



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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KITTTAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, August 17, 2006
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:07 a.m.

PRESENT: **Board Members:** Carolyn Booth and Commissioner Perry Huston. **Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD):** WIC Certifier Michelle Arellano, Assessment Coordinator/Health Promotion Manager Sara Burnet, Community Health Services Manager Bonnie Corns, Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill, Health Educator Robin Read-Ochoa, and WIC Coordinator Christine Scharpenberg.

ABSENT: Commissioner David Bowen, Chair, Commissioner Alan Crankovich, and Don Solberg, M.D., Vice Chair.

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Margaret Condit, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)
Shirley Fischer, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)
Joan Baird Glover, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)
Hartwig Vatheuer, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)

MINUTES:

As no quorum existed, minutes for July, 2006 could not be approved nor could business be conducted. Commissioner Huston recommended creation of a Special Meeting Agenda in order to review and approve contracts. It was agreed that a special Board of Health meeting will be tied to the August 22nd Public Health Study Session with the Commissioners. Proper notice will be given to BOH members and the public.

The meeting proceeded on an informal basis given that quite a few individuals were in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Bonnie Corns introduced four representatives from BOHAC: Shirley Fischer, Joan Baird Glover, Melanie Jones, and Hartwig Vatheuer. Ms. Corns also introduced four new KCPHD staff: (1) WIC Certifier Michelle Arellano, (2) Assessment Coordinator/Health Promotion Manager Sara Burnet, (3) Health Educator Robin Read-Ochoa, and (4) WIC Coordinator Christine Scharpenberg. Ms. Corns introduced Carolyn Booth and Commissioner Huston to all of the abovementioned.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Update on Staff Vacancies: Bonnie Corns stated that remaining vacant staff positions at the department are positions for: (1) On Site Sewage (OSS) Environmental Health Specialist, (2) Program Analyst (renamed from Business Manager), and (3) Director.

Discussion occurred on job description changes and the status of recruitment efforts for the financial position and the Director position. Discussion occurred on the status of the additional workload on Public Health management and plans for dealing with the urgent need to process billings on contracted work.

Updates on Communicable Disease (CD) Matters: Bonnie Corns reviewed several health matters including:

1. a health alert received yesterday from Spokane Public Health regarding botulism associated with contaminated black tar heroin. Our department faxed the alert to local medical providers.
2. concern over and treatment for rabies from exposure yesterday to a bat by children and camp counselors at a camp.
3. summary of the CD investigation into an outbreak affecting 168 reported cases in July and August of what was confirmed to be norovirus (including gastrointestinal symptoms of nausea, vomiting, fever, and diarrhea). It was determined that it was not a food-borne outbreak. Ms. Corns provided more details on the reported cases.

The informal meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Board of Health meeting will be a special meeting to approve contracts and will occur in conjunction with the Public Health Study Session with the Commissioners on August 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

David Bowen, Chair of the Board of Health

Bonnie Corns, Interim Co-Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department

Susan Merrill, Clerk of the Board of Health