

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM  
JUNE 21, 2005**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:47 p.m. by Mike Chapman, Chair.

Present: Michael C. Chapman, Chair  
Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D., Vice Chair  
Stephen P. Tharinger  
John Beitzel  
Camille Scott

Excused: Jim Leskinovitch  
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Andy Brastad introduced Paul Patrick, newly hired Environmental Health Specialist, working in the Food Program.

Dr. J. Stehr-Green moved that we approve the agenda as written. Mr. Tharinger seconded and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Scott moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2005 meeting. Mr. Beitzel seconded. Dr. Stehr-Green requested postponing approving the minutes due to only receiving the draft at the meeting and not having time to review them thoroughly. The Board agreed. The minutes will appear on the July Agenda for approval request.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. Vital Statistics Press Release. Dr. Locke reviewed the Department of Health Press Release noting the latest compilation of Vital Statistics with interesting demographic information about births and deaths.
- B. West Nile Virus Newsletter. Dr. Locke said these newsletters will be coming on a regular basis with the arrival of the peak mosquito season. In Clallam County we will be following the same protocol we used last year with surveillance of dead birds. Andy added that we are also collecting mosquitoes and sending them in to the state for species identification. Dr. Locke said that things will tend to kick into high gear if and when we begin to see horse or human cases. That will be the sign that West Nile Virus has become a human health threat in this state. Clallam County remains West Nile Virus free based on the best available information.

**VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT**

Dr. P. Stehr-Green reported that the PHAC discussed the Taskforce on Obesity. The committee is going to begin sending out invitations and soliciting members for the Taskforce. The next step will be to outline the objectives and workplan of the Taskforce and develop a timeline for completion. A progress report should be available in July.

The committee discussed ground rules for the types of issues that are appropriate to bring before the advisory committee. The committee decided that members may bring any issues they think appropriate to the table. The group would then decide if the issue had a significant public health impact and should be pursued further.

## VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Clallam County Food Safety Code – Draft Code Public Hearing – Possible Adoption. Andy Brastad reported that the Board had an initial Public Hearing in Forks at the May Board of Health meeting. All interested parties have been notified by mail of the updates to the code and that comments are being accepted. The draft code is posted on the Environmental Health website. Robin Munroe said that no written comments regarding the code had been received to date.

### **Mr. Chapman opened the Public Hearing for testimony from the public.**

No members of the public offered testimony.

Mr. Tharinger moved to close the Public Hearing for the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

Dr. Locke reminded the Board that last month they had discussed changing the time frame in section 3.03(A)(1) and 3.03(B)(1) of the draft code to strike language prohibiting scheduling a hearing less than 20 days from the time a request was received.

Mr. Tharinger moved to amend the language in section 3.03(A)(1) and 3.03(B)(1) to read “.....which shall be set at a mutually convenient time, not more than 30 days.....”. Dr. J. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Scott moved to adopt the revised code as amended. Dr. J. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Chapman commended staff for simplifying and streamlining the process to make it easy for vendors to follow the code no matter where they go in the state.

- B. Environmental Health Program Updates. Andy briefed the Board on the following issues:
- Board of Commissioners adopted the Watershed Plan  
The plan includes recommendations for program development that include:
    - working with Dept. of Ecology on well delegation issues
    - plan to have local code regarding group B systems distinct from the state code
    - looking at how to do more coordination/communication between water systems
  - Water systems and water lab
    - water system sanitary surveys are being done on a regular basis
    - the water testing lab is now fully functional
    - taking in samples for testing
    - anticipate historic levels of service for water testing by the end of year
  - Working with Beach Program – Surfrider Organization
    - money is being funneled from the Dept. of Health to facilitator of beach program
    - samples are being taken in 3 beaches where recreational swimming occurs
  - Working on a baseline assessment of groundwater quality of western Sequim
    - groundwater sample collection is underway
    - purpose of the project is to establish baseline water quality information for assessing storm water impacts in the future
  - Dept. of Ecology has begun the Instream Flow Rule making process in WRIA 17.  
The rule will establish a water right for streams in the eastern part of the county
    - tells how much water is available for development
    - the rule is in preliminary discussion draft
    - will have at least one public hearing in Clallam on the “Rule” which may stimulate more citizen interest

