

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
JANUARY 15, 2008**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 P.M. by John Beitzel, Chair.

Present: John Beitzel, Chair
 Michael C. Chapman
 Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.
 Gary Smith
 Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D.
 Stephen P. Tharinger

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as presented.

III. ELECTION OF BOARD OF HEALTH CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2008

Steve Tharinger moved Commissioner Mike Chapman be Chair and Camille Scott be Vice-chair of the Board of Health for 2008. Gary Smith seconded and the motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2007 MEETING

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the minutes. John Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Tom Locke reported on a new Washington State law regarding hospital acquired infections. Infections associated with intravenous catheters that are placed near the heart (known as "central lines") will be reportable starting July, 2008. One year later ventilator acquired pneumonia will be reportable and in July of 2010 surgical site infections will be reportable. A statewide advisory committee is working on implementation issues. Dr. Locke and Penny Becker, Ph.D, Olympic Memorial Center's infection control coordinator, serve on this advisory committee.

VII. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Iva Burks reported on the PHAC meeting of January 11, 2008:

- The Committee is in the process of drafting a letter to the five school districts in Clallam County requesting information about their physical education programs and health education curriculum.
- Emily Ferguson, Public Health, presented information regarding the WIC Program.
- Ann Soule, Environmental Health, presented aquifer recharge information.
- The PHAC has identified the need for better signage for promoting hand washing. They will sponsor a competition in the schools to come up with a hand washing sign. HHS will come up with money from their budget for the prizes.
- Norma Turner was re-elected Chair of the PHAC.
- Three members were recommended to the Commissioners for renewal of their terms, they are Clover Gowing, Dan McKeen and Lorraine Wall.
- A new applicant, Carey “Mel” Melmed, was recommended to the Commissioners for appointment to the Committee.

VIII. HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Regulation of Water Fluoridation Additives

Dr. Locke responded to a letter from Dr. Eloise Kailin dated January 2, 2008, regarding safety concerns about fluorosilicic acid (FSA), the commercial product used to fluoridated most community water systems. He reviewed documentation from the Centers for Disease Control and National Sanitation Foundation responding to concerns about FSA. He concluded by reminding the Board that the responsible entity for the Port Angeles municipal water system is the Port Angeles City Council. Municipal water systems are regulated by the State Department of Health, not the local board of health.

B. 2008 Legislative Session Preview

Dr. Locke reported there are very few health policy issues before the legislature this year. The Governor’s focus is on safety issues – patient safety and the appropriate use of regulatory authority.

- House Bill 1825, last session’s effort to solve the public health funding crisis was resubmitted this year and was placed in the “X” file. This does not appear to be a hopeful development.
- There are a number of bills that will be introduced that involve health insurance reform.
- Bill 2428, reporting of multi-drug resistant organisms. The Governor appointed a science panel to look into this issue. Their recommendation was to not make Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA) and other drug resistant organisms reportable to local health departments. The panel recommends there be a voluntary surveillance system for hospital labs to monitor patterns of antibiotic resistance.

IX. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I-901 Enforcement Update

Iva Burks introduced Jill Dole, Clallam County Tobacco Prevention and Control Specialist, to the BOH. They reported on efforts to respond to citizen complaints regarding indoor smoking in public places. Multiple businesses and restaurants have received letters informing them of the law's requirements and seeking compliance with its restrictions.

Dr. Locke reported that enforcement of I-901 requirements can be by local health departments, law enforcement officials, or City/County attorneys. The City of Port Angeles has declined to be an enforcement agent at this time. Clallam County Health and Human Services has been told that it lacks specific authority to issue civil infraction tickets. Other options would be for Clallam County code enforcers to issue civil infraction citations or for the Board of Health to create additional enforcement authority through an ordinance.

Mike Chapman will talk with Jim Jones, Mark Nichols and the Sheriff regarding enforcement issues in the County. He will report back to Iva Burks with his findings.

X. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

January HHS Newsletter

Chris Hurst reviewed the January newsletter, Public Health Press, highlighting the EPT (Expedited Partner Therapy) Project .which began January 2008.

XI. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. On-site Sewage Code Update

- Andy Brastad reported that following last month's public hearing on revised on-site regulations, the draft rule was referred to the prosecutor's office for review. He is waiting for the prosecutor's office to provide comments on the document.
- He received a phone message from a concerned citizen who wanted to make a comment on the draft code. Her concern is she does not want to see the code restrict pumpers' ability to perform inspections on conventional systems. Andy stated the code does allow these inspections.
- The Workgroup is scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis. The next meeting will be January 28. They will discuss the requirements for homeowner training and invite the Washington On-site Association to come to Clallam County to talk about this training.

B. Other Environmental Health Items

- Andy announced Clallam County is on the list to receive a Department of Ecology grant which would begin in 2009 and support a pilot program to teach homeowners to inspect their septic systems and enter their results in an online database. The County will have funding to hire a contractor to set up a homeowner training program. Volunteer homeowners will go through the program at no cost to them. The County will then analyze how well they learned the information in the program, how well they apply what they learned when they do their quality inspection, and how well they are able to report that information back to the County.
- At the January 28th work session, the Commissioners will hear a presentation from a Shore Bank representative on extending the Bank's lending program to homeowners in Clallam County to fund repair of failing septic systems.
- Andy, along with other EH Directors, will speak to the Environmental Health Select Committee in Olympia on January 17, at 1:30 P.M. The Committee has invited EH Directors to speak about water protection/resource issues as they intersect with environmental health programs.

XII. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

The Puget Sound Partnership process will be meeting on January 30th at Jamestown.

XIII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

New funding for immunization and communicable disease control - \$147,000

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____
DAY OF _____ 2008.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

John E. Beitzel, Chair

Camille Scott, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Michael C. Chapman

Stephen P. Tharinger

Gary R. Smith

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, MD