

PUBLIC HEALTH *CONNECTION*

Pertussis Cases Put KCPHD Staff Into “Outbreak Mode”

During the first quarter of 2012, Kittitas County had nine confirmed cases of pertussis (whooping cough) reported and another 11 probable cases. Nearly all of the staff at the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) have been engaged in the outbreak response.

“Responding to an outbreak such as this one requires the help of every staff member at the health department,” according to Linda Navarre, KCPHD Community Health Services Supervisor and Public Health Nurse. “Staff have been great at jumping in to help, even during a time when everyone is overwhelmed with day-to-day responsibilities.”

During this outbreak response, staff have assisted with making phone calls to affected patients and families, delivering information to schools and other community locations, drafting written communications for the media and other community partners, responding to questions from the general public, and administering vaccinations.

The outbreak investigation will continue until 42 days after the most recent onset of symptoms.

Statewide, there have been nearly nine times as many cases of pertussis reported compared to last year. The increase in pertussis is thought to be due to the cyclical nature of the

disease, waning immunity from vaccination, a decrease in vaccinations in children, and improvements in recognition, reporting, and testing.



A Note from the Administrator: Funding Stability Project Makes Progress

With the completion of the Kittitas County Public Health Department’s 2012 budget it became obvious that it was time for some creative planning to address the department’s 2013 budget. In fiscal year 2011, the department used \$91,638 of its fund balance. In 2012, the department is projected to use approximately \$168,979 of the fund balance. These funds are necessary to keep essential functions and staff in place, not to expand services or programs. For several years now, the Board of Health (BOH) has been concerned that if the department’s

staffing component were to shrink, our ability to respond to an emergency would be seriously threatened. With this in mind, planning for the 2013 budget revealed that if the last of the fund balance was used to keep our current capacity in place, the department would be left with a deficit of \$271,000.

In December, the BOH created and appointed a chair for an Ad Hoc Public Health Funding Stability Workgroup. BOH Vice-Chair Rich Elliott volunteered to chair the group. In addition to Mr. Elliott, the members

include Annie Agars, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce; Anthony Aronica, Ellensburg City Council; Hartwig Vatheuer, Chair of the Board of Health Advisory Committee and Jerry Pettit, Kittitas County Auditor.

An initial meeting was held in February during which the group received a high level briefing on the department’s financial challenges, reviewed initial information on each of the 34 local health jurisdictions (LHJs) in the state, and commented on the proposed

(Continued on page 8)

Department-Wide

Financial

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Existing Fund Sources | 19 |
| New Grants Awarded | 3 |
| New Fund Sources--Other | 0 |
| Grant Applications | 2 |

Staff

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Current FTEs | 14.5 |
| Current Active Volunteers | 4 |

Assessment

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Health Data Requests | 2 |
| Quality Improvement Projects | 0 |

Communications

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Media Contacts | 45 |
| Health Care Provider Releases | 14 |

Other

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Community Mtgs & Presentations | 118 |
| Updates to Codes and Policies | 5 |

Vital Records

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Births | 92 |
| Birth Certificates Issued | 298 |
| Deaths Registered | 48 |
| Certified Copies of Deaths | 199 |
| Fetal Deaths | 0 |
| Child Deaths | 0 |

Tobacco Prevention and Control

Program

| | |
|---|----|
| Smoking in Public Places Complaints | 0 |
| Educational Contacts with Tobacco Retailers | 26 |

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| New Enrollees | 24 |
| Referrals Received | 26 |

Nearly Half of KCPHD Staff Are Long-Term Employees

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) is fortunate to have eight team members who have worked for the department for five years or more. In order of employment length:

- Holly Duncan, Environmental Health Specialist (24 years)
- Julia Karns, Outreach Worker (11 years)
- Sarah Bedsaul, Health Educator (10 years)
- Melissa Schumaier, Environmental Health Specialist (6 years)
- Dr. Mark Larson, Health Officer (5 years)
- Robin Read, Health Promotion Supervisor (5 years)
- Joe Gilbert, Environmental Health Specialist (5 years)
- Linda Navarre, Community Health Services Supervisor (5 years this term, 4 more years in previous terms)

Most other KCPHD team members have worked at the department for at least three

years.

