



# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

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## KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, July 21, 2005  
10:04 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Carolyn Booth, Commissioner David Bowen, Commissioner Alan Crankovich, Commissioner Perry Huston, Chair, and Vice Chair Don Solberg, M.D.; and Public Health Department Staff: Community Health Services Manager Bonnie Corns, Administrator Nancy Goodloe, Emergency Response Specialist, Jerry Harris, R.N., Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill, Health Officer Rosalie Miller, M.D., Health Promotion Manager Ann Riley, Emergency Response Specialist Colleen Riley, and Environmental Health Director John Wolpers.

**PRESENTERS:**

Jerry Harris, R.N., Emergency Response Specialist, Kittitas County Public Health Department  
Jackie Dawson, PhD, Regional Surveillance/Response Epidemiologist, Region 7 Public Health  
Rosalie Miller, M.D., Health Officer, Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD)

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Melanie Jones, Library Coordinator, KVCH Community Health Library and Vice Chair, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC).  
Joan Baird Glover, BOHAC member

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Nancy Goodloe introduced Melanie Jones, Library Coordinator for the KVCH Community Health Library and Vice Chair of the Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC). Nancy also introduced Jackie Dawson, Regional Surveillance/Response Epidemiologist for Region 7 Public Health. Nancy Goodloe introduced Joan Baird Glover, BOHAC member, when she arrived later in the meeting.

**MINUTES:**

**Motion 07-01: Carolyn Booth moved that the minutes of the June 16, 2005 Board of Health meeting be approved. Commissioner Bowen seconded. There was no discussion to the motion. Motion 07-01 carried.**

**CONTRACTS:**

None.

**BUSINESS:**

[Recording of Public Hearing began.]

**Continuation of Public Hearing to Consider Board of Health Resolution 2005-02 to Adopt Kittitas County Code Title 8.04 Food Handling Rules and Regulations and Title 8.08 Food Handling Establishments, and Washington Administrative Code Chapter 246-215 by Reference as the Food Service Rules for the Kittitas County Board of Health.**

Nancy Goodloe briefly described that Resolution 2005-02 is to adopt the county code by reference in order to put the new Washington food handling rules of May 2, 2005 into effect. In response to one final question on the matter, Nancy answered “yes” that all county food establishments were aware of the rules.

**Motion 07-02: Commissioner Bowen moved for the adoption of Resolution 2005-02; Don Solberg seconded. There was no further discussion; and all were in favor. Motion 07-02 carried.**

[Public Hearing concluded.]

**UPDATES/REPORTS:**

**Regional Pandemic Flu Exercise on June 29 – Jerry Harris, R.N.**

Nancy Goodloe introduced the topic saying that the regional exercise on June 29, 2005 was part of the deliverables for the Public Health Department’s contract for bioterrorism funds, and introduced Jerry Harris, R.N., Emergency Response Specialist at KCPHD to review the June 29 pandemic flu exercise.

Jerry Harris reported that the June 29 exercise was sponsored by Region 7 and involved its five counties for a five-hour period and for \$60,000. The exercise covered a simulated 14-day period, 19 venues, 105 players, and 29 controllers; and it involved all KCPHD staff and staff from other public health departments, staff from sheriff and emergency management offices, and 10 hospitals in the region. Jerry described the exercise as a “functional exercise” as opposed to a “tabletop” in that it involved interaction with the entire emergency management system, and it followed real time actions and responses in order to “imitate reality,” including the scenario whereby public health and hospitals’ abilities to deal with patients would be overwhelmed eventually.

The Region 7 exercise entailed the use of a unified regional command response and sought to highlight how public health fits into such a scenario. Jerry Harris listed the many intentions and goals of the exercise and provided a detailed description of the successes and needs as exhibited during the training exercise. Jerry proffered a comprehensive list of future needs that will need to be addressed including stockpiling of supplies, meetings with the business community for development of a business plan, meetings with Central Washington University (CWU), drills, and business and community educational forums on avian flu. Jerry Harris concluded by saying that she was pleased with the exercise and with the public health staff’s participation.

Discussion ensued over a number of issues: the need for providing critical support to responders’ family members in order to realistically allow responders to play a role in emergency situations, the difference between strategic and tactical planning, and activating the incident command structure (ICS) in segments and tactical ways.

