



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
Fax: (509) 962-7581

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

KITTTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, September 21, 2006
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:09 a.m.

PRESENT: **Board Members:** Carolyn Booth, Commissioner David Bowen, Chair, Commissioner Alan Crankovich, Commissioner Perry Huston, and Don Solberg, M.D., Vice Chair. **Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD):** Environmental Health Manager Cathy Bambrick, Community Health Services Manager Bonnie Corns, and Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill.

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Leslie Berry, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)
Hartwig Vatheuer, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)

MINUTES:

Susan Merrill corrected attendance for the August 17, 2006 meeting, stating that Margaret Condit rather than Melanie Jones attended the meeting as one of the BOHAC representatives.

Motion 09-01: Commissioner Huston moved that the minutes of the July 20, 2006 meeting, August 17, 2006 meeting, August 22 special meeting, and August 28, 2006 special meeting for the Board of Health be approved as presented, noting the correction by staff; Commissioner Crankovich seconded. All approved. Motion 09-01 carried.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Commissioner Bowen welcomed the two representatives from BOHAC: Leslie Berry and Hartwig Vatheuer.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Update on Staff Vacancies: Cathy Bambrick announced that Joseph Gilbert had been hired as the new Environmental Health (EH) Specialist for On Site Sewage (OSS). Regarding the Program Analyst position (renamed from Financial Manager), Cathy stated that after one round of interviews, the position has been reposted.

Commissioner Bowen provided an update on recruitment for the Director's position. Commissioner Bowen said that there were 5 prospective individuals selected for interviews, 3 were interviewed, 1 had references checked, an offer was made yesterday, and as of yet, there has been no reply to the offer. The offer was extended to an individual with extensive background in OSS and EH.

Carolyn Booth asked who comprised the interview committee (Melanie Jones, as Chair of BOHAC, the three Commissioners, and a representative from Human Resources); and responded to Commissioner Bowen's apology for his oversight in excluding both Ms. Booth and Dr. Solberg in the recruitment endeavors, by stating that she would have appreciated the opportunity. Dr. Solberg agreed with Ms. Booth.

Discussion occurred over the variance from the previous selection/interview model (which had included full membership of the Board of Health, the Health Officer, HR rep, and BOHAC representatives) (along with KCPHD

staff for informal interviewing). Ms. Booth requested for future hiring processes related to the Director position that the full Board of Health and the Health Officer be included.

BUSINESS:

2006 flu clinic planning: Bonnie Corns reviewed preliminary plans for this year's mass flu clinics. Bonnie announced that the clinics will occur on October 24th at the Ellensburg High School, and expand to an Upper County site the following day or week. Carolyn Booth volunteered paramedic students. The clinics are part of the department's deliverables under the national stockpile plan.

Dr. Solberg asked if it was possible for the clinic to: (1) identify additional immunizations needed by those who obtain their flu shot; and (2) provide documentation of the flu shot's administration that can be given to the individual's medical provider. **Bonnie replied that while not part of the original planning she saw no reason that these services could not be included.**

Community Healthcare Coalition: This agenda item will be continued to the next meeting. Bonnie Corns mentioned that Dr. Larson met with hospital staff this month regarding planning for a pandemic flu and will have additional information at the end of the month.

Centers for Disease Control's new national distribution system for vaccines: Bonnie Corns reviewed CDC's new national distribution system for vaccines. Vaccines will no longer be stored at the state level but at 4 national sites; providers will do their own direct ordering; and local health jurisdictions (LHJs) will track ordering. CDC has set the beginning of November as the implementation date. Bonnie said our department has been ready to start as of September; and she provided information on the department's training to local providers regarding the new distribution system.

Dr. Solberg asked about CDC's projection for handling adult and child vaccinations for an estimated 50 childhood diseases, if national or state funding will become available, and if there are discussions over the economic impact from vaccinating for all of these diseases. **Bonnie Corns will look into these points and report back to the Board.**

OTHER ITEMS:

Commissioner Bowen asked BOHAC representatives if they had anything to report or to observe. Hartwig Vatheuer asked why there is a high rate of turnover in the Public Health department. Commissioner Bowen explained that turnover was due to some personal as well as personnel issues, that historically this county is a training county (i.e., employees receive training then move to higher-wage counties), and that Commissioners work 5 days per week rather than the former 2 days per week which has brought deficiencies to the surface in various county systems. Commissioner Crankovich reiterated that since Commissioners work 5 days a week, it is easier to hold all county employees accountable.

Commissioner Huston said he was not sure that current turnover is higher than in the past, that historically there has been a problem in keeping some positions filled (those of nurses, planners, some Directors), development of new policies in Environmental Health (EH) and On Site Sewage (OSS) have placed extra demands on staff, that the county is a training county and has always had turnover, and turnover has produced opportunities to raise the bar for performance.

Leslie Berry stated that BOHAC can wait and see what changes transpire in the department, and thus see where BOHAC will be asked to support Public Health.

Commissioner Huston asked what role BOHAC has and wants to have in relation to EH and OSS, particularly as one of the current challenges is the need to create ordinances from policies. Cathy Bambrick explained BOHAC's current role through a subcommittee devoted to EH work. Mr. Vatheuer expressed his desire to be

involved in review of EH policies prior to the approval of policies by the BOCC. Commissioner Huston and Ms. Bambrick stated that EH policy work has been in crisis mode and policy development has been occurring at breakneck pace. Commissioner Huston said that now that policies need to be put into code, it is an especially good time to review them and see how they are working in the field. Policies can now be routed through the Board of Health and BOHAC to make into sensible, enforceable code.

Motion 09-02: Carolyn Booth moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Crankovich seconded. All approved. Motion 09-02 carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on October 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium.

David Bowen, Chair of the Board of Health

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

Susan Merrill, Clerk of the Board of Health