

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM
JULY 19, 2005**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Mike Chapman, Chair.

Present: Michael C. Chapman, Chair
Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr. left at 2:35
Stephen P. Tharinger
John Beitzel
Camille Scott
Jim Leskinovitch

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Dr. Locke asked to add VIII.D. Public Health Fee Schedule Update Review. Dr. Stehr-Green requested an update on the On-Site Code. Dr. Stehr-Green moved that we approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tharinger moved to approve the minutes of May 17, 2005. Dr. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Beitzel moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2005. Mr. Tharinger seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. HIV Rules Simplified. Dr. Locke reported that the comprehensive revision of the state HIV rules, adopted by the State Board of Health in April 2005, took effect on July 18, 2005. The new rules shall make it easier to tailor HIV testing and counseling to the needs of individual patients. The rules will also clarify the process in which partners of new persons newly diagnosed with HIV are notified that they have been exposed to HIV and need testing. Despite readily available testing, over 25% of people with HIV have not been diagnosed and are unaware of their infection. It is hoped that a less burdensome testing process will lead to more routine HIV testing and earlier detection. Clallam County HHS offers case management for those infected with HIV and partner notification.

B. Recreational Water Quality Monitoring – Clallam County. Andy Brastad reported that Surf Riders had been collecting water samples on ocean beaches for about the last two years. Now DOE is funding a program called the "Beach Program" which pays for lab costs and a program coordinator. In Clallam County the program coordinator works through the WSU Extension Office. Under the new program, Surf Riders and other volunteers are collecting samples and coordinating with the County to run the samples through our lab. The County's role is to do the lab testing and, if beaches need to be closed due to unsafe levels of water contamination, we will post notices at the site.

Dr. P. Stehr-Green mentioned that contamination of the "natural" Olympic Hot Springs in the Olympic National Park might be a potential concern. Mrs. Scott suggested sending a letter to the Park. Andy said that the Springs are in federal jurisdiction. Dr. Locke said we could inquire about the Park's current policy towards water quality monitoring in wilderness

areas. Although the potential for bacterial contamination is certainly possible in a warm water spring, he was unaware of recent monitoring data documenting a hazard or reports of skin or gastrointestinal infections from Olympic Hot Springs users.

Mr. Chapman suggested Dr. Locke inquire with a phone call to the Park and bring back a draft letter to the Board for follow up.

- C. June 30, 2005 Congressional Testimony – Mary Selecky. Dr. Locke included a short presentation that Secretary of Health Mary Selecky made on behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials highlighting issues that she and other state health officials are advocating for, including a stronger immunization system, the pandemic influenza response system and how it is not a good time to cut \$130 million from this program.
- D. Adult Immunization Recommendations. Dr. Locke included a hard copy of the adult immunization schedule that was inadvertently omitted from the June Board of Health packet.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Dr. P. Stehr-Green reported that the committee discussed the Water Availability Policy with Andy Brastad. The committee is working on the community taskforce for exercise and nutrition, but that process is going slower than expected. He and Dr. Locke will be meeting after this Board meeting to strategize about the project.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Water Availability / Adequate Policy Proposal. Andy reported on the issue of proof of a potable water supply that is necessary to receive a building permit. He has drafted a guidance policy that addresses interpretation of potable water requirements in RCW 19.27.097. Andy reviewed the outlined definitions and intent of the policy with the Board and said that the objective is to define when potable water requirements are applicable. The guidelines will result in some remodeling projects that can't currently get a building permit because the water supply does not meet all potable water standards, to be able to get a building permit if mitigating factors are met. This would allow some building, yet still promote public health safety standards.

Mr. Tharinger asked about the issue of coordinating a well with septic systems. Andy said he is currently in the research stage and is polling counties to see what they are doing.

Andy said that the next step for the draft policy will be to put the document into HHS Policy format and send a draft to the Dept. of Community Development for their comments. He will incorporate their comments where applicable and produce a final draft to present to the Board.

Dr. J. Stehr-Green asked why the second circumstance covered by the draft policy says demonstration of potable water "may" be required and asked when it wouldn't. After a discussion, Mr. Tharinger suggested to take out the "may" and use the appeal or waiver process in its place. The Board agreed.

Andy will keep the Board updated.

VIII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. 2004 Public Health Improvement Plan: Workforce Development Issues. Dr. Locke reported on the Workforce Development portion of the statewide Public Health Improvement Plan.

Workforce Development is a challenge because most of the people who pursue careers in public health at a local level are not specifically trained in public health and are recruited from other professions. Public Health is always looking for ways to encourage better training towards public health careers as well as ongoing training of public health workers once hired.

In 2004 Washington State undertook a comprehensive survey of the public health workers in the state. The results of the "Everybody Counts" survey were included in the Board's packet. This survey had a very high response rate and describes the different focus areas for public health programs.

