



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

KITTTAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2008
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:05 a.m.

PRESENT: Board Members: Rich Elliott, Commissioner Mark McClain, Chair, and Dr. Don Solberg, Vice Chair. Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD): Clerk I Candi Blackford, Assessment Coordinator II Sara Burnet, Community Health Services Director Bonnie Corns, Assessment Coordinator I Amy Diaz, Outreach Worker Julia Karns, Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson, Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill, Environmental Health Director Holly Myers, Health Promotion Manager Robin Read-Ochoa, Accountant Amber Simon, and Environmental Health Specialist II Kodi Still.

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Margaret Condit, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)
Greg Zempel, Prosecutor, Kittitas County

ABSENT: Commissioner David Bowen and Commissioner Alan Crankovich

Chair McClain called the meeting to order.

MINUTES:

Motion 03-01: Rich Elliott moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2008 Board of Health meeting as submitted; Commissioner McClain seconded. All approved. Motion 03-01 carried.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Margaret Condit, as BOHAC's representative, was acknowledged by the Chair, and reported on the following items addressed at BOHAC's March meeting: (1) the update on the transfer of First Steps and WIC programs to Community Health of Central Washington (CHCW) and BOHAC's positive responses to the transfer; and (2) review of the Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Department of Ecology (DOE) on exempt ground water wells.

Bonnie Corns introduced Candi Blackford as the department's new Public Health Clerk, whose position is funded by Blue Ribbon funds.

Commissioner McClain requested that the order of agenda items be changed to consider the SANE program first as Greg Zempel was in attendance solely for this item of business.

BUSINESS:

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program Proposal: Dr. Larson presented the proposal for the SANE Program to be implemented by KCPHD; and he outlined the history behind the proposal and

components of the program:

- The exams are currently performed at KVCH by two SANE-registered nurses;
- Union rules regarding on-call requirements and compensation to the nurses make it difficult for the program to be conducted at the hospital;
- Administrator Cathy Bambrick was contacted and asked if Public Health would perform the exams;
- It is a good fit for Public Health as it provides KCPHD the opportunity to perform sexual assault work along with communicable disease and treatment work;
- Two Kittitas County Public Health nurses (PHN) are interested and would be trained as Sexual Assault Nurse examiners to collect evidence from victims and suspects involved in sexual assaults and give evidence to all law enforcement agencies within Kittitas County;
- PHNs would share call duty among four (4) trained nurses (two nurses would be KCPHD employees and two contracted nurses).

Dr. Larson asked for approval to implement the SANE Program using PHNs and the Public Health facilities.

Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor, provided an overview of the history of the SANE Program and outlined components of its implementation at KCPHD:

- Training in SANE started in 1997;
- Originally, program was situated at Planned Parenthood and then KVCH;
- 10 SANE nurses were eventually trained but could not be sustained due to call duty difficulties;
- Program lost nurses and continues with two nurses at KVCH;
- Law and Justice Center funds pay for the program at \$400 per exam, and CWU funding covers \$400 per exam for college students who are victims;
- The current SANE nurses are KVCH employees and the union does not approve of their involvement in the program;
- He and Gene Dana, Kittitas County Sheriff, approached Public Health to manage the program;
- KCPHD offers a more private location and is accessible 24-hours a day;
- Contracted nurses and two Public Health nurses will perform victim exams and suspect exams too;
- Some equipment for the examinations is currently available **but more equipment will be necessary.**

Commissioner McClain said he was most supportive of this program and supportive of training as many nurses as needed. Commissioner McClain said if additional equipment to do business is needed, then it would be fine to acquire. Dr. Larson said that a colposcope (i.e., microscope) with camera attachment is expensive but is something to consider for the exams.

Motion 03-02: Dr. Solberg moved to support the proposed Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program and for KCPHD to work with Prosecutor's Office to obtain additional equipment; Rich Elliott seconded. During some discussion, it was stated that law enforcement will be present when examinations occur. All approved. Motion 03-02 carried.

