KITITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 20, 2015
Commissioners’ Auditorium
10:00 a.m.

Present
Board of Health (BOH): John Asriel, M.D., Gary Berndt, Rich Elliott Paul Jewell, Obie O’Brien

Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC): None

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Kasey Knutson, Mark Larson, M.D., Erin Moore, Holly Myers, Robin Read, Kaitlyn Reddick, Liz Whitaker, Jennifer Wilson

Gary Berndt called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes
Approval of the January 15, 2015 Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

Motion 02-01: Motion to approve the January 15, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Obie O’Brien moved to approve the January 15, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Paul Jewell second. All approved. Motion 02-01 carried to approve the January 15, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.

Introductions and Announcements
Everyone introduced themselves.

BOHAC Member
Robin Read reviewed the last BOHAC meeting agenda topics of discussion.

- BOHAC bylaws were updated to include the following changes:
  - Wording that clarifies how to recruit new members
  - Wording that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of a BOHAC member (example: BOHAC members must attend two BOH Meetings in their three year term)

BOHAC chose one recipient out of seven applicants to receive the Public Health Champion award. BOHAC will present the award at the March meeting.
**Department Updates/Issues**

**Administrator Update**

Robin Read reviewed a handout that discussed the following:

**Public health issues**

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) have been receiving attention lately as surrounding counties are reporting increasing rates of STDs, especially gonorrhea. Although Kittitas County numbers are small, the county is seeing an increase of gonorrhea and chlamydia. Ms. Read also reviewed graphs comparing Kittitas County’s 2014 STD counts to previous years.

**Contracts/Agreements approved**

Ms. Read noted the following Contracts/Agreements were approved by the Board of County Commissioners within the last few weeks:

- The Health Care Authority for Medicaid Administrative Match program
- The Washington State Association of Local Public Health Organization (WSALPHO) for Administrative Match program development
- An amendment to the agreement with the Department of Ecology to extend the deliverables deadline for outreach and education activities for the air quality project
- A new agreement with the Department of Ecology for the next phase of air quality assessment

**Staffing**

- The department is currently in the interviewing process for the temporary air quality specialist. Four of the six applicants will be interviewed.
- The part time syringe exchange assistant position was not approved. The department is still hoping that this may be approved in the future.
- The department is accepting applications for three full time permanent positions:
  - One Environmental Health Specialist
  - Two Community Health Specialists
- Willie Johnson, a graduate student from Central Washington University, will begin volunteering at the health department for approximately twelve hours a week.
- The health department will begin taking applications for spring and summer internships in March.
- Melissa Schumaier is on maternity leave. Pool inspections are on hold until she returns and Tristen Lamb is working hard to stay current on food inspections.

**Program updates**

- The Water Quantity Committee had its fifth meeting this week and is working on finalizing their recommendation. A proposed quantity of 250-300 gallons per day will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on March 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
- The department received only one response to the water metering Request for Proposals (RFP), which did not meet department needs. The proposed process and equipment needs are currently being reevaluated, to determine if the department can provide this service.
- The Health Department has initiated six quality improvement and quality planning projects, with the help of Stacy Wenzl, from Spokane Health District. The following programs were selected:
  - Water metering
  - Pool and spa inspections
• Temporary food inspections
• Purchasing process
• Quality improvement idea submission
• Vehicle checkout processes

• The department is writing a $60k grant for community health improvement work. If awarded, the grant would require the department to hire a part-time position to assist in completing the work. Local partners include Kittitas Valley Healthcare and Kittitas County Community Network Coalition.

• There was a biosolid spill on Highway 97 near Blewett Pass last month. The department sent out messaging to the public and ensured proper testing of the stream was done where the spill occurred. There was some discussion about the risk level of contaminants in the stream.

• The department has been working with the Ellensburg Police Department and the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Department to enforce a health order for a residence that has been determined to be unfit for occupation.

Administration updates

• The department is moving some staff offices around and adding two more offices, as ADDS moves downstairs in the Morris Sorenson Building.

• The department is co-facilitating the local Community of Health Collaborative efforts focusing on mental health for youth. There are three teams, each focusing on either staff competency, referral system, or integrated care. Rich Elliott added that Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (KVFR), has recently seen an increase in aid calls for patients who are accessing the emergency room for mental health services. This increase may be due in part to health care coverage issues.

• The Health Department annual staff retreat was successfully held on January 30, 2015. Staff completed necessary training on records management, quality improvement, accreditation and confidentiality (HIPAA). The staff also participated in some fun team building activities and skill building sessions.

