



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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KITTTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, October 19, 2006
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:06 a.m.

PRESENT: **Board Members:** Carolyn Booth, Commissioner David Bowen, Chair, 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, Health Officer Mark Larson, M.D., and Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill.

ABSENT: Board member Commissioner Alan Crankovich

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Shirley Fischer, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)
Cindy Phillips, BOHAC
Hartwig Vatheuer, BOHAC

AMENDED AGENDA:

Motion 10-01: Carolyn Booth moved to adopt the agenda as amended; Commissioner Huston seconded. All approved. Motion 10-01 carried.

MINUTES:

Motion 10-02: Don Solberg moved that the minutes of the September 21, 2006 Board of Health meeting be approved; Commissioner Huston seconded. All approved. Motion 10-02 carried.

INTRODUCTIONS:

BOHAC representatives: Commissioner Bowen welcomed the three representatives from BOHAC: Shirley Fischer, Cindy Phillips, and Hartwig Vatheuer.

New staff: Cathy Bambrick mentioned that Joe Gilbert is the new Environmental Health Specialist and he was unable to attend BOH meeting as he was out in the field working.

CONTRACTS:

Consolidated Contract #C13037 Amendment #13: Bonnie Corns said the amendment provided final funds for Public Health (PH) emergency preparedness and response under the Consolidated Contract; and it provided an increase in immunization funding for PH's assistance to providers for the new vaccination distribution system.

Motion 10-03: Commissioner Huston moved to approve Amendment #13 to Consolidated Contract #C13037; Carolyn Booth seconded. All approved. Motion 10-03 carried.

Contract will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for ratification.

Chelan-Douglas TOGETHER! for Drug Free Youth Contract: Susan Merrill described the tobacco retailer compliance contract between KCPHD and Chelan-Douglas TOGETHER! for Drug Free Youth. The contract pays the contractor between January 1, 2007 and June 30, 2007 for the required tobacco retailer compliance checks as stated in the tobacco contract with the Department of Health.

Motion 10-04: Carolyn Booth moved to approve the Public Health Interim Co-Director's signature on the contract between Chelan-Douglas TOGETHER! for Drug Free Youth Contract and the Kittitas County Public Health Department; Commissioner Huston seconded. All approved. Motion 10-04 carried.

Contract will be forwarded to the BOCC for ratification.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Staffing replacements progress report: Bonnie Corns reported on the open positions for Program Analyst (an offer was declined and another applicant will be interviewed) and two nursing positions (positions have been posted and there is one applicant for the First Steps position). Commissioner Bowen reported that the Director's position had been reposted and criteria for hiring had been widened; and Board of Health members would be notified to see about their availability to help with the interviewing process which will start within the next couple of weeks.

BUSINESS:

Preparations for two mass flu clinics (October 24 & October 31): Bonnie Corns said that the two flu clinics (in Ellensburg on October 24 and Cle Elum on October 31) were set to go and she gave an overview of the preparations. Carolyn Booth asked about the availability of pediatric flu vaccine, and Bonnie said that the department had not received most of its order, and consequently, had scheduled a limited number of pediatric appointments at the Ellensburg flu clinic and was not advertising pediatric immunizations.

Special Board of Health meeting for public testimony and BOH approval of Gibson Solid Waste Permit Application (on Wed., October 25, 2006, 10 a.m., Commissioners' Auditorium): explanation of process: Cathy Bambrick announced that a special meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) was scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 10 am. The BOH meeting occurs after a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee regarding the permit application and accommodates the prerequisite period of legal notice for announcing that public testimony will be taken at the BOH meeting.

Commissioner Huston asked what the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) determination was (as conditions of the SEPA process need to be complied with in order to get a permit); and if the appeal period has ended. Ms. Bambrick said a SEPA Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) was issued; and that the appeal period had ended.

Discussion occurred over the permitting process used for this matter: whether a public hearing was required, whether an open record meeting had already occurred, who and what agencies had been consulted in determining the permitting process, and how the process could be double-checked and modified if necessary at the upcoming BOH meeting on October 25.