CONTRACTS:

Shape Up's Healthy Dining Out Project Participating Venue Contracts for 13 Restaurants: Amber Simon said that: thirteen (13) participating dining establishments have contracts with Shape Up's Healthy Dining Out Project for the Administrator's signature; KCPHD provided promotion for the project and the restaurants committed to serving healthy menu items during March, 2008.

Motion 03-03: Rich Elliott moved to approve the Public Health Administrator's signature on Shape Up's Healthy Dining Out Project Participating Venue Contracts for 13 Restaurants (i.e., Campus-U-Tote-Em, Red Horse Diner, Palace Café, Grants Pizza, Pita Pit, El Caporal, The Soup Bowl, Jenikka's

Coffee House, Morelli's Cafe, Dakota Café, Cattleman's Steak & Seafood Restaurant, Ellensburg Pasta Company, and Valley Café); Dr. Solberg seconded. All approved. Motion 03-03 carried.

Yakima County, Office of Aging and Long Term Care Performance Agreement No. 2008: Amber Simon said the contract provides \$640 for sixteen (16) high risk seniors who do not have access to oral health care.

Commissioner McClain asked how the contract can fund dentures; and Dr. Solberg replied that contract probably covers services at the rate of \$40 per hour but does not cover dentures. Bonnie Corns stated that dental hygienists will be providing limited oral health services. **Commissioner McClain asked that more information be sought; Bonnie Corns said that she will get clarifying information and report back to the BOH.**

Motion 03-04: Dr. Solberg moved to table final approval on the Yakima County, Office of Aging and Long Term Care Performance Agreement No. 2008 until next month's Board of Health meeting because the contract language implies that both limited oral health services and dental appliances (e.g. dentures) will be provided to contract beneficiaries. More information will be acquired from the contractor. Dr. Solberg said that he supports the dental screenings but if there is an obligation to offer dentures then the contract will need to be amended to limit language to the provision of limited services only. Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 03-04 carried.

USArchive & Imaging Services Contract for Document Management Services (for Archiving): Susan Merrill said the contract is essentially an extension of the 2007 contract and will cover conversion to digital images of the remaining backlog of documents, as well as ongoing archiving of records. Susan Merrill said that KCPHD will need to make a budget amendment for both revenues and expenses for the \$39,000 in contract funding; and \$39,000 will be reimbursed to KCPHD's budget from the Auditor Department's Operation and Maintenance/Historic Preservation Funds. **Susan Merrill will acquire written confirmation for the funding reimbursement to KCPHD from the Auditor Department in response to Commissioner McClain's request.**

Motion 03-05: Rich Elliott moved to approve the Public Health Administrator's signature on the USArchive & Imaging Services Contract for Document Management Services (for Archiving); Dr. Solberg seconded. All approved. Motion 03-05 carried.

Interlocal Agreement for Document Preparation and Imaging Services, OSOS Contract No. 8WK1-964, State of Washington, Office of the Secretary of State, Archives & Records Management Division Agreement [for Microfilming]: Susan Merrill said this item will need to be tabled until the following Board of Health meeting as KCPHD was informed by Don Anderson, Deputy Prosecutor, that because this agreement is an interlocal agreement, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will first need to pass a resolution approving it.

Motion 03-06: Dr. Solberg moved to table the Interlocal Agreement for Document Preparation and Imaging Services, OSOS Contract No. 8WK1-964, State of Washington, Office of the Secretary of State, Archives & Records Management Division Agreement until next month's Board of Health meeting because a BOCC resolution authorizing the agreement will first need to be passed; Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 03-06 carried.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ISSUES:

Financial Update: Amber Simon reported that:

- There is no financial news as she is waiting for the Auditor's Department to close Cayenta and thus confirm the preliminary data finalizing the 2007 budget for the department.