“I work for public health because I enjoy being a part of something that changes our community...for the better!”—Sarah Bedsaul

“I enjoy my job because of the variety—no day is the same!”—Holly Duncan

Thank you to ALL the dedicated staff who contribute to protecting and promoting the public’s health!



KCPHD Volunteers Receive Red Cross Real Heroes Award

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) nominated Jeanette Orso, RN; and Diana Burchak, RN; as Red Cross Real Heroes of Kittitas County. These extraordinary nurses have gone above and beyond to provide children in our community with life-saving vaccinations.

Over the past three years, volunteer nurses like Jeanette

and Diana have made it possible for KCPHD to hold off-site vaccination clinics. Jeanette and Diana have willingly shared their time, compassion, and expertise during the past three years. They have assisted in immunizing 1,504 children with 2,116 doses of vaccine during off-site vaccination clinics at schools. They warmly greet

each child and parent and quickly put them at ease with their profound knowledge of immunizations and genuine caring manner.

Although we may never know exactly how many lives these nurses may have saved, there is no doubt Jeanette and Diana are truly heroes of Kittitas County.

EHS Students Take Field Trip to KCPHD

On March 15, 2012 Pamela Tipton brought her Ellensburg High School (EHS) class to the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) for a field trip.

Students and staff were given an introduction to KCPHD services, a building tour, and met various department staff. Services that students would most likely access were

highlighted including vital records, food safety, and immunizations. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and Ms. Tipton plans to utilize the food establishment inspections online in her classroom.

This is the third year that the EHS special education department has visited KCPHD for an interactive field trip.



Comprehensive Community Health Assessment Underway

In January, Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) staff and community partners serving on the steering committee for the Community Health Improvement Project began a community health assessment process.

Following the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) model, they completed a Forces of Change and Community Themes and Strengths assessment. They also prepared for Local Public Health System and Community Health Status assessments to be completed by summertime.

The Forces of Change assessment examined external

forces which affect the health of the community and the local public health system. Events, trends, and factors such as health care trends, changing demographics, the state of the economy, and legislative events were among the forces identified for Kittitas County.

The Community Themes and Strengths assessment consisted of a community health survey and a “Journey to a Healthy Community” open house (see photo at lower right) as methods to find out what is important to community members when it comes to community health and quality of life, and what assets our community has to strengthen

health. Over 500 surveys were collected and over 70 people attended the open house event.

The four different community health assessments will create a Community Health Profile which will inform a community health improvement planning process later this year.

This project is funded by a grant through the National Association of County and City Health Officials with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Kittitas County Public Health Department is one of 12 community health improvement demonstration sites across the nation.

Who Gives a “Whoop” About Health?

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) published three health watch articles in the Daily Record ranging from the social determinants of health to on-site sewage plants and drinking water, to whooping cough making a comeback in our county and state.

In January, Sarah Bedsaul, Health Educator, wrote about the social determinants of health. She explained a recent grant project in process from the National Association of County and City Health Officials where the health department is assessing community health and creating a plan for improvement based on those results. A steering committee will participate in the project under the direction

of the health department (see story above).

In February, James Rivard, Environmental Health Supervisor, discussed issues around sewage disposal and potable water. Although often overlooked, clean water plays in integral part in our history and current health.

In March, Robin Read, Health Promotion Supervisor, submitted a timely article about the comeback of whooping cough or pertussis. In Washington State so far, six times the cases of whooping cough have been reported compared to this time last year. Vaccination is the key to protecting children and adults against pertussis.