Dr. Locke said the reason the Board should be interested in the results of the statewide survey (including details from other counties) because public health by its nature is not just what we do in this county. What other counties are doing to protect public health also influences the health of Clallam County residents. We are also dependant on state and national efforts from a public health standpoint.

We have an aging public health workforce in Washington and it is necessary that we act now to train the next generation of public health workers. We are having some success with these efforts in that public health is becoming an increasingly popular career choice. The County has also been a training site for the University of Washington for the last 15 years, providing a rural public health experience to University students.

Mr. Doherty asked if our Public Health Dept. has an internship for students in the Peninsula College Nursing Program. Dr. Locke said we have talked about it and been open to it, but nothing has ever materialized. Dr. Locke said it would help to offer on-the-job public health experience to students during those stages where they are picking a career track.

- B. Varicella ("Chickenpox") Vaccination Mandate and Childhood Vaccination Policy. Dr. Locke discussed a new requirement that the State Board of Health adopted at its July 13, 2005 meeting for the 2006 school year. The requirement is for students to have two a varicella immunization or proof of varicella immunity before school entry. Washington State is one of the last states to require varicella vaccination for school entry, largely due to concerns about vaccine program funding. Washington State has about 60% of childhood vaccines paid for by the federal government and the other 40% paid for by the state. Reduced vaccine costs are about \$33 million per year when the state purchases them at the discounted federal purchase rate. Varicella vaccine is very cost effective and safe, but will be challenging to implement. Currently, about 72% of school aged children in this state are immunized against varicella. Helping schools determine which children are in need of varicella vaccination will be a challenging task in the year ahead. In the meantime, the state will be going to the legislature to ask for funding to pay for the additional varicella vaccine and determine whether the State of Washington wants to maintain its universal distribution system for childhood vaccines.
- C. Cruise Ship Wastewater Discharges – Follow up Report. Dr. Locke included a summary in the Board's packet. Regulation of cruise ship wastewater discharges had its origin in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. In May 2003, the Norwegian Sun Cruise Ship accidentally discharged its untreated wastewater near Port Townsend. Protests by Clallam and Jefferson County Boards of Health led to eventual adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Coast Guard and Dept. of Ecology. Overlapping state and federal jurisdictions have created some complicated regulatory issues. Alaska has faced similar issues and pursued congressional authority for wastewater regulations on cruise ships. The current strategy in Washington State is to try to do it through voluntary agreements with cruise ships. If Board members are interested in the full report, Dr. Locke can provide a copy.
- D. Public Health Fee Schedule Update Review. Dr. Locke reported that it has come to the attention of the department that the fee schedule for adult vaccines and travel medicine services is in need of revision.

We would like to bring the draft fee revisions to the Board. At the point the Board feels it is ready for public review, it can call for a public hearing. Fee schedule revisions will be published and open for comment. Following the public hearing, the Board may consider adoption of fee schedule revisions.

The goal is to make the adult vaccination and traveler clinic programs fee supported. In preparation of the revised schedule, we will look at what the program costs. We are considering more of a "cost plus" system (cost of the vaccine, plus an administrative fee). The fee for vaccine administration is essentially set by what Medicare and Medicaid pay. We also have a mechanism for a sliding fee scale and a fee waiver option for those who cannot afford needed vaccines.

- E. State On-Site update. Dr. Locke reported that the new On-Site Code passed at the State Board of Health meeting on July 13, 2005. There were some contentious hearings leading up to final adoption, but by last week environmental activists and realtors generally testified that they were supportive of the final code language. A lot of the code is technical revisions but some aspects will strongly affect Clallam County. By July of 2007 we will need to have a plan for identifying at risk marine areas and assessing what kinds of threats might exist. It is a funded mandate with the legislature appropriating planning funding for the 12 affected marine counties. There is a requirement to assess the risks to marine waters, although there is not a requirement to take action if funding is not available.

Implementation of most of the code was pushed from July 2006 to July 2007. There is no penalty for early revision of the Clallam County Code, but we will need to complete local changes by July 2007.

X. OTHER

XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

Mary Selecky will be at the Lower Elwha Klallam Reservation on August 2, 2005. Mr. Doherty asked Dr. Locke to connect Mary with Barbara Clark for a 20 minute briefing on the Care Grant. Dr. Locke will arrange the meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Public Health Fee Schedule Draft Review.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Stehr-Green moved to adjourn the meeting of July 19, 2005 at 3:03 p.m. Mr. Tharinger seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ DAY
OF _____ 2005.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Michael C. Chapman, Chair

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

ATTEST:

Rene A. Leonard, Clerk of the Board

Stephen P. Tharinger

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Jim Leskinovitch

John Beitzel

Camille Scott