- A response to a recent request from Community Health of Central Washington (CHCW) for financial information on First Steps will wait until Cathy Bambrick returns to work next week.

BUSINESS (continued):

Community Health of Central Washington's Proposal (i.e., First Steps, Women, Infants and Children [WIC], and Children with Special Health Care Needs [CSHCN] Program Changes): Dr. Larson reviewed the proposal from Community Health of Central Washington (CHCW) and provided background information on First Steps and WIC programs, highlighting the following:

- CHCW offered to take the programs from KCPHD starting January 1, 2009;
- First Steps and WIC programs are not self-sustaining programs, and until CHCW's offer, the department has made the programs a priority despite their budgetary burden;
- Many other local health jurisdictions have cut or are considering cutting the programs for budget reasons;
- The department is still awaiting approval from Department of Health (DOH) for the transfer of the WIC program;
- Staff will be hired by CHCW in the same program, position, and salary;
- The news was well-received by KCPHD staff after their initial shock of hearing about it;
- CHCW will not get fully trained staff to fill all the positions involved in the transfer as one First Steps nurse will stay at KCPHD in a different capacity and another First Steps nurse will retire in early 2009;
- The three (3) programs will be transferred from KCPHD to CHCW by the end of 2008.

Dr. Larson outlined the benefits of the proposed transfer: CHCW has the infrastructure and stable, secure federal funding to host these programs; CHCW as a medical community clinic offers a better array of services situated in one organization; and the programs are retained with the community.

Dr. Solberg stated the same concern as Dr. Larson about the possibility for creating competition between public and private providers in the county because an incentive is created in the CHCW proposal for patients to receive all health services at the same facility (i.e., at CHCW). This is of particular concern to private medical providers who provide primary care, pediatric care, and obstetrics care. However, Dr. Solberg emphasized that the benefits in the proposal (which maintain the WIC, First Steps, and CSHCN programs in the county) far outweigh possible competition.

Discussion covered wanting to acquire an understanding from CHCW in language and practice to be sensitive to this competition issue and to preserve its collaborative relationship with the medical community; and if possible, it was recommended that language in the contract between the Department of Health and WIC reflect recognition by CHCW that it will be sensitive to these concerns as CHCW structures its medical practice. **It was decided that a letter from Dr. Larson as the County's Health Officer will be sent to Dr. Mike Maples of CHCW which will reflect this discussion and these requests/concerns from the Board of Health.**

HIV Needle Exchange Program: Dr. Larson brought a proposal for an expanded needle exchange program to the Board. He reviewed the proposal for the program stating that:

- Nationally, HIV program deliverables have changed to focus on working with HIV positive clients, and the first step in this work is to identify clients who are HIV positive, to do testing, and to connect with people engaging in risky behaviors (e.g., using injectable drugs);
- A needle exchange is the best way to connect with people using injectable drugs;
- Expanding the program will help the department to:
 - Test more at-risk people for HIV and Hepatitis C;

- Connect with HIV positive clients, help them access care, ensure they are managing their disease, and teach them risk reduction strategies;
- Conduct harm reduction training in order to help stop the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C;
- Yakima County Health District currently runs a similar program and will provide supervision to KCPHD's program;
- Yakima County Health District discovered that most of the clients accessing the needle exchange tested positive for Hepatitis C;
- Data is hard to collect on the number of users who are potentially infected (with HIV and Hepatitis C) and the expansion of the HIV program will help collect this data;
- The program fits communicable disease efforts;
- Eleven Public Health Districts/Departments in the state are providing needle exchange programs;
- The syringe exchange program will be a 9-month demonstration project;
- Harm reduction training and referrals for treatment will be conducted as part of the project;
- The Board of Health originally approved the exchange of syringes on July 15, 2004 but the current program has not been well advertised;
- Expansion of the current program will enable the access and testing for HIV, Hepatitis C, maybe TB and MRSA, and reduce the risk of spreading these diseases.

