

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 20, 2004**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Mike Chapman, Vice Chairperson.

Present: Michael C. Chapman, Vice Chair  
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.

Absent: Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair

**II. ELECTION OF BOARD OF HEALTH OFFICERS – 2004**

Mr. Doherty moved to continue Officers' duties, the same as 2003, with Mr. Tharinger as the Chair and Mr. Chapman as the Vice Chair. Mr. Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

**III. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Mr. Doherty moved to approve the Agenda as written. Mr. Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Doherty moved to approve the minutes from December 16, 2003. Mr. Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Meyer came to speak about Xylitol. She gave the Board members each a packet of information. Xylitol is a 5 carbon sugar used to reduce the amount of decay and neutralize plaque acids on tooth enamel. She said it works by changing the flora in the mouth. It is shown to prevent transfers of decay from mother to baby. A gel can be applied to baby teeth 3-5 times a day and is shown to decrease ear infection rates by 40% and has long term positive effects. A test was done to compare sealants to Xylitol and the results showed the same results. There is a gum that you can chew after each meal that would break down the Streptococcus Mutants before it had time to adhere to the teeth. There is also a candy form of Xylitol.

Dr. Mysner, a dentist in Idaho, has been using it with his patients for the past two years. His office tested it on a family of 5 boys. After 18 months, they reduced from 2-4 cavities each, every 6 months, to 2 cavities total in the 18 month period. Two school programs in Kansas are using it, and the principal reports that attendance is up since it began. The overall reduction in Xylitol compared to control groups was 30-60%.

The target population should be new mothers who are low-income getting it in the hospital when they deliver, and Headstart groups. The cost to governments, schools and non-profit organizations are about ½ price. Ms. Meyer estimated that a group of 25 kids for an entire school year would cost roughly \$500-\$600. Xylitol is FDA approved. It is cost effective and the only contradiction would be if taken in excess, may cause diarrhea.

Ms. Meyer is against fluoridation in the city water system and would like to encourage the Board to recommend this alternative to the City of Port Angeles. Mr. Chapman reminded Mrs. Meyer that the Board is already on record as supporting the fluoridation project, but would like Dr. Locke to look further into this Xylitol and report back to them with his recommendation.

**VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no meeting held in January.

## VII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. HHS Strategic Planning Process Update. JoAnne explained that the previous Plan ended December 31, 2003 and the department is now working on the 2004-2006 Plan.

She said we are revisiting the old plan to see where adjustments can be made and creating a balance with Public Health programs. We are looking at what our role is with the Core Functions and looking at behaviors, gaps and needs in the community. We are and will be looking at what our priorities of services are based on resources, funding and the role we play as Public Health. We will be looking at other grant and resource opportunities.

Management staff met once in late fall 2003. Now that we are past the holiday season, we will be meeting again soon to look at the structure of the process. We will be meeting ½ day each month and reporting back to the Board with the progress. JoAnne said it should be about a year long process, but we will also be addressing 2004 needs during the year.

Mr. Chapman said he would like to see the BOH and PHAC have a combined meeting like they did last year. JoAnne said that they would like to do that again in the Spring when the Public Health Standards accomplishments are ready to be presented again.

## VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Program Updates. Andy Brastad, Director of Environmental Health Division, reported that after losing Joe Graham from the Food Service Program, he has decided to shift staff. Janine Reed will be working in both the Food Service and the O&M programs to satisfy funding requirements. Robin Munroe, Janine and Andy met to set priorities. Andy said that the program needs to have 2 full time positions to have the program run effectively.

Andy said he is also currently working on how to fund a full time O&M position. He met with the ad hoc committee and gave a presentation on the future of the County O&M program. He said they liked the ideas of making the responsibility that of the home owner. They discussed the Carlsborg area and received comments, concerns and suggestions (specifically about the PUD). The ad hoc committee will continue to meet.

The Solid Waste proposed regulation has been sent out to about 30 stakeholders, and Andy is just waiting to receive comments back. He anticipates the regulation going to the PHAC next month and to the Board of Health to call for a Public Hearing in March.

Andy said that he has been working with Rob Robertson and other managers in DCD and will continue to do so during the transition of Environmental Health into Health & Human Services. JoAnne added that we are all working closely through the transition.