KCPHD staff take issues

around health very seriously from communicable disease, to health promotion, to environmental health. If you would like to access to the published health watch articles, please contact KCPHD at (509) 962-7515 or healthpromotion@co.kittitas.wa.us



Communicable Disease (CD) & Tuberculosis (TB)

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Active TB Confirmed Cases | 0 |
| Suspect TB Investigations | 0 |
| CD Confirmed Cases | 20 |
| Other CD Investigations | 50 |
| STDs Reported | 67 |
| Food Illness Complaints | 3 |
| TB Tests | 25 |
| Latent TB Infection Referrals | 0 |

Immunizations

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Total Vaccinations | 189 |
| Adults Receiving Vaccinations | 106 |
| Children Receiving Vaccinations | 28 |
| Flu Vaccinations | 41 |

Overseas Travel

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Travel Consultations | 30 |
| Specialty Travel Vaccinations | 15 |



Community member Ann Riley and son Sean think about what factors are most important for a healthy community at the Journey to a Healthy Community open house on February 22, 2012 at Hal Holmes Community Center.

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

Testing

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| HIV Tests | 3 |
| Hepatitis C Tests | 3 |

Syringe Exchange

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Syringe Exchange Participants | 37 |
| Syringes Exchanged | 437 |

Education

| | |
|--|----|
| High Risk Presentations | 2 |
| People in Attendance at High Risk Presentations | 24 |
| Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP) & HIV/AIDS Awareness Classes | 2 |
| People in Attendance at BBP & HIV/AIDS Awareness Classes | 6 |

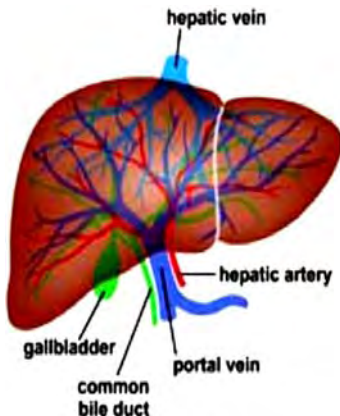
Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| New Clients Enrolled | N/A* |
| Total Clients Screened | N/A* |

*N/A=not available at time of publication

Child Care Health Promotion

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Nurse Consultant Site Visits | 11 |
| Other Consultations | 7 |



Partnership Promotes Awareness of Shaken Baby Syndrome

Dr. Elise Herman, pediatrician at Ellensburg Pediatrics, partnered with Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) staff to increase awareness about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) and how to prevent it.

Linda Navarre and Tiffany Beardsley, KCPHD Public Health Nurses, along with a WSU Student Nurse Intern and

Dr. Herman presented information about SBS to local medical providers, schools, and child care providers. Together, they conducted PowerPoint presentations, educational DVDs, and demonstrations with baby mannequins. All presentations involved group participation and active learning.

In addition, an article ran in the Daily Record about SBS and information was displayed in the KCPHD facility.



Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health Program Status

In March, Julia Karns, Outreach Worker, attended the partner training institute for the Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health Program (BCCHP) in

Seattle, Washington. The training addressed the latest updates on breast, cervical and colon health.

Presenters included specialists who discussed screening guidelines, HPV vaccine, eliminating disparities, and the Washington State Insurance Commission provided an update on health care reform.

The Kittitas County BCCHP still has limited enrollment spots to those who qualify. As of March 31st, there were 28 spots still available in Kittitas County. These spots must be filled by May 31st. Call (509) 962-7515 for more info.



KCPHD Receives Grant to Improve Hepatitis C Testing Rates

Hepatitis C is a growing concern throughout the nation as well as within our own community. Testing and counseling people at risk is a priority to prevent the spread of hepatitis C and preserve the health of people infected.

From 2010 to 2011, hepatitis C testing and counseling at the Kittitas County Public Health Department decreased by 74%. Community partners serving people who are at high

risk, such as drug treatment centers, generate the majority of referrals for testing.

To address this issue, KCPHD staff will use quality improvement methods to improve the referral process and increase hepatitis C testing.

The \$5,000 grant for this project was awarded from the National Network of Public Health Institutes and will include 15 hours of quality

improvement coaching from an experienced public health quality improvement coach and travel costs to a national training in June. The project will be completed by November 2012.

