



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

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2008
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:00am

PRESENT: Board Members: Alan Crankovich, Linda Huber, and Mark McClain, Dr Don Solberg and Rich Elliott.

Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD): Cathy Bambrick, Candi Blackford, Bonnie Corns, Amy Diaz, Robin Read-Ochoa, Dr Mark Larson, Amber Simon

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Leslie Berry (BOHAC), Margaret Condit (BOHAC) and Hartwig Vatheuer (BOHAC)

Chair McClain called the meeting to order at 11:01 am

Resolution Number 2008-04 "Adoption of the 2009 Public Health Fee Schedule" : BOH approves the BOH Fee schedule adjustments, with BOCC to continue review at December 2 meeting.

Motion 11-01: Rich Elliott moved to pass the resolution for adopting the 2009 Public Health Fee Schedule. Don Solberg agreed to pass the resolution. Mark McClain agreed to pass the resolution. Linda Huber and Alan Crankovich opposed.

Minutes

Motion 11-02: Alan Crankovich moved to approve the October 18, 2008 minutes. Rich Elliott second the approval of the October 18, 2008 minutes. All approved. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BOHAC members introduces themselves. Present were Hartwig Vatheuer, Leslie Berry and Margaret Condit. They were asked to attend for support of public health due to the budget situation and they have complied.

Department Updates/Issues:

School Inspections Review: Moved to strike this update at this time

Flu Clinic Review: Amy Diaz updated that we had 2 clinics in Kittitas County. One was up in Cle Elum on 10/16/2008 and one in Ellensburg on 10/23/2008. A total of 334 vaccinations were given out of them 19 child vaccines were given and 19 pneumonia were given. Mark McClain questioned how the parking lot was set up. Bonnie Corns stated at the Grand Meridian we had volunteers from the Central paramedic program to help

with the vaccines, Search and Rescue were there to set up parking lot and Linda Navarre our public health nurse was in charge of organizing the clinic and it ran smoothly. Bonnie Corns recognized Linda Navarre for doing a great job running the clinic.

NACCHO grant proposal: The grant opportunity came from NACCHO, grant title, looking for a site to set up a community HIE and put together a toolkit so the information can be shared with other health districts throughout the nation. We are a few steps ahead of most in developing HIE. Medical providers have been working on this since 2004, and in the last year many of the providers have come online with the software network nextgen. Money will be used for staff training, documenting work, and setting up work groups. This was submitted Monday, we should know before Thanksgiving if we are recipients of this grant. Amy Diaz, Linda Navarre, Amber Simon, Dr Mark Larson, Bonnie Corns and Christie Waddington make up this grant team. We obtained four letters of support from community organizations and the state DOH.

Dr Larson commented that the community HIE diagram hired a consultant. Idea is that we need to exchange some, though not all, information. ER needs to access information about clients and again emphasizing that they only need some of the information not all of it and the same goes for pharmacies.

The specialists, PCPs, payers, ER, and labs are on nextgen. Pharmacies and long term care are in progress. This grant would allow public health to be connected with the rest of the community. Public health are often the last to know about communicable diseases, though we should be the first. Physicians are busy trying to maintain the situation and public health would be responsible for the public's health. This would create reporting as forethought rather than an afterthought. We were meant to be involved from the beginning but there has been no money. The hospital has been able to provide about 85% of the cost. This opportunity to be involved came up less than two weeks ago and given one week to develop proposal and submit electronically. If we get this money we will be using the same system as the rest of the community. We could modify the software to be based given nationwide, but we may not be eligible because we are TOO developed. They would like a product back to NACCHO within a year, but if someone that hasn't had the process started they would not be able to have a product within a year. This is an exciting opportunity to develop an HER and billing system at the health department but would also allow communication with the rest of the community.

Cathy Bambrick stated that this would completely change business at the health department. We are all paper right now. Don Solberg questioned what would be cost be on the hardware and Dr Mark Larson stated that was not an issue, but getting wireless networks would be helpful. Don also asked about the connection process to nextgen and Linda Huber stated that information services was looking for a solution currently to the network issue.