• Public health is working with the Department of Ecology Solid Waste staff on the Coordinated Prevention Grant contract. An amendment to the contract may become necessary if the department is unable to use the funds by the end of the grant period.

Health Officer Update
Mark Larson, M.D. reported that measles is on the rise in the United States even with the increase in vaccination rates. Dr. Larson informed BOH members that it only takes one unvaccinated person to travel to a country that’s affected, to bring it back to the United States for it to become a problem. Most new physicians have never seen measles and are unfamiliar with the signs and symptoms of measles without the rash. Dr. Larson discussed the signs and symptoms, complications, disease burden prior to measles, and the global burden of measles. He discussed rates from the 1960’s to current, and noted that in 2000, the United States declared measles eliminated (one case per million). Due to the anti-vaccination movement, measles has resurfaced and reported cases are beginning to increase. Dr. Larson discussed the most recent outbreaks in California and Illinois due to unvaccinated children. There was also discussion of the previous outbreak in Grant County a few years ago and the costs associated to managing an outbreak. Dr. Larson stated that measles outbreaks are due to failure to vaccinate. There is currently a bill that would eliminate personal exemptions from vaccinations and he expects there to be some controversy with this.
Financial update
Kaitlyn Reddick reviewed a snapshot of the 2014 financial statement:
- All program revenues and expenses: budget to actual
- All program revenues and expenses: year-to-date comparison
- Environmental Health (license/permit and fees)
- Community Health program revenue
- Revenues: all programs
- All program revenues by source
- Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance
- Department deficit coverage explanation
- Reviewed graph of KCPHD fund balance

Business
Public health work and funding review
Robin Read discussed the 2015 Kittitas County Public Health Department program and services handout. The handout clarifies the program and if it is essential or required by law, and how it is budgeted for in 2015. Rich Elliott stated that this is not the first time the board members have seen this, and although he is appreciative of this information, he feels that taxpayers pay Ms. Read to manage a department. That position comes with the responsibility of running a department, and that the county should entrust her to do her job. Mr. Elliott is very appreciative of the review, but wanted to make sure that it is the best use of the board’s time to have to review this document every time the department wants to hire for a position. Gary Berndt did recognize Mr. Elliott’s concern and informed Ms. Read that he will talk with her about this at their weekly meeting.

2014 Annual Report
Kasey Knutson informed the Board of Health members that the department made a decision to not print out the quarterly reports going forward. It will now be printed as one annual report. This report will include pictures with a brief description and will highlight the work of the health department for the year.

Other
Rich Elliott announced that Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue and Kittitas Valley Healthcare have initiated the paramedic program. They are hoping to see results in mid fall, and will know by then if this is a program that should be continued in the community.

Update on Cistern Code
Holly Myers reviewed the recommended changes to the current cistern water system code. The code that is in place has not been put to use as of yet, but the department would like to give community members another choice when it comes to water sources. Ms. Myers reviewed a few of the recommended changes as highlighted on the handout:
- Making this option available to those who could utilize a cistern, not just those who have no other potable water sources
- Quarterly monitoring: this would make the homeowner responsible for creating and implementing their own system for monitoring/testing for bacteria and nitrates quarterly
- Water haulers: will have monthly testing done
Application of cistern: applicant will need to include a maintenance and operations plan, signed agreement with purveyor with green or yellow operating permit

Paul Jewell noted that a SEPA notice went out last week and because of that process, this will need to go through the Planning Commission and then the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Myers will send these track changes to Doc Hansen today and wait for an approval.

Paul Jewell also noted that on his way back from the west side, he noticed a truck with a pile of tires headed to this side of the mountains. Mr. Jewell was not sure why there are no tire recycling facilities on the eastern side of the mountains and wanted the health department to know. Mr. Jewell also informed public health staff that Mr. Slater will be going to the state and the press about his property/water issues and he feels that the county has made his property worthless. Mr. Jewell noted that as of December 1, 2015 he will be in the red zone. This will not be the last community member that will have this opinion.

Liz Whitaker announced that the department may be able to access free measles vaccine. She will discuss with the department before ordering and update at future BOH meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

| Motion 02-02: Motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Jewell second. All approved. Motion 02-02 carried to adjourn the meeting. |

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next Board of Health Meeting will be held on March 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Gary Berndt, Chair of the Board of Health

Robin Read, Administrator,
Kittitas County Public Health

Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health