

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
NOVEMBER 21, 2006**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM by Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair.

Present: Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair
 Michael V. Doherty, Jr.
 Gary R. Smith
 Stephen P. Tharinger
 Michael C. Chapman
 Camille Scott
 John E. Beitzel

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The following change to the agenda and all future agendas was proposed:

Add Public Comment section after Approval of Minutes.

Mike Chapman moved to approve the amended agenda. Camille Scott seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2006 Board of Health meeting. Camille Scott seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Howard, of Health Care That Works, spoke to the BOH regarding the use of electronic health records in Clallam County. Harlan Knudson and he are putting together a proposal and hope to receive endorsement from the BOH, Health Officer, County Commissioners, representatives of independent physicians and the hospital. The goal of the project is to make medical records electronically accessible to emergency health care responders. There is an initiative underway by the Washington Health Care Authority, headed by Juan Alinez, to set standards for electronic health records in the State of Washington. These standards will require that all electronic medical record systems have interoperability. The Alinez report is due to be released next week and will be presented to the legislature for action. Mr. Howard reports that this proposed plan has received broad support.

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Additional West Nile Virus (WNV) Cases in Washington State. Dr. Locke reported that there was an unexpected late season surge in WNV cases in Washington. Three human cases have occurred to date. What was surprising, however, was the number of cases among birds, horses and mosquito pools in September and October. The late season animal cases suggest the virus has made a significant penetration into the state and may be a risk factor for increased WNV activity next year. One pattern of spread that has been observed for WNV is a late season invasion one year followed by widespread activity the next year. This pattern of WNV spread was seen in Idaho in 2005 and 2006.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

November 3, 2006 Meeting Report. Dr. Paul Stehr-Green reported the Committee is drafting a new set of by-laws taking into account comments from the BOH as well as others. The PHAC will have a final draft of the by-laws for review by the BOH by early January. Dr. P. Stehr-Green urged that a process be put into place to solicit new Committee members as less than one-half of the potential seats on the Advisory Committee will be filled as of January 1, 2007. Hopefully, the draft by-laws will be enacted early in 2007, new members will be appointed and the Committee can move in a more positive direction.

VII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Public Health Funding (EHCR 4410) Recommendations – Legislative Session Preview. Dr. Locke showed a slide presentation created by the Washington State Association of Public Health Officials on public health financing. The slide show presents conclusions and recommendations from the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing, requesting support for a funding proposal that will be submitted to the legislature by this committee. The slide show also tries to educate people about problems within the public health system and the challenges being faced by local health departments. Dr. Locke asked the Board to look at the presentation critically as it is open to modification. Ultimately, the audience for this presentation will be the Washington State Legislature.

The assigned task of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing was to evaluate the State's public health system and determine whether appropriate levels of services were being provided and how they were being funded. The committee concluded that there are serious gaps in the public health system throughout the state. Moreover, it is a system that has deteriorated within the last decade due to declining funding and increasing demand. Funding has declined by almost 27% in the last decade. Washington is ranked 44th among the states in terms of per capita public health expenditure. Federal funding has supplanted some local funding with bioterrorism and pandemic flu dollars. These are not ongoing appropriations but rather short term funding that will not be there in the foreseeable future. The public health service categories that are in need of additional funding are: communicable disease control, chronic disease and disability prevention, healthy family services, environmental/public health protection, preparedness for health emergencies, access to care and health information.

The estimated gap in the public health system in Washington State per year is somewhere between \$300 and \$400 million per year. The legislature will be considering the Joint Select Committee's proposal that state funding be increased by \$50 million annually for each year of the next biennium. This funding would go into a dedicated account to become part of the regular state budget (supported by a predictable source of funding). Accountability is built into the proposal. Distribution proposals have not been finalized but the goal is that in excess of 90% of these dollars would go to local health departments. On a population basis, Clallam County is 1% of the State's population. 1% of an annual appropriation of \$50 million is \$500,000. These new funds would not address all local public health needs but would be an important step forward. The State recognizes that local governments are already overburdened and that it is unrealistic that they be the source of the additional monies that public health systems need. The Committee, however, is advocating local funding be maintained at current levels.

This month is the kick-off for the difficult but crucial battle in the legislature to address the issue of public health funding. Local and state health officials are hoping to set up a meeting with Representatives Kessler, Van de Wege and Senator Hargrove. If they are not able to set up a meeting before the legislative session, they will need to go to Olympia to make their presentations. The support of the BOH and participation of members is needed as well.