Dr Mark Larson discussed MRSA. The Seattle Times had a 3 part series that started this previous Sunday, rather one-sided, they had strong data. Pointed fingers at public health and the medical community as not doing much about MRSA. Dr Larson stated that MRSA has been a public health issue and this least year the department of health looked at mandatory reporting of invasive MRSA cases and took the approach that this is not a cost-effective way of looking at disease. MRSA is bad for individuals, but there are other infectious diseases, and looking at infection control as a whole. Locally we are doing some things at the hospital not required by department of health. We are testing all inpatient and critical care patients for MRSA, and isolating those that are positive (isolation incurs serious costs). During this time period, 397 have been tested, 24 positives which is 6 percent all of which have been isolated. It was also stated that a surgery patient wanted to know about infection control for MRSA before being put under for surgery (first case). The article makes it sound like it is covert, but this is not the situation at Kittitas Valley Community Hospital and we are more transparent. The health department will get commissioners some talking points for this information.

Commissioner McClain wanted to know if the talking points will tell you how you get MRSA and Dr Larson stated it will tell you how to prevent getting it- hand washing after you cough, don't share drinks. Same ideals taught by parents 20 years ago, but more dangerous bugs today. The articles talked a lot about hand washing,

and many were observed not washing hands before visiting patients. KVCH is working very hard on this. They are monitoring how often the sanitizing stations are used. The hospital is doing an excellent job.

2009 Budget: Cathy Bambrick reviewed that last year the department made the decision to move our WIC programs to Community Health of Central Washington as of January 1st. Environmental health has been pulling the department revenue down due to decline in building so even with the change we will still be over budget. Staff has been working hard on fee schedule, charting and RIP (revenue improvement program). The health department did not predict the economic downturn that has occurred.

Cathy stated the health department did a pretty good job in 2008, but we are still over budget for the year. The commissioner's have spent a great amount of time with us to help us work through this. We had to make some very tough cuts, but we tried to be consistent across the board. The commissioner's were right that if we experienced revenue problems in environmental health we need to cut in that department. The department had to lay off 4 people yesterday. We are presenting a strong budget after making the cuts. The department eliminated the director of environmental health and community health services, a public health clerk and the oral health coordinator. We are proposing a working management structure. The department moved some bioterrorism funds to support the fire marshall. Cathy also stated that the exempt well program will require some changes for hydro-geologist due to money received from department of ecology and are looking to have to revise the fee schedule in the first quarter due to not having all the data today.

Cathy Bambrick noted that full time employee's have reduced drastically and we are pretty lean on staff, but we are in a good financial position. Commissioner McClain came to the health department and spoke with staff and we are not looking at any more cuts this year. We wanted to make one decision so staff felt comfortable. The press release will be coming out today.

Amber Simon announced that environmental health will be moving to the public health building. Don Solberg questioned if BOHAC had reviewed any changes and Cathy stated that they have not due to the department not being able to release any information on Monday. Cathy let the board know that Community Health of Central Washington will look at the positions we are eliminating and see if they can employ any of these employees cut.

Rich Elliott stated that he trusts that people are looking at the bigger picture, but as we move into this time prevention is more important, we know that statistically treating the problem after it arrives and ends up in the emergency room is more expensive. Watching the government growth and retraction- the cost of institutional knowledge is an indirect cost but it is major. Commissioner McClain noted that the cuts were in the supervisor area rather than direct services because we know those services are more needed and addressed there was a great expense in environmental health with certifications and those positions were retained.

There was discussion on both sides stating that anything preventive is an area we need to keep. The department needs to keep updating on a monthly or quarterly basis to see what the community needs and keep updated on general input from local physicians and the health officer. Amber Simon stated that we are now in a position to show and update monthly data.

Don Solberg wanted to thank the department staff who participated in a difficult time and pleased to hear that it was approached as thoughtfully and hope things work out for those who need to find alternative work. "I personally thank you".

Cathy Bambrick wanted to thank Amber Simon. She has confidence in the departments numbers and it is a gift to have real time data because of the two systems we are using.

Mark McClain added that this was such a strong move and should keep us financially viable and we won't have to do any of this again.

Motion 11-03: Rich Elliott moved to approve the 2009 Public Health Budget. Alan Crankovich second the approval of the 2009 Public Health Budget. All approved. Motion carried.

Cathy noted at the end of the meeting that she enjoyed the dialogue at the public hearing and she appreciated the boards feedback/ healthy discussion. By law the department has to hold a public hearing and would like to do that through the board of health. Mark McClain noted we will financially benefit from the permit so it needs to be on the record.

Motion 11-04: Rich Elliott moved to approve the public hearing for review of the compost facility permit documents. Alan Crankovich second the approval of the public hearing. All approved. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: the next Board of Health meeting will be held on December 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium.

Mark McClain, Chair of the Board of Health

Cathy Bambrick, Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department

Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health