KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2009
Commissioners’ Auditorium

PRESENT: Board Members: Rich Elliott, Paul Jewell, Alan Crankovich, Dr. Don Solberg
ABSENT: Mark McClain
Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD): Cathy Bambrick, Candi Blackford, Amy Diaz, Robin Read, James Rivard

Commissioner Chair Alan Crankovich called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes:
Approval of November 19, 2009 minutes was postponed until January 2010 so appropriate changes could be made.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no representatives from BOHAC at the meeting. BOHAC does not meet in the month of December.

CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS:

Interagency Agreement between the State of Washington and Kittitas County Public Health Department: Cathy Bambrick reviewed this contract between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) to provide a method to transfer appropriated funds from Ecology to KCPHD in order to cooperatively and jointly implement the Emergency Rule WAC 173-539A regarding the management of exempt ground water wells in Kittitas County. The Emergency Rule WAC 173-539A requires Ecology and KCPHD to implement interim management strategies, metering, and develop a comprehensive ground water study for the area known as Upper Kittitas County.

Motion 12-01: Paul Jewell moved to approve the Interagency Agreement between the State of Washington and Kittitas County Public Health Department. Rich Elliott seconded. All approved.
Motion 12-01 carried to approve the Interagency Agreement between the State of Washington and Kittitas County Public Health Department.

Yakima Health District and Kittitas County Public Health Department: Cathy Bambrick reviewed the Yakima Health District and Kittitas County Public Health Department agreement which states that KCPHD will participate as a service provider in the Washington Breast and Cervical Health Program.

Motion 12-02: Paul Jewell moved to approve the Yakima Health District and Kittitas County Public Health Department agreement. Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 12-02 carried to approve the Yakima Health District and Kittitas County Public Health Department agreement.
Kittitas County Early Intervention Services/Birth to Three: Cathy Bambrick reviewed the Kittitas County Early Intervention Services/Birth to Three contract which will allow the Kittitas County Public Health Department to provide/coordinate early intervention services to eligible children, birth to three, and their families.

Motion 12-03: Paul Jewell moved to approve the Kittitas County Early Intervention Services/Birth to Three contract. Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 12-03 carried to approve the Kittitas County Early Intervention Services/Birth to Three contract.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Health Officer Update: Dr. Mark Larson was not at the meeting. Dr. Don Solberg commented on how well the clinic went and relayed the various comments he received from the community. Cathy thanked the volunteers from Search and Rescue, Red Cross, nurse vaccinators, and other community volunteers that assisted. She reminded the board that the health department could not have held this event without assistance. Dr. Solberg noted the great organizational effort given by the health department staff.

Administrator’s Report: Cathy reported that during the month of November the health department continued incident command for 2009 H1N1, holding weekly meetings and participating in three weekly conference calls for H1N1 planning to prepare the health department for vaccine distribution, school-based vaccination clinics, management of the Strategic National Stockpile and preparation to provide education to medical providers and the public. The first round of school-based clinics was completed December 15. A follow-up round is planned to begin in January 2010 to provide the recommended second doses to children up through age nine (including age nine). Two temporary employees began work in November and have provided great relief for the staff. The public health department staff continues to work overtime to be able to provide these clinics and every staff member from every division continues to participate.

Cathy reminded the board that the NextGen project grant period had ended. She added that work on the project will continue and will be an ongoing development process for the department. Medical staff at the department has struggled with the length of time it takes to chart. Patient flow, charting processes and provision of care will continue to be monitored and systems will be modified. Northwest Consulting Group has completed work on the salmonella and hepatitis modules for NextGen with a communicable disease module also in process. The health department is working on the project toolkit for use by other health departments across the nation. NACCHO requested that the health department develop and participate in a national webinar presenting the project.

The DOE Exempt Well issues continued to be unresolved. The county still had a moratorium in place for use of ground water in Upper Kittitas County and the Emergency Rule has been replaced with another Emergency Rule. Staff continue to work on a project with the Central Washington Home Builders Association that would allow cisterns to be used as a water source for residences in Upper County. Securing a water source is the biggest challenge of this project.

At this time there was discussion by Paul Jewell. He discussed his phone conversations that took place on December 16, 2009 and noted that another written proposal was expected on the upcoming Friday or Monday. Also there was discussion by all on cisterns (what they are and where the water source would come from).

Cathy also added that the health department would be collaborating with the hospital to apply for a $15 million grant. Dr. Don Solberg added that this money would help support communities that have advanced health information exchange projects to make them successful. The grant would give the community the ability to close communication gaps and would be a 30 month project. Cathy asked for permission for this collaborative grant application.
BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

H1N1 School Based Clinic Reports: Amy Diaz reported that as of 12/15/2009 a total of 1498 vaccinations had been given to children during school-based immunization clinics. Amy also noted that the health department mailed out the vaccination packets to parents of Ellensburg High School students. Dr. Don Solberg noted that a decrease in the amount of flu being reported is occurring nationwide and no one can predict if another surge will occur.

Cathy also added that the H1N1 vaccine is now being delivered to the county at higher rates.

H1N1 Community Clinic: Cathy informed the board members that the health department will be holding a community clinic on January 9, 2010 at Walter Strom Middle School in Cle Elum. Cathy also commented on a job well done as previously stated at the Ellensburg clinic held on December 12, 2009.

Financial Update: Cathy reviewed the provided 2007–2009 KCPHD cash fund sheet with the Board of Health members and made note that the department would be taking even less of the county contribution than initially expected.

Health Promotions: Robin Read discussed the provided 2007–2008 Program Activity Highlights handout. She reviewed the health department tobacco retailer checks that resulted in sales of tobacco to underage youth.

Motion 12-04: Richard Elliot made motion to adjourn the December 12, 2009 meeting. Paul Jewell seconded. All approved. Motion 12-04 carried to adjourn the December 12, 2009 meeting.

Next Board of Health Meeting: January 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., 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