

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2005**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Michael C. Chapman, Chair
Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Stephen P. Tharinger
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr. ----- left at 2:00
Jim Leskinovitch
John Beitzel
Camille Scott ----- left at 3:15

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Dr. Stehr-Green asked for a follow up from Dr. Locke on the Chlamydia letters that went out to the school districts. She also requested a discussion about the signage outside the courthouse regarding "wheelchair accessible entrances". She stated that they seem a little confusing as to where the signs are referring to. Mr. Chapman asked JoAnne Dille to meet with maintenance staff for a review of the issue. Dr. Stehr-Green moved to approve the agenda with the additions. Mr. Tharinger seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tharinger moved to adopt the minutes of January 18, 2005. Mrs. Scott seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Mary Selecky reappointed as Secretary of Washington State Department of Health. Dr. Locke said that some cabinet members were invited to reapply for their positions with the new Governor. Mary Selecky reapplied for her position and went through the regular process, including an interview, and was reappointed as Secretary of the Dept. of Health.

Dr. Locke said Ms. Selecky is planning a visit to Jefferson County soon and we will be trying to get her to come back to Clallam some time later this year.

Mr. Beitzel said he would like to see Ms. Selecky come to their Health Fair. Dr. Locke said her availability has to do with the time of year and competing demands, but is always worth an invitation.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Dr. Paul Stehr-Green said the PHAC met on February 2, 2005. They discussed prioritizing what they feel are the most important Clallam County health issues that they would like to review. In a future Board of Health meeting, Dr. P. Stehr-Green will be bringing those issues the Committee finds most important to the Board for further direction.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Clallam County Food Safety Code – Revision vs. Repeal. Robin Munroe distributed a draft document to the Board of the changes to the new food code. In November 2004, the State

approved the new food code which is scheduled to take effect May 2005. Staff are preparing for the local changes.

Dr. Locke said that the state code revision was driven, in part, by the state restaurant association being very unhappy with county-to-county variations in food codes. Among other problems, this created difficulties for statewide franchises to standardize their training programs. The restaurant association was successful two years in a row in persuading the Legislature to take away the authority of local boards of health over local food codes. The Governor vetoed these bills before they became law, but it was seen as a clear sign that major changes were needed with the system. Parties got together and decided there would be a consistent statewide code that would be comprehensive and would link up with the federal code food code. This new code puts the food service industry, local health and the state are all on the same page.

Andy said the state would like the counties to all incorporate the same standards as the state and not to be more stringent than what is required. The code is very comprehensive and based on the best available science, so it is a good set of codes to follow without needing a lot of interpretation.

In the draft document that Robin handed out, the stricken language is that which is already addressed in the new state code and what is left is current Clallam County food code standards that do not exist in the state code. Staff asked the Board if they would like to see Clallam County adopt the new state code as it is, or if they would like to see the state code adopted with a supplemental county code specific for Clallam County.

There was a discussion about an appeals process. The current code does not have a detailed appeals process. Dr. Locke suggested that the appeals process used for Methamphetamine Lab Clean Up code would be an excellent model to use as it fully meets modern due process standards.

Dr. Locke said his recommendation would be that the Board adopt the state code by reference to establish local food safety authority and include an updated appeals process to protect due process rights of appellants. Additional procedures or policy decisions (e.g. whether to set specific action demerit point thresholds for restaurant closures) could then be implemented through Board of Health food safety policies.

The Board decided to refer this issue to the Public Health Advisory Committee for further review and then come to the Board with a recommendation. The adoption of the new local code will go through a public hearing process. The Board will be asked to call for a public hearing when a draft code revision has been completed..

- B. Managing On-Site Sewage System in Marine Areas – HB 1458/SB 5431. Andy reported on two Bills that have to do with On-site systems. Staff have been following HB1458 very closely. The bill would require all counties with marine shoreline and designated areas of concern to develop Operations & Maintenance for each septic system and issue annual operating certificates for each system. There are two counties that have tried this and it has not been very successful without the public's buy-in. So this means a lot of time and money will be spent on developing a program with no assurance that it will actually help solve the problem.

Environmental Health Directors, Department of Ecology and the Puget Sound Action Team got together and the Environmental Health Directors said that adequate funding is a prerequisite for the programs to be effective. The problem with the O&M program is that no one has been able to solve the stable funding issue, so the programs come and go. Problems with marine water quality are very real, but only effective programs that significantly reduce non-point pollution will help restore threatened shorelines.

The Legislation is headed toward a provision about trying to develop some kind of stable funding mechanism regionally throughout Puget Sound to have a grant program that would fill in the gap.

