

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 21, 2004**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Stephen Tharinger, Chair.

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

Excused: Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.  
Camille Scott

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Mr. Chapman moved to approve the agenda as written. Dr. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Chapman moved to adopt the minutes of November 16, 2004. Dr. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**V. OLD BUSINESS & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. Immunization Rates – Washington State. Dr. Locke gave the Board the immunization rates for Washington State from a state report printed in the summer of 2004 based on 2002 data. Once children are in grade school, the rates are up in the 95% range (thought to be driven by the mandate of requirements for school entry). Washington state's 69% composite rate for children ages 2-3 years old does not compare favorably with many other states.

Mr. Beitzel asked why the pertussis rate was up. Dr. Locke said it is not known why it is up in Washington compared to other states, but it is known that it is being seen more overall because the immunity (either from vaccine or natural exposure) tends to wane in adolescents and adults. The public health goal is to prevent children under two years old from getting the disease through vaccination coverage. It may be that vaccinating adolescents and adults is necessary to control the ongoing spread of the disease. An adolescent/adult vaccine is in development.

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

Clover Gowing, PHAC representative, reported that the Committee elected new officers. Dr. Paul Stehr-Green was elected Chair and Virginia Clark was elected Vice Chair for 2005.

The Committee reviewed a National CDC Campaign for Public Health done by the Washington Health Foundation.

JoAnne Dille gave a report of the cold and flu prevention media campaign.

Stacie Neff reviewed the BRFSS Survey, which will be presented to the Board later in the agenda.

Rachel Anderson presented the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program's Strategic Plan 2005-2008 and the Committee unanimously voted to endorse and support the Plan.

Andy Brastad gave the Committee an update on the Watershed Plan.

Chandra Huston of Family Planning completed part 2 of her 2 part presentation regarding the programs offered by Clallam County Family Planning:

- Youth Suicide Prevention Program
- Classroom Education Program
- Detention Prevention – A Second Chance
- Male Educator
- Nurse clinical services in the Juvenile Detention Facility
- Adolescent Support Groups
- Reduction of Obesity

## VII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Clallam County. Dr. Locke followed up on last month's meeting about STD rates in Clallam County. He reported that the most common notifiable condition we see in Clallam County is Chlamydia. Dr. Locke reviewed the report in the Board's packet and explained that the rates and trends for Chlamydia have been rising since the mid 1990s. Although some of this rise may be attributed to better testing technology, statewide evidence suggests that Chlamydia is becoming more prevalent. The Department receives a monthly compilation of STD data. The number of cases reported in Clallam County in 2002 and 2003 is about the same and rates are not much different than the state average. It is believed that most STDs are underreported. So the rate may not reflect the true number of cases.

Mr. Tharinger asked if there was an area of the County with higher rates than another. Dr. Locke said we have not seen increased rates in a particular area of the county.

Mr. Leskinovitch volunteered the Olympic Medical Center to partner with the Health Department in terms of education for the community.

The Public Health Department is fortunate to have a very skilled Nurse Practitioner, Lyell Fox, who is doing outreach to the providers in the County. Dr. Locke said that Washington State and Clallam County is promoting universal screening of all women 24 years of age and younger and all young adults who have risk factors. We are also promoting Patient Delivered Partner Treatment in which the diagnosed person is giving antibiotics to their partners. Dr. Locke also spoke with Chandra Huston of Family Planning about their view on what more could be done. Family Planning already does intensive 9<sup>th</sup> grade education, but felt education at an earlier age and following up for older students would be beneficial.

- B. Draft letter to Clallam County School Boards.

Dr. Stehr-Green suggested including an informational sheet with the letter to the School Districts.

Mr. Tharinger suggested to change the letter to request County staff go to their School Boards with a presentation of the seriousness of the issue instead of asking if the Districts would like to attend a Board of Health meeting for information and discussion. Board members agreed.

Jim Leskinovitch moved to approve signing and sending the amended letter to the Clallam County School Districts. Dr. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

- C. Influenza Vaccine Shortage and season update.

Dr. Locke said this year was atypical with the vaccine shortage. We have been successful in getting enough vaccine into the department to fill most all of the orders placed by providers and are still able to give additional clinics at the Health Department.

The concern was that people that don't have access to a clinic might have problems getting their flu shot.

This year the Health Department did their clinics by appointment. Kathryn McDaniel reported that this morning was the first clinic and it ran very smoothly and was successful. As of last Friday, the national advisory committee of the CDC expanded the priority groups to include people 50-64, out-of-home caretakers, and household contacts of high priority people.

The Health Department also re-surveyed the provider community to see if there is additional vaccine need. We will continue to work on getting the vaccine as it is needed.