KCPHD Seeks Input on Potable Water Administrative Policies

In February, Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) hosted two community forums to seek feedback on a potable water administrative policy update. The update was regarding environmental health requirements for recommending subdivision approval.

One forum was held in Cle Elum at the Upper Kittitas County District Courthouse on February 8th and the other in Ellensburg at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds on February 9th. Two community members attended the Cle Elum forum and had questions if the proposed change would affect existing lots. KCPHD staff informed the citizens that the proposal would only affect new

subdivisions. Three community members, Commissioner Obie Obrien, and Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson attended the Ellensburg forum. The attendees were concerned about how these new requirements affect their current subdivision applications and how these requirements address the legal rights to groundwater.

On March 6th a public hearing was held and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) resolution 2010-082 was rescinded. The proposed potable water administrative policy update BOCC resolution 2012-027 was adopted as recommended by KCPHD staff.



Citizen Advisory Committee Focuses On Code Revision

The Kittitas County Board of Health recommended that a citizen advisory committee be convened to assist with updating public health code related to drinking water, solid waste, on-site sewage, schools, camps and parks, and pool and spa programs.

Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) subsequently sent out a press release soliciting volunteers for the citizen advisory committee. Twelve members of the public responded and were appointed to the committee by KCPHD Health Officer, Dr. Mark Larson. The members of the

committee have diverse backgrounds ranging from concerned citizens, pool and spa operators, camp and park owners, to professional water system managers.

The first and second meetings occurred on February 21st and March 26th. Committee members reviewed the state

water recreation regulation that governs public pools and spas. In April, the committee will review a draft campground and recreational vehicle code.

KCPHD staff Maria Canfield, Administrator and James Rivard, Environmental Health Supervisor attend each advisory committee meeting and bring in lead program staff when needed. For example, Melissa Schumaier, Environmental Health Specialist who works in the pool and spa's program gave a presentation to the committee about the program.



Zoonotics and Vector

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Animal Quarantine Required | 0 |
| Animals Tested for Rabies | 0 |
| Dead Bird Phone Calls | 0 |
| Dead Birds Collected | 0 |
| Mosquito Clusters Collected | 0 |

Living Environment

Schools

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Plans Reviewed | 0 |
| Building Inspections | 10 |
| Playground Inspections | 6 |
| Complaints | 0 |

Public Pools & Spas

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| New Permits | 0 |
| Renewal Permits | 2 |
| Routine Inspections | 10 |
| Re-inspections | 1 |
| Complaints | 0 |

Camps & Parks

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| New Permits | 0 |
| Renewal Permits | 0 |
| Routine Inspections | 0 |
| Re-inspections | 0 |
| Complaints | 0 |



Solid Waste

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| New Facility Applications | 0 |
| New Exempt Facility Applications | 0 |
| Permit Renewals | 0 |
| Permitted Facility Inspections | 8 |
| Exempt Facility Inspections | 0 |
| Complaints | 4 |
| Incidents | 1 |

On-Site Sewage (OSS)

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Records Requests | 12 |
| Complaints | 2 |

Permits & Inspections

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| New Installation Permits | 11 |
| Repair Installation Permits | 4 |
| Renewal Installation Permits | 0 |
| Site Evaluations | 22 |
| Final Inspections | 9 |
| Final Permits | 17 |

Short and Long Plats

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Plat Applications | 1 |
| Soil Logs | 4 |



James Rivard Renews Landfill Inspector Certification

James Rivard, Environmental Health Supervisor, first obtained landfill inspector certification by completing a Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) training in the fall of 2008 through the Solid Waste Association of North America.

However, continuing education is required to maintain MOLO

certification. Mr. Rivard recently completed the 30 continuing education units (CEU) necessary to maintain his certificate as a landfill inspector.

Collectively, the 30 CEU's required Mr. Rivard to answer over 400 questions and pass all portions with a score of 80% or

greater. Mr. Rivard scored a 96%.



