

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM  
OCTOBER 18, 2005**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

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

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Stehr-Green moved to approve the minutes of September 20, 2005. Mrs. Scott seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. West Nile Virus Newsletter and Press Releases. Dr. Locke reported that there has been penetration of the West Nile virus into Washington State as evidenced by mosquito, bird, and horse cases. Because we are at the end of the mosquito season the risk of transmission to humans is dropping. For the second year in a row, Washington was the only state in the continental U.S. to have no human West Nile virus cases.
- B. EpiTrends – Disaster Response. Dr. Locke presented a bulletin from the Epidemiology Department at the WA State Department of Health. The bulletin gave brief summaries of the many public health issues faced by Hurricane Katrina disaster responders as well as recommendations and resources offered by the CDC.

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

Dr. Paul Stehr-Green referred to the letter in the Board's packet about retaining the Water Quality Specialist position in the Environmental Health division and reiterated the support of the Committee for maintaining the current organizational structure.

Dr. P. Stehr-Green noted that there was a discussion at the PHAC meeting about influenza vaccine and the proven effectiveness of having health care workers vaccinated. To get the Committee more involved in educating the public, the members have volunteered to do presentations about the importance of the matter.

Dr. P. Stehr-Green announced a project being headed by Richard Welch and Barbara Mason called Win-Win With Walking (W-4), a competition that will occur between the communities in Diamond Point and Sunland to promote health, weight loss and physical fitness.

Next month, the PHAC will review the Public Health Standards Report Card from the State and then present it to the Board of Health.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the PHAC will meet (either in the BOCC Mtg. Room, or at the Linkletter Auditorium at OMC) regarding the Hargrove Mental Health Initiative. The PHAC will explore the initiative with individuals involved with drafting it and interested community members and bring insights back to the Board for further discussion.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## VII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WASHINGTON STATE JOINT CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC HEALTH. Dr. Locke attended the annual conference in Yakima, WA as required for all Health Officers. The Health Officers met on Sunday and discussed syndromic surveillance systems in detail. Syndromic surveillance systems are systems designed to provide early warnings of disease outbreaks. Region 2 (Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap Counties) has been conducting a pilot project in syndromic surveillance for the past 2 years.

The conference itself focused on statewide efforts to improve emergency preparedness. The president of the American Public Health Association spoke at the conference and stated that a \$1.4 billion reduction in funding to the CDC was being proposed for next year's budget.

Another topic that received attention at the conference was the impact of the "Built Environment" on public health. Efforts are being made to try to influence the design of residential developments, making it easier for people to do their daily activities without the use of a vehicle, thus promoting more physical activity.

- B. RISK COMMUNICATION: PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING. Dr. Locke discussed the Board's potential role during a pandemic. Risk communication will be a priority for the Board. During a public health emergency, it is important that information provided to the public and media be up-to-date, accurate, and credible ("Be First, Be Right, Be Credible"). Dr. Locke provided the Board with an article from Perspectives in Health (Vol. 10, No. 2, 2005) that lists 10 key principles for effective risk communication.

There are trainings available for Boards regarding risk communication. Dr. Locke will circulate a reference book to the Board members and offered to set up future presentations or training as the Board's wishes.

- C. 2005-2006 INFLUENZA SEASON PREPARATIONS. Dr. Locke reported that we received our first shipment of influenza vaccine last week and can begin scheduling clinics. We currently have 650 doses (about 30%) of our vaccine. There was an advisory from the CDC recommending that only high risk people should get vaccinated before October 24<sup>th</sup>. The vaccine will be available at the Health Department and some satellite clinics. Because a simplified appointment system for scheduling vaccinations worked well last year, we will repeat that strategy again this season.

There should be a lot of options for people to get their flu shots other than the Health Department this year. Grocery stores, pharmacies, and private practices plan to offer the vaccine when they receive their vaccine orders.

Our vaccine distribution system still has some major problems and vaccine shipments have been delayed this year. The CDC continues to report that there will be an adequate supply of influenza vaccine this season.

FINANCING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH IN WASHINGTON STATE: CHALLENGES AND CHOICES. Dr. Locke said there is a joint legislative committee looking for a predictable, stable funding source for public health. The committee is beginning to meet and they are reported to be in the early stages of examining the state's public health system. Dr. Locke said once the committee moves further into the funding issues, we will hear more. If they

are successful with their goal of finding a dedicated funding source, they will have a proposal for the 2007 Legislature.

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

Andy Brastad, Environmental Health Services Manager, reported that today was the ground breaking for the Solid Waste Transfer Station. The City owns and maintains the landfill, but the County will continue to monitor the activities that go on at the site.

This year's Household Hazardous Waste Event will likely be the last County sponsored event of this type. We took in 62% more waste than last year, over 50,000 tons. The event was very successful, but cost \$30,000 more than was budgeted. The hope is that the success we have had with annual collection events will be continued by hazardous waste collection at the new Transfer Station.

Andy also reported that on Wednesday he will be talking to the Board of County Commissioners about the Water Quality Specialist position in hopes that it will stay with Environmental Health Services.

**IX. OTHER**

Mr. Tharinger said that the Public Health Services Manager position was not filled, and will be looked at again after the Department Director interviews are completed on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

Addendum to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup> in Bremerton - Targeting: Jefferson, Mason and Kitsap Counties for on-site sewage as relates to marine water quality in Hood Canal.

Walk for Health Fundraiser for the Dungeness Valley Health Clinic October 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9:00 AM in Carrie Blake Park in Sequim.

**XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Report Card for the Public Health Standards Assessment.

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Stehr-Green moved to adjourn the meeting of October 18, 2005 at 3:07 p.m. Mrs. Scott seconded and the motion carried.

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

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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

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Jeanette K. 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 E. Beitzel

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Camille Scott