

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM  
DECEMBER 19, 2006**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 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  
Camille Scott

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2006 Board of Health meeting. Camille Scott seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Seasonal Influenza Update. Dr. Tom Locke reported that surveillance for seasonal flu has started. A copy of The Influenza Update, released weekly, and reports on influenza activity in Washington, Oregon, the United States and British Columbia were included in the Board's packet. There have been very few cases of influenza reported, mostly in the south part of the state along the Oregon border. Based on this level of activity, it is unlikely that an outbreak of influenza will start before the Christmas season.
- B. Puffing on Polonium. The CDC distributed a fact sheet on Polonium 210 as a bioterrorist & chemical hazard. In the lungs, this radiation is very damaging. It has long been known that Polonium 210 is present in cigarette smoke. It is found in fertilizer used to grow tobacco. Polonium 210 has been linked to the cancer causing nature of cigarette smoking.
- C. "Ready or Not?" National Emergency Preparedness Rankings. Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released the fourth annual "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disasters, and Bioterrorists" report which found that five years after the September 11<sup>th</sup> and anthrax events, emergency public health preparedness is still inadequate in America.

The "Ready or Not?" report contains state-by-state health preparedness scores based on 10 key indicators to assess health emergency preparedness capabilities. All 50 states and the District of Columbia were evaluated. Washington achieved 8 of the 10 possible indicators. The two indicators Washington did not achieve are #5 – Has two weeks hospital bed surge capacity in moderate pandemic and #9 – Does NOT have a nursing workforce shortage.

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

Bylaws Revision Update and Discussion of Advisory Committee Composition. Dr. Paul Stehr-Green reported the work group revising the PHAC bylaws has completed the process and distributed the draft document to current members and former members that could be contacted. Proposed

revisions will be discussed at the January 5, 2007 PHAC meeting. Comments to the work group favor a change in the criteria for advisory committee membership to encourage more community participation. Dr. P. Stehr-Green invited BOH members to attend the January PHAC meeting to discuss the revisions. The goal is to enact the bylaws early in 2007 and appoint new members so the Committee can move forward in a positive direction.

## **VII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. PHAC. A formal advertisement for new PHAC members was sent to the local newspapers for publication later this week and an announcement was made at the Makah Center during a meeting on December 13 for people interested in becoming members.
- B. Reviewing Rates. The committee reviewing the Public Health and Environmental Health fee rates hopes to finalize proposed revisions by the end of December and take them to the PHAC.
- C. County Employees' Breakfast. It was noted that gloves were worn for the first time by the servers at the annual employees' breakfast earlier this month. This increased attention to food safety was applauded.
- D. Thanks From Complainant. The gentleman attending the BOH meeting in October has thanked the Board for encouraging the Eagles Club to become a non-smoking establishment.

## **VIII. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT ACTIVITIES**

- A. Christine Hurst reported that a pandemic flu POD (Point of Distribution) exercise was held on December 8, 2006. This was the first time meds were administered (i.e., flu shots to County and City employees) as part of the exercise scenario. Next practice will be a table top exercise in March in partnership with the two hospitals.
- B. A regional pandemic flu plan is in its final stages of preparation. It will be submitted to the Department of Health by the end of December.

## **XI. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Liz Maier reported that the On-Site Septic (OSS) System Work Group met in October, November and December. No formal recommendations have been adopted. However, there is consensus that the County should continue the Septic 101 education program. During the second meeting the group discussed septic system inspections. They are leaning towards a hybrid option that would involve homeowners, septic professionals and septic system management entities. In the third meeting, on December 11, the primary subject of discussion was financing options for the county's OSS program and mechanisms for providing financial assistance to homeowners for repairs and replacements. The work group reviewed a financing issue paper that the consultant prepared. The group is leaning towards some sort of utility fee that would be paid by owners of septic systems. They also discussed pumping fees as a potential financing mechanism but there was some opposition by the pumpers to the county assessing pumping fees.
- B. Janine Reed reported the on-site program is going well. The new staff is getting trained and the permit applications are being processed in a timely manner.

## **X. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

- A. Initiative 901 Enforcement Revisited – Jefferson County Clean Indoor Air Regulation. Dr. Tom Locke and HHS Director Iva Burks have met with the County Attorney to look at the legal process for issuing civil infractions for I-901 violations. The Attorney recommends looking at other counties such as Jefferson County where a defined, multi-step process has been set up. A copy of the Jefferson County Board of Health's Clear Indoor Air ordinance was provided to the Board for their review. Dr. Locke noted that no civil infraction tickets have been issued in

Jefferson County to date. Non-punitive enforcement strategies have been successful in achieving compliance with indoor smoking restriction adopted by Washington voters over one year ago.

I-901 divides enforcement responsibilities between local health departments and law enforcement agencies. Efforts are underway to convene a meeting between representatives of the health department, Sheriff's department, and the 3 city police departments to discuss cooperative enforcement efforts.

- B. Public Health Funding Efforts – Next Steps. Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green distributed copies of the proposed Clallam County Board of Health Resolution supporting the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the joint select committee on public health financing. This resolution will be sent to Clallam County's legislative delegation.

After discussion, Camille Scott moved to support the findings of the resolution. Steve Tharinger seconded and the motion carried.

**XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

**XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Election of Officers
- B. Rate Setting – Fee Schedule Discussion
- C. PHAC Bylaws revisions

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Al Lapin asked if private clubs are claiming to be exempt from I-901. Dr. Locke stated that in addition to being private clubs, they must have no employees to be exempt from I-901's restrictions.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Gary Smith moved to adjourn the December 19, 2006 meeting. Steve Tharinger seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 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