Don Solberg asked what action the BOH was being asked to take, for example, action to permit or not to permit. Discussion occurred over the permit, stop work order currently in place, and the compliance process; and initial explanation was provided on the compliance items that will allow issuance of the permit and release of the current stop work order. It was concluded that the BOH has the ability to determine whether to permit or not permit the facility, or permit the facility with conditions.

Commissioner Bowen reiterated that Commissioner Huston and Ms. Bambrick will work to see if the permitting process complies with all that is needed. Commissioner Bowen said that the BOH's meeting on

October 25 needs to occur as it has been publicized; and this meeting can be continued to a public hearing if technically it is deemed necessary.

Recruitment and staff retention issues: Carolyn Booth said this item was placed on the agenda before she had had a meeting last week with Commissioner Bowen. Both Ms. Booth and Commissioner Bowen said their meeting satisfied Ms. Booth's questions about recruitment issues, including those of skills sets for a new Director and financial compensation of interim directors. Commissioner Huston expressed his personal apologies to Ms. Booth for overlooking her participation in the recruitment process for the Director position.

Commissioner Bowen said that financial compensation will be given to both Bonnie Corns and Cathy Bambrick as part of the County's standard practice to compensate for interim management.

Pandemic flu antiviral purchase opportunity: Dr. Mark Larson explained the strategy of Health and Human Services (HHS) in stockpiling two (2) types of antivirals (*Tamiflu* and *Relenza*), and distributing doses to states and counties. Dr. Larson outlined how WA State has reserved a specific supply of antivirals as a prospective emergency defense against pandemic flu (PF); and provided data on our own county's designated supply. Dr. Larson described how each county has the opportunity to purchase an additional 10% supply of antivirals at a discounted rate.

Dr. Larson said that he does not have a recommendation for BOH members regarding whether additional antivirals were needed or should be purchased but rather was providing information about this purchasing opportunity which has a deadline of the middle of November (although the deadline might be expanded). Dr. Larson underscored that it is not known if use of antivirals will protect anyone from the PF, as there is no way to prove protection until a PF happens.

The pro's and con's of this purchasing opportunity were discussed by BOH members. **Dr. Larson provided preliminary information on what other counties have been doing regarding this opportunity to purchase additional antivirals; and said he will provide more information to BOH members.**

OTHER ITEMS:

New electronic health record system for sharing countywide (i.e., NextGen software system at Valley Clinic):

Dr. Solberg explained that around the country in local communities a majority of primary care physicians are implementing electronic health record systems which work countywide. Dr. Solberg described the NextGen system that is being installed at the Valley Clinic; how it provides web-based access for any provider so that when patients are transferred to other providers, information on their care can be shared and added to; and how the NextGen system contains immunization databases. Kittitas County is one of 5 sites in the country to implement this type of system.

Dr. Solberg outlined timelines in 2007 for implementation of the system at the Valley Clinic. Implementation covers two aspects: first, that of data management for billings and scheduling, and second, that for medical records. Dr. Solberg said there is the potential to involve all other community partners in the system (for example, KCPHD, pharmacies, physical therapists, nursing homes, etc.). **Dr. Solberg said that in 2007 the Clinic will broach the BOH regarding its involvement in the system.**

Reporting survey: On behalf of KCPHD's Assessment Coordinator, Susan Merrill mentioned that a survey is being electronically disseminated to BOH members and reminded BOH members to complete the "SurveyMonkey" survey which solicits input and suggestions on the direction the department should take for departmental reporting. **Dr. Solberg mentioned that personal contact is better than emailing (as too often emails get deleted as junk mail); and other members concurred.**

Motion 10-05: Carolyn Booth moved to adjourn the meeting; Don Solberg seconded. All approved. Motion 10-05 carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Board of Health meeting will be a special meeting to allow public testimony on the Gibson Solid Waste Permit Application and will be held on October 25 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