

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM
MARCH 21, 2006**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair.

Present: Michael C. Chapman
Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.
John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair
Jim Leskinovitch
Steve Tharinger

Excused: Camille Scott

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Dr. Locke asked that two items be added to the agenda: 1) information about a trip to the West End and 2) a discussion of the letter of support for a veteran's clinic in Port Angeles. Mike Doherty asked to add an informational item regarding the negotiations with Virginia Mason about the clinic in Port Angeles.

Michael Chapman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jim Leskinovitch seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green noted that the wrong version of the draft February minutes were sent out with the BOH packets and the final draft version was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. An additional change was noted correcting the signature line on the minutes.

Michael Chapman moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2006 Board of Health meeting with the noted changes. Jim Leskinovitch seconded and the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Region 2 Winter Newsletter. Dr. Locke distributed a newsletter that is primarily targeted for health care providers in Region 2 (Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties). The newsletter includes Communicable Disease Surveillance Data for the final quarter of 2005 in a new format designed to make comparisons between counties easier.

B. I-901 Update. The tobacco program is working on a "rebuttal" policy for people who wish to challenge the 25 foot no smoking zone required around doors, windows, and other entrances to buildings covered by the Clean Indoor Air Act. The Board was asked whether they would like to serve as an appeals board for administrative decisions made regarding rebuttal requests. After discussion, members supported including the Board in the policy as an appeals board for decisions made by the Health and Human Services Director. The hope was expressed that adding a local appeals process would prevent appeals to Superior Court. A draft rebuttal policy will be on the April BOH meeting agenda.

C. Public Health Op Ed Article – Drs. Stehr-Green and Stehr-Green. Drs. Paul Stehr-Green and Jeanette Stehr-Green presented a draft letter that will be sent to the editor of the Peninsula Daily News for possible publication. This letter was written in support of Public Health Week which occurs from April 3 – 9. The letter was an opportunity for Drs. Stehr-Green and Stehr-Green to express some of their opinions regarding public health.

Michael Chapman moved to support the editorial letter written by the Stehr-Green's. John Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

- D. Trip Planned to the West End of Clallam County. Michael Doherty will be hosting a trip to the West End of Clallam County on 3/22/06. Dr. Locke, Health Officer, and Iva Burks, Director of HHS, will be joining him to visit various locations (Chamber of Commerce, Forks Hospital, Tribal Clinics and Neah Bay). Room is available for one additional passenger. If any Board members are interested in accompanying the group, they should contact Mike Doherty.
- E. Support Letter Regarding Negotiations with Virginia Mason Clinic. Mike Doherty spoke briefly to the committee about sending a letter of support for Virginia Mason clinic negotiations. The letter would include commending Olympic Medical Center and Virginia Mason for continued negotiations and their efforts to work toward a solution.

Steve Tharinger moved to send a letter to Virginia Mason and Olympic Medical Center to support their efforts in regards to the Virginia Mason clinic closure. Mike Doherty seconded and the motion carried.

V. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Dr. Paul Stehr-Green reported that he was re-elected as chair of the Public Health Advisory Committee for 2006. He expressed his hope that committee members become more involved in the work of the committee. The committee will be looking at goals and implementation strategies for 2006 at the next PHAC meeting.

The Win-Win With Walking program is ready for kick-off. There will be two meetings with the residents of Diamond Point and Sunland to collect registrations and health information in the upcoming weeks.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Clean Water Work Group Status Report. Andy Brastad, Director of Environmental Health, and members of the Clean Water Work Group presented information about the various activities currently underway to identify and remediate sources of bacterial pollution entering Dungeness Bay. The goal is to restore Dungeness Bay water quality to Shellfish Sanitation regulation standards so that the commercial and recreational shell beds can be re-opened. Information was shared regarding the background for the Dungeness Bay shellfish closure, the projects underway, and the various entities involved.

VII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Volunteer Recognition Recommendations. Iva Burks, Director of Health & Human Services, spoke to the committee about the volunteer efforts in our department. She would like to recognize the volunteers within the department of Health & Human Services during National Volunteer Week which occurs April 23-29, 2006. The committee agreed they would support the recognition of the volunteers with a letter and a certificate acknowledging their efforts.

VIII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. National Public Health Week, April 3-9, 2006. Dr. Locke reported that National Public Health Week will occur on April 3-9, 2006. He discussed a brochure that was distributed by the American Public Health Association. The theme of this year's Public Health Week is "Designing Healthy Communities: Raising Healthy Kids."
- B. 2006 Legislative Session Wrap-Up. Dr. Locke shared the 2006 supplemental budget highlights of interest to counties. Dr. Locke reported that Senate Bill 6366 (Influenza pandemic planning bill for local health departments) has passed with several million dollars in new appropriations. In addition, the Department of Health was given \$100,000 for monitoring and detecting flu activity in the 2006 budget.

Senate Bill 5305 also passed which prohibits administering vaccines to pregnant women that contain more than trace amounts of the ethyl mercury containing preservative Thimerosal. Pregnant women are in a priority group for influenza vaccination and adequate supplies of preservative-free influenza vaccine will not be available for the next flu season. Public health professionals are strongly opposed to bills of this type since extensive scientific research supports the safety of thimerosal use in vaccines.

- C. Avian Influenza H5N1 – impacts on wild birds, commercial poultry growers, and backyard poultry growers. Dr. Locke highlighted an informational fact sheet about the global spread of avian influenza in wild birds included in the Board's packet. A draft question and answer fact sheet for use by Environmental Health Division staff receiving "dead bird" calls was also distributed.
- D. Veteran's Clinic Support Letters. Dr. Locke spoke to the Board about two different letters of support for local veteran outpatient services: one that supports several different veterans' clinic models and another that focuses on the "virtual clinic" proposal. After discussion, the Board felt the letter that supported the virtual clinic proposal offered the best strategy for improving veteran's health services in the near future.

IX. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

- A. Public Hearing. There will be a public hearing on March 28, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. on a sales tax increase to support mental health, substance abuse, and therapeutic court services.

X. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- ❖ Possible letter to ORCA (Olympic Region Clean Air Agency) thanking them for placing a full-time employee in a Port Angeles office for issues pertaining to air quality.
- ❖ I-901 rebuttal process policy

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting of March 21, 2006 at 3:45 p.m. Michael Doherty seconded and the motion carried.

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:

Tammy M. Davidson, Clerk of the Board

Michael C. Chapman

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Stephen P. Tharinger

Jim Leskinovitch

Camille Scott