Pool and Spa Codes Increase Safety

In June of 2008, the state of Washington required all pool and spa facilities to install barriers of a certain height and locked doors into the pool and spa areas regardless of the age of the facility.

Most pool and spa facilities in Kittitas County were successful in getting new locks and key-coded doors installed in their facilities. They welcomed new safety standards to keep unwanted guests and young children safely out of the pool areas. Some facilities did not realize that water recreation codes are as important as

any other laws and regulations set by the state such as fire codes, building codes, and occupancy standards.



However, sometimes there is conflict between different regulations. For example, a facility cannot keep doors

unlocked because locking them would violate fire code.

Kittitas County Public Health Department has been working closely with one facility to be in compliance with the safety regulations regarding barriers and pool entrances while also complying with fire code.

Food Access Coalition Holds Winter Workshop

The Food Access Coalition for Kittitas County together with the Kittitas County Public Health Department and the Ellensburg Public Library hosted a winter workshop to discuss the coalition's future goals related to access to healthy foods. Fifteen people attended the event.

A history of the coalition, which started in 2007, was presented and each person

shared highlights from different food access projects across the county. Projects included community gardens, food banks, nutrition education efforts, food co-op, gleaning and more.

Participants then brainstormed six goals or projects for 2012:

1. Promoting and participating in local food access projects.

2. Organizing the 2nd annual Food Day celebration.
3. Promoting food preservation.
4. Supporting the food bank in gleaning efforts.
5. Continuing community food assessment efforts.
6. Creating an online presence for local food access efforts.

ABCD Program Staff Attend Statewide Trainings

On January 6th, Health Educator Kasey Knutson and Health Promotion Supervisor Robin Read attended the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Program (ABCD) Annual Development Day in Seattle, Washington.

Previously only for local ABCD dentist champions, ABCD program coordinators and staff were also invited to attend this year.

The agenda included ABCD program updates, the unveiling of a new ABCD logo and new website, a discussion of online training for ABCD dental providers, and presentations about the role of the medical community in children's oral health. Dr. Joel Berg from the University of

Washington School of Pediatric Dentistry moderated the day's events.

On March 13th, staff also attended a quarterly ABCD coordinator's meeting in Sea-Tac, Washington. Staff from the Health Care Authority and the state ABCD program discussed ABCD billing issues, representatives from several home-visiting programs in the state discussed ABCD messaging and outreach among their programs, and

coordinators shared local updates.

The Kittitas County ABCD program kicked off about one year ago. Since then, over 500 children with Medicaid have been enrolled and connected with a local dentist.

An application for a third year of funding from the Washington Dental Service Foundation was submitted in March.



Second Annual Community Connect Day Takes Place at FISH

On January 26th, the Second Annual Community Connect Day was held at FISH Food Bank in collaboration with the Kittitas County Public Health Department, over 20 other local agencies, and countless volunteers. This event aims to complete the Point in Time count and help homeless and nearly homeless individuals access services and resources



that are available in our community. The Point In Time count is an annual county-wide count to help determine what the homeless population looks like in Kittitas County.

People attending the event could access a free meal, get free haircuts, have an oral health check, and receive free immunizations and information on services offered in Kittitas County. Chef Frank Schuchman pulled together an amazing meal consisting of food from the local food bank (see photo at left).

There were 116 participants and 165 lunches served to the public and volunteers. Forty-eight vaccinations

were given to both children and adults, 12 individuals received haircuts and over 20 clients were seen by a dentist from Ellensburg Dental. The energy and community collaboration around this event was tremendous. FISH was a generous and wonderful host for the event and they have had clients asking when the next event will be and thanking them for such a wonderful day!

