

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM
FEBRUARY 21, 2006**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:52 p.m. by Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair.

Present: Michael C. Chapman
Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.
John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair
Jim Leskinovitch

Excused: Camille Scott
Stephen P. Tharinger

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Mike Doherty asked that a discussion of the Veterans Health Clinic be added to the agenda. Michael Chapman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Doherty moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2006 Board of Health meeting. Mr. Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. WSMA Reports: Avian Influenza. Dr. Locke distributed an article from the Washington State Medical Association in which he was interviewed about avian influenza. He reported that the article is a good review of how the health care system is trying to gear up for a potential influenza pandemic and provides advice to physicians who might have patients with unexplained acute respiratory distress syndrome.

B. Great American Spit Out. Dr. Locke circulated a news release from the Washington State Department of Health regarding "spit" tobacco. He noted that using spit tobacco has major health risks including a significantly increased risk of mouth cancer. There is a statewide effort underway to prevent initiation of spit tobacco use and to prevent people from switching from smoking tobacco to spit tobacco.

C. Region 2 Winter Newsletter. Dr. Locke apologized that the Region 2 Winter Newsletter did not make it into the Board packets. Dr. Locke will distribute the newsletter at a later date.

V. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Dr. P. Stehr-Green introduced Dr. Barbara Mason, a member of the Public Health Advisory Committee, who reported that the PHAC is ready to kick-off the Win-Win With Walking program. Almost sixty people in the Diamond Point and Sunland communities have expressed interest and are looking forward to getting started with the program.

Michael Chapman moved that the Win-Win With Walking program be officially endorsed by the Board of Health. John Beitzel seconded and the motion carried. The Board will be updated on the progress of the program.

VI. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Iva Burks, Director, shared the results of an employee survey that was distributed prior to her arriving in Clallam County.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Andy Brastad, Director, introduced Liz Maier, a new employee in the Water Quality Program of Environmental Health.
- B. Priest Road Storm Water Report. Ann Soule, Licensed Hydrogeologist, presented results from a project begun in the spring of 2005, "Monitoring for Storm Water Contaminants in the Shallow Aquifer near Priest Road, Clallam County". The purpose of the project, requested by the Board of County Commissioners, was to establish baseline groundwater quality information for drinking water wells near recent and planned development in and around Sequim's western city limits. A monitoring plan was prepared and reviewed and sampling was conducted in May of 2005.

Ann Soule reported significant difficulties in carrying out the monitoring plan and concerns about the ability to determine the direction of groundwater flow based on study measurements. Results of inorganic analyses (nitrates and total dissolved solids) indicate that land activities related to human/animal waste management are starting to impact groundwater quality. (Because this was a baseline measurement, these findings cannot be attributed to development in the area.) There were no detections of bacteria, hydrocarbons, pesticides or other organics in the samples.

VIII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. Initiative 901 Implementation Program.
 - 1. Rebuttal Policy Follow-Up – Dr. Locke discussed the rebuttal policy required by I-901 with the Board. The policy would allow businesses or organizations that are covered by the new ban on indoor smoking in public places and places of employment to apply for a reduction of the 25 foot set-back. The county needs a process in place to determine how to handle the rebuttals. Dr. Locke asked for direction from the Board to move forward and develop language for a local rebuttal process.

John Beitzel moved to have the Health Officer begin developing draft language for the rebuttal process for I-901 implementation based on the "submission by the applicant of clear and convincing evidence" as opposed to laboratory evidence. Michael Chapman seconded and the motion carried. The draft language will be brought to the Board at the March meeting.

- 2. Linking Indoor Air Quality to Food Service Establishment Licenses – Dr. Locke presented a proposal to link compliance with the indoor smoking ban with maintaining a food establishment's license. At their February meeting, the Public Health Advisory Committee had discussed the proposal. The Committee voted to proceed with language development for a proposal but did not fully endorse the concept.

The Board discussed enforcement of I-901 and how other local health jurisdictions were approaching the issue. Dr. Locke made the point that linkage of indoor air quality with food service establishment licenses was only justified if there was significant health threat involved. He argued that second hand smoke is a serious health threat similar to other chemical and microbial threats the food codes seek to prevent. Due to concerns about inconsistencies across local jurisdictions, the Board decided not to move forward on draft language amending the food code, preferring to use enforcement authority specified by I-901. If this authority proves insufficient to enforce the statute, other strategies may be considered in the future.

- B. 2006 Legislative Session Update. Dr. Locke spoke briefly about Senate Bill 6366 that has passed in the Senate. This is the pandemic influenza planning bill for local health departments but lacks funding in the House budget. Some legislators have expressed hope that federal funding can be used for implementation. Dr. Locke commented that it is unlikely that any federal funding will be available for local public health pandemic influenza preparedness.

Jim Leskinovitch moved to have Dr. Locke write a letter and call our representatives on behalf of the Board of Health to bring these items to the attention of our legislatures. Michael Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

- C. Influenza Update – Flu activity and future planning activities. Dr. Locke shared that influenza activity continues to rise slowly nationwide but has started to decline on the West Coast. Washington state has had a very mild flu season so far this year.

IX. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Veterans Health Clinic. Commissioner Doherty spoke to the Board about the veterans community-based outpatient health clinic. Mr. Doherty expressed the hope that a local clinic would have telemedicine capabilities with the Seattle VA hospital. He noted that Clallam County has the highest per capita veteran population in the state. Mr. Doherty moved that the Board of Health go on record as supporting a veterans community-based outpatient health clinic which would include telemedicine capabilities. Jim Leskinovitch seconded and the motion carried.

X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

Dr. Locke distributed a flyer about a disaster preparedness day that is being held on Saturday, February 25 at Peninsula College. It is sponsored by the Clallam County Democratic Club as a community service.

XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- ❖ Update on Environmental Health Programs
- ❖ Legislative Update

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting of February 21, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. John Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ DAY
OF _____ 2006.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair

John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Tammy M. Davidson, Clerk of the Board

Michael C. Chapman

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Stephen P. Tharinger

Jim Leskinovitch

Camille Scott