JoAnne Dille, Director of HHS, reported that the Health Department and OMC initiated a Collaborative 2004-2005 Influenza Prevention Program, focusing on a Hand Washing and Respiratory Hygiene Campaign. The purpose was to develop and communicate a county-wide consistent message regarding measures to reduce the risk of flue and other respiratory illnesses. The target audience included health care workers, day care workers, child care centers, assisted living, schools, large employers and general public. A "train-the-trainer" approach was taken and curricula, materials, and a tool box of health promotion items developed. OMC took the lead for training health care workers, while the Health Department utilized public health nursing staff to educate the public and train staff in public institutions.

In addition, the Health Department took the lead to develop a media insert "Contagious Comix, Flu Funnies" for distribution to all households through the Peninsula Daily News, the Forks Forum, and the Sequim Gazette. Information on colds and flu prevention, identification, self-care, and when to seek medical care, was provided by the CDC, and presented in a colorful and engaging format. Copies of the "Flu Funnies" will also be distributed through local pharmacies and schools.

## VIII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Tobacco Prevention and Control Program Strategic Plan. Rachel Anderson, Tobacco Prevention and Control Specialist for HHS, presented the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program's Strategic Plan for the next three years.

Washington State requires all counties to develop a strategic plan. There were specific guidelines and protocols that were required and ours was to work closely with our local Prevention Works Community Coalition through an assessment process that would then give basis for the Plan development.

The five indicators in the Plan include:

- Engagement of Diverse Community Partners
- Community Support for Tobacco Control
- Restrict Youth Access to / Possession of Tobacco
- Effective Healthcare Provider Interventions
- Support for Community Smoking Bans & Policies

Rachel reported that we are focusing our efforts on education because beginning 2008 there will be no further Tobacco funding. The plan has been endorsed and supported by the Public Health Advisory Committee and Prevention Works.

Mr. Chapman moved to endorse the Plan. Dr. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

- B. 2003-04 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) update and planning process.

Stacie Neff, Epidemiologist for HHS, distributed a list of the 10 completed modules that she has been working on for the last several months.

There is so much information from the survey that the need for another level of prioritization of the results is being looked at. After discussions with her other counterparts in the state, Stacie said she is working on a 2-3 page introductory brochure that will contain the highlights of the survey and will refer people to the County HHS website to view more of what they are interested in. All of the data will be available on the website in January 2005. The data results will also be suitable for public presentations, which Stacie would be available to do. The analysis of this survey should also be available in combination with other data sources for presentations.

Dr. Stehr-Green requested Stacie to set up a counter on the website to indicate how many people are visiting certain data to help us focus on what is important to the community.

- C. Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program overview. Kathryn McDaniel, Public Health Services Manager, presented a Powerpoint Presentation of Part 2 of her orientation to Public Health programs.

Maternal Child Health (MCH) programs include:

WIC: Kathryn distributed and reviewed the 2003 Annual WIC report. Clallam County serves 1200 clients. The program provides nutritious foods, health screenings, breastfeeding support, carseat checks and referrals to other services. \$700,000 is spent in local grocery stores from WIC checks.

Maternal Infant Health (Children 1-22): This program includes home visiting, referral and follow-up, working with schools, and collaboration with Child Protective Services

Oral Health: Oral Assessment, Fluoride Varnish, education & referral, School programs, Health care access committee, participation in organizations and agencies, education for families on WIC and non-dental health & social service professionals

Injury Prevention: This program focuses on the prevention of unintentional injuries in children. We participate in training and activities including car seat clinics, fairs, and other outreach events. We collaborate with Peninsula SAFE KIDS Coalition, putting emphasis on safety.

Children with Special Health Care Needs: Children under 18 with health or developmental problems, disabilities, chronic illnesses, health related educational or behavioral problems are eligible. It includes linking services, informing and referrals and collaborating with other agencies.

Healthy Child Care: Our nurse consultant offers assistance to licensed child care providers with education on regulations, communicable diseases, resource and referrals, infectious disease control, nutrition and feeding.

Maternity Support Services / Infant Case Management: This program has been around for about 13 years. We provide home visiting in Forks to low income pregnant women through a team approach. The team includes a nurse, dietitian, social worker (and Spanish Interpreter as needed) to help these moms stay healthy during pregnancy and provide referrals as needed. Currently our caseload is about 45 clients. First Step Family Support Services provides the same service for the Port Angeles and Sequim areas.

The Board was scheduled to take a tour of the Public Health Department at the Port Angeles site. After a discussion, the Board and staff chose to postpone the tour until next month.

## IX. OTHER

**X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

**XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Tour of Port Angeles Public Health Department Facility

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Leskinovitch moved to adjourn the meeting of December 21, 2004 at 3:15 p.m. Mr. Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

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

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair

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Michael C. Chapman, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

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Excused Absence

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Rene A. Leonard, Clerk of the Board

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Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

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Jim Leskinovitch

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Beitzel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Excused Absence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Camille Scott

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Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D.