priority for some of the indicators.
- clarification of the meaning of some of the indicators.
- how some indicators were being used by Public Health to help introduce into data collection from community partners the issue of health needs on top of social services.

- Nancy Goodloe reiterated that it is Public Health's responsibility to do a community health assessment (i.e., assessing our level of health in the county) and this list of indicators is used to produce this assessment. If something is out of balance then PH works with community partners so that they are aware of the information and can start addressing the problem.

David Bowen asked how the list of indicators becomes a resolution as opposed to an internal document. Nancy Goodloe replied that the department's standards work requires BOH approval.

Perry Huston said that he did not have the resolution to present today. Nancy Goodloe indicated that she wants language in the resolution to reflect:

- (1) BOH will review the list of indicators every 4 to 5 years as new data is acquired; and
- (2) a report will be given to BOH on the status of indicators every year.

Perry Huston asked Nancy Goodloe to change some language in the resolution and to bring it to the next BOH meeting. At that time, Nancy said she will ask for the resolution's official adoption by BOH.

Motion to Set Public Hearing for May 19 to Adopt Washington State Food Rules by Reference

It was discovered that the date cannot be set for May 19 because county commissioners are unavailable. Nancy will contact Don Solberg and Carolyn Booth and coordinate a meeting date with all members of BOH.

Proposed Change to the Joint Plan of Operation with the Department of Health for Group B Water Systems

John Wolpers described the current Joint Plan of Operation (JPO) established between the Department of Health (DOH) and every local Public Health Department (PH). Environmental Health (EH) is responsible for Group B water systems for the state. Under the current system, EH receives all information, approves sites for wells, performs final inspection, and then submits documents to DOH for its review and concurrence with the Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) (i.e., PH) for final approval and issuance of the well ID number.

John then described the options offered under the proposed change to the JPO. One option proposes that the LHJ approves the design and implementation of Group B systems without DOH backup review and approval. DOH provides the well ID number. Under this agreement, the County assumes all liability for problems with the system. The second option proposes that the LHJ performs all pre-final approval work but DOH reviews and approves the system, and assigns a well ID number. Under this second option, DOH assumes all liability for the system.

John Wolpers said he wants to apprise BOH of the proposed changes along with their probable consequences upon PH. John described his concerns regarding liability burden falling on PH under the proposed changes.

John Wolpers recommends that the BOH approve Option 2 in order to guide the County's Group B water approval process in the future. John said he does not think we should accept liability. John provided supporting rationale to his recommendation. He mentioned that other counties, like Lincoln County, do not want to agree to the proposed change to the JPO; and made reference to Spokane County having a lawsuit with DOH over the proposed JPO.

In asking BOH to consider choosing the second option, John conducted a budget review and foresees revenue loss from this recommendation offset by revenue increased from other inspection services. John reiterated that he does not foresee negative impact for EH as EH would still retain most of the revenue collected in the process. Discussion occurred on changes in the fees and how much would now go to the state. *John will need to find out about this information and provide it later to the BOH.*

Questions were asked about the impact on local contractors and particularly the implication for longer turn-around time for builders and lack of leverage by the county on the state.

Perry Huston asked about the nature of the Spokane lawsuit. *John will find out and report back to the BOH. Perry emphasized that more information and discussion is needed before BOH makes a decision.*

Perry suggested that the BOH, in pursuing its administration of the contract, can refer to the BOCC for guidance.

Motion 04-03: David Bowen made a motion referring the proposed change to the DOH Joint Plan of Operation for Group B water systems to the BOCC for further review. Alan Crankovich seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Emergency Response Preparedness Update

Nancy Goodloe asked if there were any questions regarding the one-page report covering March and April, 2005. There were none. Nancy mentioned that this month's highlight was the Emergency Management Services Council meeting held on March 22. Organizers were pleased with the turnout and the agenda is set.

Motion 04-04: Alan Crankovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Bowen seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next Board of Health meeting will be on May 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Perry Huston, Chair of the Board of Health

Nancy Goodloe, Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department

Susan Merrill, Clerk to the Board of Health