Dr. Larson provided CDC data on the number of injectable drug users outside of medical clinics. Julia Karns said the program will consist of a clean-for-dirty needle exchange (as all drug users are reusing needles). Ms. Karns spoke about the provision of "clean kits;" the program will occur once a month in both Upper County and Lower County; the focus of her communicable disease work includes testing for Hepatitis C (for which DOH is supplying Hepatitis C test kits and Hepatitis A and B vaccine); and testing and counseling will be offered on-site with the assistance of a nurse who will also provide minimum wound care. Julia Karns expressed her desire to increase testing options for Hepatitis C in the jail, and the program will provide education (on harm reduction and communicable disease) to this community as well.

Commissioner McClain offered to help the program get help from law enforcement. Commissioner McClain suggested that clean kits be distributed to police officers for redistribution to drug users known by the police. Dr. Solberg stated that the biggest potential impact will be to get the attention of users regarding the spread of communicable disease, and as such, the main public health impact will be the educational piece.

Motion 03-07: Dr. Solberg moved to expand the HIV Needle Exchange Program as outlined in the proposal as a pilot project for nine (9) months; Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 03-07 carried.

Memorandum of Agreement with Department of Ecology: Mark Larson stated that the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and Kittitas County released the Draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding management of exempt ground water wells in Kittitas County on March 4, 2008 for a 30-day public comment period. Two community meetings will be held on March 24 in Upper County and March 25 in Lower County, and a public hearing will be held on April 1 in Upper County.

Commissioner McClain said there has been a lot of public comment to date. Commissioner McClain stated that a number of possibilities exist for reporting on water usage; and how a water bank will need to be created by DOE. Commissioner McClain said it has not been established as of yet if the price of additional water rights from DOE (i.e., purchasing water from DOE's water-banking source) will be on an annual or permanent basis. Commissioner McClain explained a few provisions of the MOA including how the developer bears the cost for the SEPA and source meter requirements; and existing wells (and their replacement) are not part of this agreement; and the timelines associated with the MOA.

Emergency Plan for a Phased Response to Mosquito-Borne West Nile Virus Disease: Holly Myers introduced the department's emergency plan for a phased response to mosquito-borne West Nile Virus (WNV) disease and stated that it is a modification of the State's emergency plan. Ms. Myers reviewed each of the five levels of alert (i.e., identification of risk levels) and explained associated responses by staff in terms of surveillance, education, and mosquito control responses, as well as, communication tasks. (For example, level "0" correlates with no risk of human outbreak of WNV and level "5" correlates with a WNV outbreak in progress associated with multiple confirmed human infections and conditions favoring continued transmission.) Holly Myers explained the chemical application, and associated costs, involved in larviciding and adulticiding.

Dr. Larson asked the Board for buy-in on the mosquito control response and buy-in on the declaration of emergency response (wherein State funds kick in).

Motion 03-08: Dr. Solberg moved to adopt the Emergency Plan for a Phased Response to Mosquito-Borne West Nile Virus Disease; Rich Elliott seconded. Discussion covered how KCPHD plans to get advance authorization from DOE for permitting; how it makes more sense to pursue adopting a supply of larvicide for the 20 to 25-day control option given the large size of our county, the limited number of people and sprayers, and thus, an inability to go back to hit target areas; and the need to figure out in advance cost plans for authorizing the number of acres that will use the larvicide agent. **All approved. Motion 03-08 carried.**

Holly Myers will find out about recommended levels of chemical supplies to have on hand and about how well the chemicals store and will provide this information at a forthcoming Board of Health meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Larson announced that the Free Children's Immunization Clinic will occur this Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will provide free immunizations for those under age 19, free dental exams and fluoride treatments for children, and birth certificates for \$20 each.

Motion 03-09: Commissioner McClain moved to adjourn the meeting; Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 03-09 carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

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

Mark McClain, Chair of the Board of Health

Cathy Bambrick, Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department

Susan Merrill, Clerk of the Board of Health