The planning committee is hard at work getting ready to put on another event in October 2012. If you are interested in this project, or in helping address homelessness in Kittitas County please contact Sarah Bedsaul, 962-7680, sarah.bedsaul@co.kittitas.wa.us

Food Safety

Permits

| | |
|---|-----|
| New Food Establishment Applications | 0 |
| Renewal Food Establishment Applications | 0 |
| Temporary Food Establishment Applications | 7 |
| Food Handler's Permits | 543 |

Inspections

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Pre-Opening Inspections | 3 |
| Routine Inspections | 78 |
| Re-inspections | 0 |
| Temporary Event Inspections | 2 |

Contractual Inspections

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CWU Quarterly | 1 |
| Jail Quarterly | 1 |
| School Kitchens | 0 |

Enforcement Activities

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Red Item Violation >35 pts | 2 |
| Red Item Violation >70 pts | 0 |
| Operating without a Permit | 0 |
| Temporary Closures | 0 |
| Complaints | 12 |

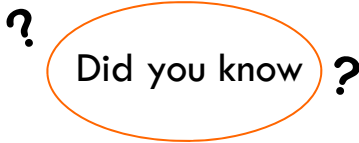
Drinking Water

| | |
|--|----|
| Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys | 0 |
| Group B Water System Inspections | 0 |
| Individual Well Site Application Reviews | 11 |
| Well Site Inspections | 1 |
| Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications | 32 |
| Well Delegation Inspections | 4 |
| Group B Paperwork Received | 0 |
| Group B Systems Approved | 0 |
| Complaints | 0 |

Volume 6, Issue 1

First Quarter 2012

January – March 2012



The 20th Century's 10 Greatest Public Health Achievements in the United States:

1. Vaccination
2. Motor vehicle safety
3. Safer workplaces
4. Control of infectious disease
5. Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
6. Safer and healthier foods
7. Healthier mothers and babies
8. Family planning
9. Fluoridation of drinking water
10. Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard

Because of these achievements, we have seen an increase in life expectancy, reduction in infant and child mortality, and the elimination or reduction of many communicable diseases.

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS!



www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/

New Board of Health Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Alan Crankovich is the Board of Health (BOH) and Board of County Commissioners Chair for 2012. In the January Board of Health meeting, Rich Elliott was elected as the Vice Chair of BOH.

Contracts and agreements approved by the BOH this quarter include:

- Consolidated Contract for 2012-2014 (Maternal and Child Health, Drinking Water, Immunizations, Emergency Preparedness, Tobacco, Blue Ribbon,

Local Capacity Development, Quality Improvement)

- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Grant County Healthy Communities collaboration
- Vaccine Barcode Pilot

BOHAC Reports On Increasing Numbers of Medical Providers

In January, Julia Romanelli from Community Health of Central Washington announced that the organization will be expanding its residency program to the Ellensburg clinic. The Ellensburg clinic will have two new residents within the year.

In March, Joan Baird Glover, KVCH Commissioner, reported about several new providers joining medical practices in Kittitas County. Cle Elum Medical Center has a new physician, Community Health of Central Washington has a new nurse practitioner,

and Valley Clinic will have a new nurse practitioner.



KCPHD Staff Receive Quality Improvement Training

As part of a grant from the Washington State Department of Health Performance Management Centers for Excellence, 12 staff from Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) participated in a full day training for quality improvement and Lean methods. The training was conducted by Centers for

Excellence staff from Spokane Regional Health District, Stacy Wenzl and Adrian Dominguez. The training focused on quality management principles, and an overview of Lean methods.

Subsequently, five members of the KCPHD management team attended another full day training which focused on identifying a specific quality improvement project, Lean

value stream mapping, and quality management through leadership.

The process chosen to improve is the food handler's card process. KCPHD staff will work on the project through August 2012.

A Note from the Administrator, continued

(Continued from page 1) methodology for the study. In April, the results of the first phase of the study will be reviewed and the workgroup will make suggestions for questions to be included in a survey of LHJs who receive more local support and who are

similar to our department. The next phase of the study will be completed once the survey results are compiled and the workgroup will make recommendations to the BOH.

Once recommendations to the BOH are ready to be presented, highlights of the study will be

written and available to the public for review. As with all BOH meetings the agenda will be posted and citizens welcomed. Anyone interested in discussing this now is welcome to contact me directly at (509)962-7515. —Maria D. Canfield, Public