KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Upon conclusion of Joint BOH-BOCC Public Hearing and Special BOCC meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2009
Commissioners’ Auditorium
10:00 a.m.

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

Kittitas County Public Health Department staff (KCPHD): Cathy Bambrick, Candi Blackford, Amy Diaz, Linda Navarre, Robin Read-Ochoa, Dr. Mark Larson, James Rivard

Chairman Alan Crankovich called the meeting to order at 10:46.

Minutes:

Motion 06-01: Motion to approve the May 21, 2009 BOH minutes with amendments. Paul Jewell moved to approve the May 21, 2009 BOH minutes with amendments. Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion carried to approve the May 21, 2009 BOH minutes with amendments.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Margaret Condit from the Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) was present. She informed Board of Health members that there is a new BOHAC member, Dr. Carin Thomas-Bradley, a chemistry professor at Central Washington University. She also informed the board that they are trying to recruit a member from Aging and Long Term Care and a member of the dental community.

Margaret reported that at the June 8, 2009 meeting BOHAC was updated about the ongoing health information exchange project, progress on the exempt well issues and the proposed changes to the KCPHD fee schedule.

CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS:

No contracts or amendments this month.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ISSUES:

Health Officer Update:
Dr. Mark Larson reported that there has been one case of novel influenza A (H1N1) in Kittitas County as of the current date. He noted that H1N1 will probably comprise a large part of the upcoming flu season. He stated that the county has received its portion of the SNS stockpile that was distributed earlier in the year along with directions for allocation of antiviral medications if needed. Dr. Don Solberg asked if there would be a vaccine for H1N1 available during the upcoming flu season and Dr. Larson noted that there could be, but it may be a separate vaccine.

Dr. Larson commented on the Smoking Ordinance and how preventing the use of tobacco could be a cost
saving measure for health care.

Dr. Larson and Dr. Solberg discussed continuing health care access issues within Kittitas county.

**Administrator’s Report:**
Cathy Bambrick reported to the Board of Health members that the Emergency Operations Center for H1N1 was deactivated in the month of May and reviewed the work the staff had accomplished. She also gave statistics for H1N1 through the month of May and noted that as of May 31, 2009, none of the medication or equipment in the Strategic National Stockpile supplied to Kittitas County had been distributed.

Cathy informed the BOH members that she was invited to participate in a meeting held by Washington State Department of Health to discuss the future of public health in Washington State with 13 other local health jurisdictions. The meeting was initiated due to the continued decline of funding for Public Health in the state and nation wide.

**BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:**

**Financial Update:**
Cathy reviewed the current state and federal funding cuts for the 2009 – 2011 biennium to the 5930 funds, HIV funding, tobacco funding and Group B water system funding. There was discussion about Group B expansion fees and interest in determining what other counties are doing. Cathy will do some research and try to obtain information to see what other strategies are being employed in Washington. This information will be brought to a future meeting.

**Quarterly Report:**
Cathy reviewed the Quarterly Report and highlighted some of the articles, including articles about the new compost facility that was permitted which will be opening soon and local area tire pile clean up projects. Robin Read-Ochoa spoke about the article on tobacco compliance checks. Linda Navarre discussed the articles about overseas travel consultations and distribution of state-supplied Twinrix vaccine that was given to some long term care providers and day care providers/facilities free of charge.

**Electronic Medical Record Project:**
Cathy shared the presentation that she gave in Washington D.C. in April 2009 discussing how the health information exchange that is under development and how it will benefit the health department and the county. The health department will create an alert button that will allow providers to notify the health department of suspected or confirmed conditions that are currently required to be reported by law. The providers will be able to send the health department patient information electronically at the time of diagnosis or suspected diagnosis, reducing the amount of time taken to report cases. The health department will then be able to act accordingly in a more timely manner. The health department will also be creating several public health “modules” for communicable disease investigations within the health information exchange. The first module will be for tuberculosis. This module will be followed by other communicable disease modules (such as pertussis) and a module for services provided by the health department during overseas travel consultations. Dr. Don Solberg referenced the tuberculosis module that currently exists in the newest version of Next Gen and offered to come to the health department to show office staff how to use it.

**Department of Ecology Exempt Well Project Update:**
Cathy reported that the department was close to completing renegotiation of the original Memorandum of Agreement. The Prosecuting Attorney requested the Attorney General’s Opinion on the legality of MOA and Emergency rule which should be received in August. Meetings with the DOE are ongoing and the health department is heading towards implementation of a well metering program. The Commissioners discussed the 06/30/2009 end date of the current contract and the difficulties with the negotiation process.

*Rich Elliott noted that he will not be able to attend the next meeting.*
Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next Meeting: July 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Auditorium

Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health

Alan Crankovich, Chair of the Board of Health

Cathy Bambrick, Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department