

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
APRIL 17, 2007**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 P.M. by John Beitzel, Chair.

Present: John Beitzel, Chair
 Michael C. Chapman
 Stephen P. Tharinger
 Michael V. Doherty, Jr.
 Jeanette Stehr-Green

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to approve the agenda. Mike Doherty seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2007 MEETING

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the minutes. Jeanette Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Flu Update. Dr. Tom Locke, announced that influenza cases have dropped to low levels in Washington State. He reviewed the NVSN Influenza Laboratory-Confirmed Cumulative Hospitalization Rates for Children 0-4 Years, 2006-07 and Previous 6 Seasons. Rates for the 2006-2007 season were lower than recent years, making for a welcome "mild" flu season.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Dr. Allen Lapin reported on the April 13, 2007, PHAC meeting:

- The PHAC is in the process of amending the rules for public presentation to the Committee so future presentations will be succinct and issue oriented.
- A prioritized list of the direction the PHAC is going was established. At the top of the list are creating a volunteer force to enhance public health programs. Other priorities include activating retired educators, forming a speaker's bureau, designating heroes of public health, and a short monthly column in the County newspapers.

VII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Department of Health and Human Services Fee Schedule Revision. Iva Burks requested the Board set a public hearing for the Public and Environmental Health fee schedules, which were presented to the Board on March 17. She requested the hearing be held May 15, during the BOH meeting.

Steve Tharinger moved to call for a public hearing on the fee schedule for the May 15, BOH meeting. Jeanette Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. 2007 Environmental Health Workplan. Andy Brastad reviewed the Environmental Health Department's accomplishments for 2006 and their goals for 2007.
- B. On-site Sewage System Management Plan. Andy reviewed the Final Work Group Recommendations which are 90% - 95% complete. There are a few items requiring further discussion at the last scheduled meeting to be held Monday, April 23rd, 6:00 P.M., at which time he is hoping to finalize the recommendations. The Executive Director of the Washington State On-site Association has been invited to this meeting to talk to the group about the Association's training programs. Andy invited the BOH to also attend. Two public workshops were held last week: Wednesday, April 11th, the meeting was held in Forks with approximately 50 people in attendance; Thursday, April 12th, the meeting was held in the Sequim/Carlsborg area with approximately 100 people in attendance. Many questions and comments were received and will go back to the OSSM Planning Group members for review. Andy called for a public hearing to be held on May 15th, at the BOH meeting on the plan to be adopted by the workgroup Monday, April 23.

Steve Tharinger moved to call for a public hearing for the draft submitted by the workgroup for the Clallam County On-site Septic Management Plan on May 15, at the BOH meeting. Jeanette Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. Dr. Stacy Snowden. Dr. Tom Locke introduced Dr. Stacy Snowden, Family Practice Resident, who is spending the month with Port Angeles Family Practice and is learning about public health practice as part of her training program.
- B. Legislative Update – PH Funding.
1. Dr. Locke reported HB 1825 got out of the House with a unanimous vote; however, it died in the Senate. The effort now is to resurrect this bill and attach it to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Health Commission bill with proposed appropriations ranging from \$10 to \$25 million. This money will likely be targeted at communicable disease control.
 2. One public health bill that passed, clarifies jurisdictional issues around shellfish protection districts. Another bill that hasn't passed but looks likely to do so would allow the local Health Officer to assess a \$1,000/day fine for violation of on-site sewage system regulations.
- C. Cryptococcus Gattii Surveillance. A variant of the fungal infection *Cryptococcus neoformans* (which causes serious lung and central nervous system infections in people with immunodeficiency disorders) was discovered on Southern Vancouver Island in the late 1990's. Named *Cryptococcus gattii*, this fungus can infect people with normal immune systems and cause illness ranging from mild respiratory infections to deadly central nervous system disease. Cases of *C. gattii* currently average around 25 cases per year in British Columbia.

C. gattii appears to have become established on Southeastern Vancouver Island and there is evidence of it spreading to the Canadian mainland and the Gulf Islands. Global climate change leading to a warmer, drier climate may be one of the factors allowing this tropical fungus to establish itself in the Pacific Northwest. The Olympic Peninsula, especially the "rain shadow" portion along its Northeastern edge, has a similar climate as the affected areas in Canada. Presently there is no active environmental surveillance project going on for this. Efforts are underway to encourage a joint surveillance project between British Columbia, Washington State, and Peninsula Community College. Dr. Locke recommends that the Clallam and Jefferson County health departments participate in tracking human cases and environmental monitoring.

X. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Christina Hurst reported:

- The Public Health Department will be moving out of their area to allow work crews to replace/clean the carpeting/flooring April 23 through May 1.
- Epidemiology Team Training will be held next week, April 19. There are four members from the Environmental Health section and four members from the Public Health section that will be participating in this training.
- Governor Gregoire has proclaimed May to be Washington State Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month. Chris will request the Clallam County Commissioners proclaim the same for the County giving the Health Department an opportunity to do more widespread education about viral hepatitis in our County.
- Public Health events during the month of May:
 - May 1 - asking for the proclamation from the commissioners with a focus on hepatitis C. This will include two weeks of Hepatitis C screening, on-site, at the syringe exchanges.
 - May 23 - public presentation at the Hospital, in Linkletter Hall, by communicable disease nurse, Beverly Simmons, of an overview of hepatitis A, B and C.
 - May 30 – the State Department of Health asked Clallam County's Public Health Department to present on the County 's activities related to hepatitis C at the statewide conference
 - May 31 - educational presentation for providers in the community

XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

- Mike Doherty announced Clallam County has a NASA grant where Peninsula College will have a control center funded to teach students how to read data, received from a satellite, that has been transmitted from, for example, sensors in a creek. The information could then be sent to the general public, Health Officer or other appropriate agency.
- Mike Doherty also announced, on May 5th a group of students from the University of Washington are coming to the Peninsula. These students are pursuing careers in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and health administration and are interested in working in rural areas. Dr. Locke will be part of the panel presentation at Olympic Medical Center.

XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Health Officer Schedule conflict May 15th Board of Health meeting. Dr. Locke requested he be excused from the May 15th, BOH meeting due to his attendance at the Cross Borders Emergency Preparedness Conference on May 15 and 16, in Victoria, B.C.

XIII PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Dr. Allen Lapin noted the Juan de Fuca Festival would be a good venue to reach and educate people regarding Hepatitis C.
- Dr. Lapin also suggested testing for *Cryptococcus gattii* at tire and brake shops.
- Mike Doherty announced that Peter Ripley, who previously presented the Board of County Commissioners with a disability assistance trust organization concept paper, has asked the BOCC to find a way to help him start a group to help people with maintenance and repair problems in their scooters and wheelchairs.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Steve Tharinger moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeanette Stehr-Green seconded and the meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____
DAY OF _____ 2007.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D.

ATTEST:

John E. Beitzel, Chair

Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

Michael C. Chapman

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Stephen P. Tharinger

Gary R. Smith

Camille Scott, Vice Chair