

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM  
JULY 18, 2006**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, MD., Chair.

Present: Michael C. Chapman  
Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair  
Stephen P. Tharinger  
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.  
Cindy Witham for Gary R. Smith  
John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair  
Camille Scott

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

John Beitzel moved to approve the agenda as written. Mike Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

John Beitzel moved to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2006 Board of Health meeting. Mike Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Letter of Appreciation for Sewage Spill Response Volunteers. The WSU Beach Watchers of Clallam County played a crucial role in posting health advisories on beaches and collecting water samples following a large sewage spill in Port Angeles harbor in May. A letter of appreciation to Jay Manning, Director of the Department of Ecology, and Mary Selecky, Secretary of the Department of Health, recognizing the work that was performed by the Beach Watchers, was circulated among Board members for signature. The letter named each of the volunteers involved in the response as well as David Freed, Clallam County Program Coordinator, for his oversight efforts and immediate response.

**V. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Update: Discussion of Committee's Future Role. Dr. Paul Stehr-Green, Chair of the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), reported that the committee convened a small workgroup to discuss the role of the PHAC in advocating specific health policies. As part of the discussion, the workgroup examined a variety of documents that reference the PHAC. The group determined that several of the documents contained contradictory statements and that the PHAC bylaws and handbook had not been formally adopted. Before developing guidelines for advocacy positions, the workgroup decided that the PHAC bylaws and handbook needed to be finalized. Dr. P. Stehr-Green will work with members of the Board of Health, the Board of Commissioners and HHS to clarify the role they want PHAC to play.

**VI. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. Waste Pharmaceuticals in Effluent and Surface Waters. Dr. Locke introduced Jennifer Garcelon, who oversees Clallam County's solid and hazardous waste programs. Ms. Garcelon attended a solid waste summit in June of 2006 where proposals for improved

pharmaceutical waste disposal were discussed. At this meeting a study performed in Clallam County in 2004 (“Results of a Screening Analysis for Pharmaceuticals in Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluents, Wells, and Creeks in the Sequim-Dungeness Area”) was cited. Excerpts of the study findings were provided in the Board of Health packet. The study showed relatively low levels of contamination in Sequim-Dungeness area sewage effluent and groundwater. Only nicotine, caffeine, and the diabetes drug, metformin, were consistently detected in well and creek samples.

Ms. Garcelon reported that at the state level efforts are being made to address pharmaceutical waste. A host of federal and state agencies have jurisdiction, specifically, the Drug Enforcement Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Ecology and state law enforcement agencies. One study showed that 30-70% of prescribed medications are never used. Department of Ecology reported that many local jurisdictions are recommending that consumers double bag discarded pharmaceuticals and throw them in the garbage.

British Columbia has a model pharmaceutical take back program. Medicine is brought back to the pharmacy and placed in 5-gallon containers. These containers are transported to a warehouse where the medicines are sorted and most are incinerated. Returning waste pharmaceuticals to pharmacies is the best management practice but in Washington State it is illegal for anyone other than the person a medicine is prescribed for to handle it. This summer, Snohomish/King/Thurston/Spokane counties will pilot a take back program. Results will be shared with the Board when available.

## VII. HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT

1. Promoting Public Health through Tribal-Local Collaborative Agreements. Dr. Locke reported the County Commissioners recently signed a Tribal-Local Collaborative Agreement with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. In 1995, when the state legislature passed the Public Health Improvement Plan, one of its key goals was to help develop capacity in local, state, and tribal health jurisdictions. Inclusion of tribal governments in Washington state’s public health system acknowledged the sovereign nature of tribal governments and the fundamental duties of all governments to provide public health services for their communities.

A fair amount of work was done trying to develop an operational model of a tribal health jurisdiction in the mid-1990’s, much of it in Clallam County in partnership with the four tribes with which the County shares boundaries. In 2004, the American Indian Health Commission revived the issue and received a small federal grant to develop a model memorandum of agreement. Clallam County was chosen to pilot the project because of the background work in the mid-1990s. Creating a government to government agreement between the legislative authorities of the two jurisdictions is only the first step. The real work will require collaboration between the county and tribal public health programs and developing counterparts to boards of health within tribal governments.

2. West Nile Virus Surveillance, Summer 2006. Dr. Locke reported Washington, Maine, and Alaska are the only states in the continental United States not to have human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) infection acquired within the state. WNV was detected in a horse, a dead bird, and two mosquito samples, however, in the Yakima area last summer. A study on *Culex pipiens* (Northern House Mosquito) found the mosquitoes shift their feeding preference from birds to humans during late summer. This may explain why human WNV infection tends to occur in late summer. Of note, clothing that is permethrin-treated is now available for warding off mosquitoes. The clothing doesn’t just repel mosquitoes but kills them if they land.

3. New Childhood Vaccines: Benefits and Costs. Dr. Locke reported on three new vaccines. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine has been licensed for several years but has been in short supply. Significant supplies should now be available so that it can be used more widely. A combination vaccine against pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, and tetanus has been released for use in adolescents and adults. The pertussis component is “acellular” (i.e., derived from selected proteins on the bacterial cell surface not the entire bacteria cell) and causes fewer side effects. Prior to this new vaccine, pertussis vaccine could only be used up to age 7. Human papillomavirus virus vaccine is considered highly effective in preventing most cervical cancer and has been recommended by CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for girls when they are 11-12 years old. It is very expensive (3 doses will cost approximately \$360), however, and has provoked controversy since it prevents a sexually transmitted disease.
4. Creating a Stronger Public Health System – Statewide Priorities for Action. Dr. Locke reported that once the joint legislative task force has their final meeting this month, the debate over public health funding will move into the legislative arena. The joint committee headed by Representative Shay Schual-Berke will present recommendations to the legislature in December. This is when the Board of Health may want to weigh in. It will be very important that local governments express their position on these proposals when the legislature meets to consider them.

#### **VIII. HEALTH DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

There was no report.

#### **IX. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

1. Dungeness Valley Health Clinic Community Walk for Health – Saturday, September 23, 2006. John Beitzel announced the date of the 4th Annual Walk for Health. Participants can choose a 1-mile loop around Carrie Blake Park or a 5-mile loop on the Olympic Discovery Trail. Dr. J. Stehr-Green asked whether the Board would be interested in participating as a team and challenge the Public Health Advisory Committee to a walking competition. Enthusiasm was expressed and the Board of Health decided to field a team. Board members (and family and friends) who can participate will. Mr. Beitzel also announced that the 3rd Annual Olympic Peninsula Health Fair will be held at the High School in Sequim on Saturday, September 16th.

#### **X. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

1. August 15th Board of Health Meeting in Forks. The meeting will be held from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in the Forks Community Hospital Conference Room across from the Café. The Third District Commissioner and the Chair of the Board of Health will put together an itinerary and make transportation arrangements and share them with members of the Board.

#### **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting. Camille Scott seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting of July 18, 2006 was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2006.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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