## IX. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. Communicable Disease Updates (Influenza A Outbreak, SARS, Avian Flu). Dr. Locke reported that even since the Board's packets came out, the Influenza A outbreak has dropped off precipitously. It had already hit its peak and is on the way down. This year the Flu hit earlier, more severe and the amount of children may have been higher. Dr. Locke said that some of the Eastern states still have high activity. He said the highest risk period is through March and April, so precautions such as the vaccine and lots of hand washing can still be taken.

SARS reappeared in South China this year. Three unrelated cases, with the potential for more cases have developed. A possible connection between SARS and Civet Cats is being investigated. CDC is banning the importation of all civets into the United States until further notice to prevent the importation and spread of SARS. SARS-like coronavirus has been isolated from many palm civets. A comparison of isolates from civets and humans demonstrated 99.8% homology. There have been reports of small numbers of other animals that have demonstrated evidence of infection with SARS-like coronavirus. It is possible that other animals may have a role in the lifecycle of the SARS coronavirus, to date the best available evidence points towards involvement of wild civets. Importation

of non-native species, such as civets, into the US can lead to outbreaks of disease in humans.

Vietnam has had an Avian Flu pathogenic outbreak. It is suspected to have come from birds to humans. This Flu has a high mortality rate, but does not have a high transmission rate if it is not being transmitted person to person. They are scheduled to slaughter the contaminated birds, which will decrease the chances of widespread.

- B. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (“Mad Cow”) Disease in WA State – Public Health Response. Dr. Locke reported that “Mad Cow” was discovered in Eastern Washington from a “downer cow” that was nonambulatory before slaughter. Because of this tests were taken as part of a targeted surveillance for BSE. Tests were ran in Weybridge, England that verified the disease. The USDA investigated other potential exposures. The BSE-positive cow was traced back to Alberta, Canada along with 81 other cows that had been shipped to the U.S. Dr. Locke said the public health risk is low and the transmissibility is low. He said BSE is hard to transmit to humans. Dr. Locke said that this will remain in the news for a while, but emergency rules and rapid changes were required to be done immediately following the discovery. The FDA has been said to have located all known potentially infectious rendered products from the BSE-positive cow, there has been a voluntary hold placed on all known potentially infectious products as of January 7, 2004, and the FDA continues to investigate all regulated products related to the BSE-positive cow.
- C. Isolation and Quarantine Procedures – Legal Issues. Dr. Locke reviewed that about a year ago, a process was adopted in Washington State for quarantine due to the potential SARS outbreak. We have developed specific legal documents and will be asking for a legal review in Clallam County soon. The next step is to orient law enforcement and other partners to be able to move quickly when needed. There is a Request for Voluntary Quarantine, an Emergency Involuntary Detention Order and a Court Order for enforcement.

Dr. Locke requested taking the documents to the Prosecuting Attorney’s, Law Enforcement and the City Councils for review. The Board agreed and will wait to hear their feedback.

- D. 2004 Legislative Session – Public Health Issues. Dr. Locke said that this is not a big health year in the legislature. The Governor’s Proposal has been released. It includes: the need for more doctors and nurses in rural areas, increase Medicaid reimbursement payments to doctors, and the reduction of the impact of pending health care premiums of children receiving state-sponsored, optional Medicaid health coverage are some of the highlights Dr. Locke touched on.

Mr. Doherty asked Dr. Locke what he thought the chances of the Governor’s Proposal being adopted was. Dr. Locke said the House sounds favorable, but the Senate was questionable and he just didn’t know. Mr. Doherty said he would like Dr. Locke to draft a letter to our 3 Representatives, showing the Board of Health’s support for the Governor’s Proposal. Dr. Locke will work on a draft.

- E. DSHS Strategic Planning Questionnaire – Draft Response. Dr. Locke presented the Board with a draft of the questionnaire and responses. The Board reviewed it in their packets prior to the meeting and said that Mr. Tharinger, Chair to the Board, will be back in his office on Monday to sign the letter.

## **X. OTHER**

Mr. Chapman asked for a status report on the Board of Health expansion. Dr. Locke said that all issues regarding the expansion have been resolved. The issue is scheduled for Worksession with the Board of Clallam County Commissioners on Monday January 26<sup>th</sup> and for the BOCC regular meeting on Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup> to call for a Public Hearing.

## **XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

**XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Locke will invite someone from Olympic Medical Center to present the Board of Health with Access Issues and Transforming Health Care.

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting of January 20, 2004 at 3:098 pm. Mr. Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY  
OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair

ATTEST:

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Michael C. Chapman, Vice Chair

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Rene A. Leonard, Clerk of the Board

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Howard V. Doherty, Jr.