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. New Staff. Andy Brastad introduced two new members of the Environmental Health Team: Jessica Boyd, food program, and Cailin McEachern, on-site program.
- B. On-site Sewage Program Updates.

1. Mr. Brastad addressed the realtor/developer group concerns about a potential backlog of on-site inspections/permits due to recent changes in on-site program staffing. A backlog never materialized and the Environmental Health Department has maintained permitting in a timely manner.
2. Mr. Brastad reported that in the second meeting of the On-site Septic System (OSS) Work Group, the group considered options regarding the necessary inspection of on-site septic systems. The group agreed that the option with the greatest merit for conventional systems (which require inspections every 3 years) is for homeowners, who have received County training, to inspect their systems at 3-year intervals and have a professional inspection at least once every 6 years. Homeowners, who have not received County training, would have their systems professionally inspected every 3 years. For pump systems, which require annual inspections, homeowners would be required to get a professional inspection at least once every 3 years. The County would conduct 10% quality control inspections over the whole program.

The next meeting of the Work Group will be December 11. The OSS website is up and running, thanks to Dan Flynn, at www.clallam.net. The website provides summaries and handouts from the Work Group meetings. As sections of the OSS Management Plan are completed, they will be put on the website for anyone to read.

3. City/County Financing Public Health – In July Mr. Brastad sent the City of Port Angeles an itemized list of expenses resulting from the sewage spill of last summer. The City sent a letter back in August with three questions/comments:
 - i. Show us where we are mandated to pay these expenses.
 - ii. How do you reimburse volunteers?
 - iii. Show us the details on how you defined the closure zones.

No further correspondence on the issue has occurred to date. The Commissioners suggested that Jim Jones and Mark Madsen be notified about this issue.

IX. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. CARE Partnership Update. Iva Burks reported on the November 17th CARE Partnership retreat with the current core membership and some of the coalition chairs in attendance. The focus of the retreat was on the CARE Partnership for older Americans. Harlan Knudson volunteered to draft the operating procedures for the partnership. The draft policies will be reviewed by all the core membership leaders and voted on as to whether the procedures will be enacted. Signed statements of commitment will then be requested from the coalition leaders as well as from the advisory members. Advisory members will be some of the core group members who helped get the group going but now will act in an advisory capacity. Active coalitions are neighbor-to-neighbor, depression, mobility/transportation, tribal, housing, caregiver support and integrated follow-up (with United Way). The last area to be considered by the core and the advisory group is financing. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has made some suggestions as to how that is done. Rental space is being looked at to get the group out of OAAA so that core partnership has its own identity rather than being looked at as part of OAAA. Jamestown S'Klallan has agreed to be the financial agent.
- B. I-901. Another complaint has been filed against a particular group in Port Angeles regarding smoking in public places and places of employment. The County sent a letter to the group telling them to submit their plan of correction by November 20; no reply has been received. The Health Department is working with Mark Nichols, County Attorney, regarding the civil aspects of the complaint as to exactly what needs to be in place for the County to enforce the I-901 requirements. Dr. Locke commented that preliminary advice from our attorney is we may need to pass a civil ordinance in Clallam County to have authority to

issue tickets. Law enforcement officials have this authority currently and may issue citations regarding I-901 violations at the request of local health departments.

X. PROGRAM MANAGER’S REPORT ACTIVITIES

- A. Clallam County Pandemic Influenza Community Forum. Christina Hurst reported a public forum on pandemic flu will be held on November 29. There will be three speakers, Dr. Locke, Betty Dunaway and Bob Martin; each will be taking different perspective. They will focus on preparing the home and family, infection control procedures, and preparing businesses for continuity of operations should a sustained pandemic influenza outbreak occur.

- B. Influenza Vaccine Supply Update. The full shipment of flu vaccine is in and available. Flu clinics began on Monday. The cost is \$30 with a receipt verification to mail to your insurance company; Medicare and Medicaid coupons are accepted and the Health Department will do the billing. The updated shipment of children’s vaccine was just received and is in the process of being distributed to the local health care providers who do their own immunizations. There will be a separate flu clinic on Friday, December 8, at Vern Burton from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The target audience is County and City of Port Angeles employees. The reason this clinic is off-site is because it will be set up as a POD (Point Of Distribution) exercise to practice mass vaccination procedures.

XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Howard, of Health Care That Works, invited anyone interested in being part of this group to contact him.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the November 21, 2006 meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____
DAY OF _____ 2006.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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

John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

Michael C. Chapman

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Stephen P. Tharinger

Gary R. Smith