- West Nile screening – sending appropriate birds in testing and mosquito collection is ongoing
  - Hazardous waste collection
    - September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> in Port Angeles
    - September 25<sup>th</sup> in Sequim
- On-Site – state DOH is holding public hearing on adopting new code in July
- Talked last month about funding for planning for septic systems near marine shorelines
  - DOH to fund Puget Sound counties \$36,000 this year and next year – make plan and develop database connected with state
- Food – Robin Munroe and Paul Patrick
    - numerous summer events coming – VERY busy
    - new DOH food code now requires EH to inspect all Food Service Establishments at least twice each year
      - EH will have difficulty meeting this requirement

## VIII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

## IX. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. Public Health Communication Campaign. Dr. Locke chose the Public Health Communication Campaign section of the Public Health Improvement Plan to report for this month. He said that this is not primarily a public relations campaign, buy more of a campaign to educate the public on the role public health plays in protecting and improving the health of communities. Demands for public health services are accelerating, but the resources to meet these demands are shrinking. There has been at least a 10% decrease in resources available for public health programs over the last decade (this includes the new federal funding for emergency preparedness and other revenue sources). The Legislature passed a resolution this year to set up a legislative taskforce that will pursue proposals for stable public health funding. At the earliest, this taskforce would generate recommendations to be acted upon at the 2007 Legislative session.

The public health communication campaign has been in the works for several years. There have been surveys of the effects of different messages on focus groups. There has been work on “branding” of public health using consistent messages statewide such as the phrase “Always working for a safer and healthier community”. Dr. Locke voiced his opinion that public health funding will eventually come to a statewide public vote and the public will need to decide whether they want to make an ongoing investment in public health. Ultimately, the goal of the public health communication campaign is to make the case that investment in Public Health results in lower rates of disease and injuries and a healthier, more productive community.

[www.doh.wa.gov/phip](http://www.doh.wa.gov/phip) has more information on this topic for the Board's review.

After the Public Health Services Manager position is filled, Clallam County will send 3-4 staff members to a communication training to familiarize them with the campaign information. We will be going to groups, doing public presentations, speak to the media, and include the information about the issues that people really care about, such as access to health care.

- B. In Search of an Adult Vaccination Policy – Local Health Ramifications. Dr. Locke said this will be a topic that the Board will be hearing more and more about. There is a national childhood vaccination policy which came together in the mid 1990s. There is a system for volume purchasing of vaccines, national distribution, and funding for low income children. There is no such program for adults. Nationally, there is no guiding adult immunization policy. Supplies are uncertain, shortages have become routine and vaccines that are available are not used effectively. The net effect is that the adult population is significantly under immunized.

Public health officials are trying to draw attention to this being a problem and encourage development of a state adult vaccination policy in lieu of a national vaccine policy. Dr. Locke and deputy Clallam County Health Officer Dr. Frank James wrote a Resolution that they will present to the State Medical Association in October to promote this initiative.

At a local level, we end up dealing with the consequences of not having a system for assuring high levels of immunization in adults. We scrambled last year to deal with the influenza shortage. We had to shift staff from other priority tasks and it was very time consuming to find and redistribute flu vaccine. Supplies of influenza vaccine are uncertain for the coming flu season and we are likely to see problems with distribution once again.

Dr. Locke reference materials in the Board packet that discussed the many new vaccines that are under development or soon to be licensed. Many are targeted at adults and could have significant public health benefits if appropriately used. There is great concern that they will not be used in this way due to the lack of a clear national policy supporting an adult immunization.

C. West Nile Virus Preparation. This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**X. OTHER**

Mrs. Scott noted that Dr. Locke and Lyell Fox gave a presentation to Forks Community Hospital medical staff on June 8<sup>th</sup> in regards to a possible Syringe Exchange Program in Forks. Mrs. Scott said her medical staff was supportive of the proposal.

In response to a question from Mr. Beitzel, Dr. Locke reported that they were having some scheduling problems meeting with the School Boards to discuss Chlamydia prevention. He is hopeful that the more relaxed summer schedules of the School Boards will provide the opportunity to schedule presentations. We are staying in contact with the School Boards to arrange the meetings.

**XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

**XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. J. Stehr-Green moved to adjourn the meeting of June 21, 2005 at 2:50 p.m. Mr. Beitzel seconded and motion carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY  
OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2005.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael C. Chapman, Chair

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

ATTEST:

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Rene A. Leonard, Clerk of the Board

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Stephen P. Tharinger

Excused

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Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Excused

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Jim Leskinovitch

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John Beitzel

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Camille Scott