

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FORKS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL – CONFERENCE ROOM  
AUGUST 15, 2006**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:50 PM by Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair.

Present: Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair  
John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair  
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.  
Gary R. Smith  
Stephen P. Tharinger  
Camille Scott

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Jeanette Stehr-Green proposed the following addition/changes to the agenda under Old Business and Informational Items:

1. Health Needs of the Hispanic Community – presented by guests, Patsy Brown and Manuela Velasquez
2. November 7, 2003, Community Health Forum Report: An In-Depth Look at the Health of the West End
3. Vibriosis Outbreaks from Hood Canal Oysters
4. Expansion Plans for Forks Community Hospital

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mike Doherty seconded and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2006 Board of Health meeting. Gary Smith seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Health Needs of the Hispanic Community. Patsy Brown, Community Health Coordinator for Forks Community Hospital, and Manuela Velasquez, Family Educator with Early Childhood Assistance Program through the Quillayute Valley School District, shared their perspectives with the Board on the lifestyle and health needs of the Hispanic community in the Forks (West End) area. The Latino community on the West End is a mixture of many cultures with different languages, demographic characteristics, and belief systems. Because of the seasonal nature of the work many Latinos perform and the fluctuation of their income throughout the year, it is difficult for them to obtain health care coverage. In addition, due to cultural barriers, many Latinos are reluctant to access preventive care and mental health services. For these reasons, provision of necessary health care services to this community is extremely challenging. Based on Ms. Brown's and Ms. Velasquez' experiences and observations, the top three health issues concerning Latinos on the West End are diabetes, dental care coverage, and mental health needs. In addition, counselors who know the culture and the language of the people are greatly needed.
- B. November 7, 2003 Community Health Forum Report: An In-Depth Look at the Health of the West End. Tom Locke highlighted the major findings of a report on the Health of the West End, prepared in 2003 by Stacie Neff. This report is Health and Human Services' most recent effort to look at demographics and health care access issues on the West End (west of Lake Crescent).

- C. Vibriosis Outbreak from Hood Canal Oysters. New York, Oregon and Washington have had higher than usual numbers of vibriosis cases this year (97 case reports in Washington); most of the cases are due to eating oysters. The current outbreak in the Hood Canal area is one of the largest that we have seen in recent years. Vibriosis is caused by a marine bacterium, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, that multiplies during warm weather and can contaminate shellfish. The bacterium is killed by adequate cooking. People who eat raw oysters harvested from contaminated waters are at risk for the infection. As long as warm weather continues, this outbreak will likely continue.
- D. Expansion Plans for Forks Community Hospital. Camille Scott presented an overview of the remodeling project currently underway at the Forks Community Hospital. The surgery area, built in the 50's, is being expanded from 1800 square feet to 6500 square feet. This project is due to be completed October 2006.

#### IV. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

- A. Project SEARCH. Iva Burks reported that Paula Johnson, representing Project SEARCH (an organization encouraging businesses to employ people with developmental disabilities) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Project's history and accomplishments to the PHAC. The Committee will review a draft resolution, submitted by Committee member Harlan Knudson, about endorsement of some of the SEARCH principles and consider whether they wish to encourage Clallam County businesses to employ people with disabilities
- B. Guidelines for PHAC Advocacy Positions. Paul Stehr-Green, Committee Chair, will interview the Commissioners, BOH members, Tom Locke, Iva Burks, Andy Brastad and Christina Hurst to gather information about the desired role of PHAC and to develop guidelines for the Committee to take advocacy positions.

#### VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Staffing Updates. Andy Brastad reported changes in Environmental Health's staffing. A resignation and transfers have resulted in openings in the food and on-site programs. Interviews are scheduled for these two positions this week. Jennifer Garcelon, Environmental Health Specialist who has worked in the department for eight years, will be the lead program person for the food program until the end of the year.
- B. On-Site Sewage Management Plan Development. Both the State Board of Health and the Legislature have required the 12 Puget Sound counties to submit on-site sewage system management plans to the Department of Health by July 1, 2007. Andy reviewed the process his department will follow to accomplish this. A consulting firm has been hired to facilitate the process. The Health Officer will submit the plan to the Department of health, but the Board of Health will ultimately be responsible for incorporating the plan into a revised on-site sewage code. The Plan will be developed chapter-by-chapter with ongoing BOH review. The plan will be available on the County website.

#### VII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Program Updates. Iva Burks shared the following program updates with the committee:
- Public Health Program Manager, Christina Hurst, will start September 11, 2006. A conditional job offer for the position of dietician has been given to a candidate who is bilingual and bicultural.
  - On August 25, 2006, there will be a Strategic National Stockpile Exercise at Peninsula Community College. Medication distribution will be the focus of this exercise.

- The 2007 budget has been submitted to the Commissioners. A proposal to increase fees to reflect cost increases will be submitted to the Board of Health in conjunction with the budget process.

**VI. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mandatory Health Care Worker Vaccination Follow-up. Tom Locke reported he took this issue to the state's health officers. They decided to seek a resolution from the Washington State Medical Association to support a statewide mandate by the State Board of Health. The Association's annual meeting is scheduled for the middle of September. The 2006-2007 influenza vaccine will likely become available in October.

**IX. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

- David Freed, Coordinator of Clallam County Beach Watchers, has invited Board members, physicians and health care providers in the community to a lecture on "Harmful Algal Blooms" by Anthony Odell, Olympic Region Coastal Monitoring Coordinator. The lecture will be held at the Emergency Operations Center in the Clallam County Courthouse on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM.
- John Beitzel distributed brochures for the Olympic Peninsula Health Fair to be held Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 3 PM at the Sequim High School Gymnasiums, 601 North Sequim Avenue.
- At the end of the meeting Camille mentioned an Open House for the Hospital's newly remodeled surgery area will be held on September 30.

**X. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of August 15, 2006 was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2006.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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

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John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair

Absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael C. Chapman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen P. Tharinger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary R. Smith

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

