



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, December 20, 2007
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:28 a.m.

PRESENT: Board Members: Commissioner David Bowen, Commissioner Crankovich, Chair, Rich Elliott, and Dr. Don Solberg, Vice Chair. Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD): Public Health Administrator Cathy Bambrick, Community Health Services Director Bonnie Corns, Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill.

ABSENT: Commissioner Mark McClain

Commissioner Crankovich called meeting to order.

MINUTES:

Motion 12-01: Rich Elliott moved to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2007 Board of Health meeting; Commissioner Crankovich seconded. All approved. Motion 12-01 carried.

INTRODUCTIONS: none.

CONTRACTS: none.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ISSUES:

MRSA update: Bonnie Corns provided information on the department's response to the November 13, 2007 Governor Gregoire directive to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to take three specific actions regarding the public concern over Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection:

1. Convene a panel of scientific experts to provide evidence-based recommendations for the most effective monitoring strategies and interventions for all antibiotic resistant organisms including MRSA (report to be finalized no later than January 10, 2008).
2. All Washington State laboratories to immediately report cases of *invasive MRSA** to the Department of Health where epidemiologists will analyze the data for trends and provide good information about the progression of this infection.
3. Work with local health agencies, hospitals, health care providers and other health care institutions to further educate the public, schools, and businesses about MRSA and how to prevent getting the infection.

*[*invasive MRSA is defined as obtaining culture results of MRSA from a normally sterile site within the body]*

In response to subsequent procedural action requested by DOH, KCPHD developed a plan with Kittitas Valley Community Hospital to report all cases of invasive MRSA to KCPHD. After receiving a report, KCPHD will enter the case(s) into the electronic laboratory reporting system known as PHRED, notifying DOH. [KCPHD

will link to PHRED as the hospital does not have the capability to do so.] This will also allow KCPHD to monitor the number of invasive MRSA cases reported and assist with any patient education that might be requested.

To date, KCPHD staff have provided MRSA information to all county public school principals, school nurses, medical providers and several businesses that have requested this information. KCPHD staff are available to present information as requested by schools, parent groups, and businesses throughout the county.

Bonnie Corns concluded by saying that KCPHD will share the report prepared by a panel of scientific experts to the Governor [in directive #1] with the BOH when it becomes available.

In response to a question on what MRSA is in layperson's terms, Dr. Solberg explained that MRSA can be thought of as a particular kind of staph infection which is resistant to common antibiotics and thus more difficult to treat.

2008 WA State Department of Health Standards review: Cathy Bambrick provided a progress report on preparations for the May, 1 2008 site evaluation by Washington State Department of Health Evaluators to score the department on its progress on the department's Standards work since the 2005 site evaluation. The visit is the fourth (4th) assessment visit; different Standards will be under review (though measured in a way to provide comparison in performance over the years); and outcome will provide a quality improvement measure to ensure that high quality service is provided in efficient and effective ways.

A quality improvement leadership team has been streamlining evaluation processes to make planning manageable and to increase quality improvement. \$5000 in grant funds received by KCPHD to learn techniques and priority areas for improvement has meant the adoption of a "rapid cycle improvement (RCI)" planning tool to track and test programs and has meant that various programs were selected to show how the programs are demonstrating rapid improvement (e.g., RCI projects in On Site Sewage, Shape Up, Communicable Disease, and Food Safety).

Ms. Bambrick stated that she thinks the department will do well in the site evaluation. **Cathy Bambrick also mentioned that the department's Strategic Plan has already been approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and will be presented to the Board of Health; and that she will provide regular updates to the Board of Health on the progress of quality improvement endeavors.**

BUSINESS:

2008 Public Health Department budget (continuation): Cathy Bambrick stated that the concerns expressed at the last BOH meeting over not understanding the budget spreadsheets were valid. At Public Health's recent BOCC agenda session, the County's contribution [i.e., \$239,168.00] was taken back and placed in the department's 2008 budget; \$430,955.91 was "borrowed" from the department's fund balance (current total of \$551,632.42) which has left \$120,676.51 in the fund balance (i.e., the department's emergency operating funds) which should contain a balance of \$350,000; and thus, the department is over budget by \$229,323.49. Ms. Bambrick said that part of the reason for the shortfall is that in 2007, the department inadvertently underpaid the County by \$80,000 for its departmental share of County services.

Commissioner Bowen mentioned that KCPHD's management team has evaluated and identified for the BOCC how the shortfall can be rectified and has determined a work plan to phase out \$180,000 to \$230,000 in expenses in order to replenish the reserve fund balance. Commissioner Crankovich reiterated that the goal is to cut expenses gradually at the Administrator's discretion and if there was a short-term shortfall, the County would make up the difference. Cathy Bambrick said that for confidentiality reasons, her recommendations on expense reductions could not be discussed at this meeting.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:

Septic spill at Mill Pond Trailer Park: Cathy Bambrick reviewed the septic spill event at Mill Pond Manor Trailer Park. On December 10, 2007, Environmental Health staff responded to a septic leak from a broken septic line at Mill Pond Manor Trailer Park located in Ellensburg. Staff confirmed that Kittitas County Solid Waste would accept waste materials from the septic leakage, contained the leakage by digging a drainage ditch to ensure that surface water was not contaminated, and issued a Health Order for clean-up by the trailer park. Tanks were continuously pumped, the leaking sewer line was excavated, contaminated soil was removed, new dirt was applied, and the line was repaired and tested before covering. Ms. Bambrick said that staff demonstrated their expertise by working quickly and well, and contacted all appropriate agency representatives, County administration, and landowners; there was no need to involve Department of Ecology; it was easy to clean-up the leak; and no homes experienced a shut-down in septic service. Dr. Solberg asked if it took three days to complete; and Cathy Bambrick responded affirmatively.

OTHER:

The Shape Up newsletter was distributed. Questions and feedback on the Grab N' Go food program at Super One were shared. Cathy Bambrick reported that to date there has been great feedback on the program.

Motion 12-02: Commissioner Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting; Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 12-02 carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on January 17, 2008 at 10 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium.

Mark McClain, Chair of the Board of Health

Cathy Bambrick, Public Health Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department

Susan Merrill, Clerk of the Board of Health