When asked about KCPHD’s ability to respond to a disaster in the immediate future, Nancy Goodloe answered affirmatively that the department would be able to effectively implement its ICS and deal with the emergency especially due to increased skill and confidence in the different emergency roles learned through this exercise and its predecessors. Rosalie Miller added that the department daily addressed issues that use part of ICS. However, Nancy cautioned that with pandemic flu, at some point, emergency response would be challenged in its effectiveness.

**Communicable Disease Investigation at Central Washington University – Bonnie Corns**

Bonnie Corns reported that on July 20, three girls presented with illness from the Cheer Camp at CWU, with a common symptom being sore throat and with symptoms initially suspicious for bacteria meningitis. Bonnie said she had initiated her staff’s ICS duties and started a communicable disease investigation. Meetings have been held with CWU’s Board and Health Center, instructors of the cheer camp, and state and regional people. Rosalie Miller further explained that to date there is no confirmed case of meningitis, and preliminary results are not indicating meningitis. Monitoring is still occurring and 24-hour lab results will be available later today for one of the hospitalized girls.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **“Pandemic Flu – Preparing for the Firestorm” – Jackie Dawson, PhD**

Nancy Goodloe reintroduced Jackie Dawson, PhD, Regional Surveillance/Response Epidemiologist for Region 7 Public Health who was asked to give an overview of the avian flu and the pandemic nature of it.

Jackie Dawson explained the reason for the title of her presentation and referred to her PowerPoint handout on the subject. Jackie began her description of the avian flu situation by stating that two weeks ago the World Health Organization (WHO) sent an emergency team to S.E. Asia due to birds, pigs, and people dying from the bird flu. Jackie provided an initial update on the situation in Asia. Jackie proceeded to provide a historical portrayal of the 1918 flu epidemic, the worst epidemic encountered to date. Jackie described the differences between the 1918 epidemic and a modern one in terms of exponentially increased infection rate and age groups hardest hit, and provided some statistics on current human deaths from the virus in Asia.

Jackie Dawson said that with the current avian flu, it is the first time that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have been contracted to produce a vaccine against the virus. Jackie described that avian flu is a respiratory disease and that the virus can spread before one experiences symptoms of the illness. The spread of pandemic flu can be slowed though not stopped (in contrast to smallpox). Jackie explained that the June 29<sup>th</sup> exercise was one part of preparatory measures in the region against a pandemic flu outbreak from the avian flu virus if it were to change to more readily adapt to people. Jackie provided statistics and a depiction of the possible impact on the community in terms of human and financial loss.

Discussion focused on what local resources might be used to meet the challenges of a pandemic flu epidemic, along with issues surrounding supplies. These matters need to be worked out.

### **Isolation and Quarantine in Response to Pandemic Influenza – Rosalie Miller, M.D.**

Rosalie Miller, M.D., Health Officer provided a PowerPoint presentation on isolation and quarantine issues and their legal authority and implications. Rosalie covered definitions of isolation and quarantine and examples of when they could be helpful; the medical rationale for both of these containment measures for controlling communicable disease; and principles of modern quarantine and the difference between surveillance. Rosalie explained how even with isolation and quarantine measures it might be possible to lessen the devastation from pandemic flu but impossible to control the flu.

Rosalie Miller presented information on the legal authority for isolation and quarantine in Washington State including that emanating from the State Board of Health and local health officers. She described procedures for initiating isolation and quarantine measures and how law enforcement is familiar with court orders on detention but not with detention orders from health officers.

Questions were asked about any legal authority covering a “reverse quarantine;” but Rosalie Miller said that most discussion focuses on not getting out of a contained area versus prevention from getting into an area. It was stated that containment language for exclusion definitely exists.

Other questions pertained to what to do when people do not want to comply. Finally, gratitude was expressed to Public Health for thinking about these problems and working to provide safer alternatives. It was stated that conversations with providers as to their involvement in response plans to pandemic flu need to start happening, as to date they have not occurred.

**Motion 07-03: There being no further discussion, Commissioner Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting; and Carolyn Booth seconded. Motion 07-03 carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board of Health meeting will be on August 18 at 10:00 a.m.

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Perry Huston, Chair of the Board of Health

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Nancy Goodloe, Administrator  
Kittitas County Public Health Department

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Susan Merrill, Clerk to the Board of Health