Andy said that there are other Bills that he is watching and will continue to watch and report to the Board of any changes that will affect Clallam County.

VIII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. 2005 Assessment of Public Health Standards and Performance. JoAnne Dille, Director of Health & Human Services, reported that:
- The next state-wide assessment of the State Department of Health and Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) performance to the Standards will begin in April 2003. The same consulting firm, MCCP Healthcare Consulting, Inc, will be conducting the onsite reviews, and reporting results of findings in November 2005. Local findings will be reported to each LHJ only; aggregate data will be reported that compares LHJ's performance compared to its baseline performance in 2002, as well as a comparison to other similar sized LHJs, and LHJs state-wide.
 - The Department will be actively engaged in conducting a Self-Assessment Review and reporting documentation of performance to measures of the standards. MCCP will be conducting our actual on-site review on May 19, 2005.
 - In a joint meeting of the Board of Health and the Public Health Advisory Committee held in June 2003, she provided a comprehensive report describing the Department's work in 2002, progress towards achieving its strategic goals, as well as performance to the public health standards and results of the 2002 standards baseline assessment. A similar report will be provided that will provide a comprehensive description of the Department's work in 2004, progress towards strategic goals, and results of the 2005 standards assessment compared to baseline assessment.

Dr. Locke said he and Ms. Dille will be discussing this further at the March Board meeting because in addition, the Public Health Improvement Plan 2004 document has finally been completed and published. This publication will accompany the further discussion.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. 2005 Legislative Session – Public Health Issue Review. Dr. Locke distributed the legislative tracking sheet used by WSALPHO. Dr. Locke brought a few Bills to the Board's attention. The big focus of local public health this year is finding a stable, long-term, dedicated funding source. There are three Bills before the legislature right now that have to do with Public Health funding. HB1818, sets up an emergency fund to deal with communicable disease outbreaks. SB5700, goes for the unused taxing authority of public hospital districts creating a fund to support local public health and uncompensated healthcare. HB1737 sets up a Public Health funding study to figure out how to find a stable, predictable, adequate funding source that doesn't create other problems.

As a local Board of Health, Dr. Locke explained that the Board can take positions, write letters of support and try to influence the legislative process as they see fit.

Dr. Locke briefly reviewed a few other Bills, but let the Board members know that they could also look at the website www.leg.wa.gov for the status of any Bills of their individual interests.

- B. Influenza Season 2004-2005, Avian Flu Update and Vaccine Policy Debate. Washington State is now listed as widespread activity with the highest rates in the northwest. School absenteeism is up, although we don't know how much is influenza and how much is other viral infections. The midwest and east coast also have widespread activity.

The CDC has put out another update on the Avian Flu. This strain of influenza has become endemic in bird populations in Asia. In some areas, they are seeing cases cross over to humans. Last year there were 55 humans with the infection, 42 of whom died. This strain lacks the ability to move efficiently from human to human. There is no telling whether it will eventually incorporate the right genes to spread human to human, although there are a few cases of "suspected" human to human transmission.

Dr. Locke discussed the Washington Post article regarding the influenza vaccine. Vaccine distributors are not taking orders for the vaccine right now at the time of year they would normally do it. So, there is much uncertainty about how much vaccine we will have and how much public demand there will be for it next year.

- C. Region 2 Isolation and Quarantine Conference, February 3, 2005 – Planning for a Public Health Emergency. A regional conference was held at Fort Lewis, attended by Law Enforcement, Health Care Providers, Hospitals, Public Health, and Legal Professionals all together to discuss how we would implement isolation and quarantine. We have state codes in effect to give clear authority. We have developed legal documents giving us the authority to isolate and quarantine. The monumental community task would be pulling it all together. The purpose of the conference was to bring all of the players together. One group that wasn't able to attend were the Judges.

Dr. Locke did a presentation at the conference about the history of isolation and quarantine. He will prepare a reduced version of the presentation and show it to the Board at an upcoming Board meeting.

X. OTHER

Dr. Locke said public health has been working on a media campaign and outreach to providers regarding chlamydia. He said the letters regarding chlamydia went out to the school boards and he and Lyell Fox, Nurse for Clallam County Public Health, will be going to speak to the different school boards and reporting back to the Board of Health in March or April with an update.

Dr. Locke added that he will notify the Board of Health members as to when those specific dates are and encouraged any member to attend any or all of the meetings.

The Board would like to have a regular meeting held in Forks or at another location within the County sometime this year. They will discuss further at the regularly scheduled meeting in March.

XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Beitzel moved to adjourn the meeting of February 15, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Stehr-Green 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