

**MINUTES
CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2008 AT 1:30 – 3:30 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 P.M. by Michael Chapman, Chair.

Present: **Michael C. Chapman, Chair**
Camille Scott, Vice-Chair
Howard V. Doherty, Jr.
John E. Beitzel,
Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, MD
Betsy Wharton, City Representative

II. Agenda Review and Approval

Betsy Wharton moved to approve the agenda as modified. Jeanette Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2008 Meeting

John Beitzel moved to approve the minutes and Jeanette Stehr-Green seconded the motion. Betsy Wharton obtains due to being absent. All others were in approval and the motion carried.

New item, new type of HIV testing

IV. Public Comments (3 minute time limit, may include agenda items)

None

V. Old Business and Informational Items

1. Newborn Screening in Washington State

Dr. Tom Locke reviewed August 12, 2008 news release from the Washington State Department of Health Newborn Screening. An additional 14 tests have been added to the statewide screening profile. The cost for the test is \$65.00 for 25 tests. Newborn screening tests are performed on all children born in Washington State and are designed to detect rare but serious health conditions in the first few weeks of life. Washington State has gone from having a newborn screening system that lagged behind other states to a national model for newborn screening.

2. West Nile Virus Found in Eastern Washington Mosquito Pools and Horses

Dr. Tom Locke discussed news release dated August 1, 2008. The article states that the best way to prevent horses from contracting the west nile virus is to have them vaccinated.

Dr. Tom Locke reported that the first human case of west Nile virus has been confirmed in Washington State. A blood donor in Seattle tested positive for the virus. Dr. Locke added that 80% of the people that are infected do not know that they have the virus, 20% will have fever and flu like symptoms and at least 1 out of 150 cases will develop a potentially life threatening form of encephalitis.

HIV update

Dr. Tom Locke reviewed newsletter regarding new technology available that will help determine when an individual became infected with HIV. The technology will help determine how many new cases of HIV are occurring and what the impacts of different types of prevention are.

3. New Smoking Cessation Benefits for State Medicaid Program

Dr. Tom Locke reported on the new DSHS Medical Program Smoking Cessation Benefit. The new benefit is covered by Medicaid and some private insurance.

VI. Public Health Advisory Committee Report

1. August 8, 2008 Meeting with Washington Health Foundation Representatives re: Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign

Dr. Locke reported that the Public Advisory Committee met Aug 8, 2008, with about 20-30 guests. There was a 3 person delegation from the WA Health Foundation who gave a presentation about the Foundation's Healthiest State in the Nation campaign. They discussed how to link the efforts in Clallam County with those in other counties. Don Sloma presented a health report card that has been developed to measure progress and to determine community health status. Funding is available to help counties participate in the campaign.

VII. Environmental Health Director's Report

1. Washington State Department of Health Approves Clallam County On-Site Sewage Code Revisions

Janine Reed filled in for Andy Brastad.

Janine Reed stated that she received the approval letter from the state regarding the on-site sewage systems code and that it is now ready for signature.

Homeowner Septic System Classes are complete. Janine stated that the classes were well received by the public and homeowners are starting to inspect their systems and report results to the Environmental Health Department.

2. Clallam County Fair Report

Janine Reed updated the Board about the new location of the HHS/Environmental Health Booth at the County Fair. The booth was located in the merchants building. They hosted the annual glow germ event, which is

always well received by the public. There were 742, adults as well as children participating in the event.

The booth was located next to the food court and many were observed making use of the hand washing stations made available this year by the health department.

VIII. Health Officer's Report

1. Childhood Vaccination Rates – Rising Levels of Personal Exemptions and their Public Health Impacts

Dr. Locke briefly explained the importance of childhood vaccinations and pointed out that there is a rising level of vaccination exemptions in WA State. Most exemptions are for “personal” rather than medical or religious reasons. It is thought that as many as half of these exemptions fall into the category known as “convenience exemptions”. This refers to exemptions sought by parents who do not have records or find it inconvenient to get their children’s immunizations caught up. Parents in this situation can sign an exemption form and are no longer obliged to show proof of adequate immunization. Current efforts to reduce exemption rates focus on working with schools and parents to stress the importance of being fully immunized and find ways to make it easy for kids to be vaccinated. One popular program has involved scheduling nurses to go to the school to vaccinate kids. The goal is to keep immunization exemption rate down to 2-3% in order to prevent outbreaks of diseases like measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, and whooping cough.

2. Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) Update: Monitoring Strategy for Clallam County

Dr. Locke talked about a information sheet developed for health care providers regarding potential health effects of toxic blue-green algae. Several lakes in Jefferson County have been heavily contaminated with toxin producing forms of cyanobacteria and exposed residents have concerns about adverse health effects. Clallam County is set up to do monitoring of blue green algae levels if the characteristic floating mats of algae (known as “scum layers”) are identified. To date there have been no observations of this condition in publicly accessible lakes in Clallam County.

IX. Health Director's Report

1. Program Updates

August is National Immunization Month.

Iva Burks distributed the 2007 Annual Report for the WIC. Highlights include 2,238 people seen in 2007.

Iva reported that we are in the process of contracting with Kitsap County Health District for technical assistance with the analysis and interpretation of the “Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Report.” The last report was done in 2005. This report will be completed October 2009. Local Capacity is funding the project. We no longer have an epidemiologist on staff due to cut backs.

5930 funds are continuing to push immunizations. We will be doing vaccinations at the school as we have done in the past.

State funding for public health programs is being cut in several different program areas. Oral health funding has dropped from \$33,000 to 1,300.00. Emergency preparedness support is being cut completely, a loss of roughly \$18,000 dollars.

X. Program Manager's Report

1. August HHS Newsletter

The newsletter was distributed in the Board's packet.

XI. Future Meeting Agenda Items

1. Secretary of Health Mary Selecky Confirmed for October 21, 2008 Board of Health Meeting

Dr. Tom Locke stated that the focus of Mary Selecky's visit will be Public Health climate change. Her day will start at 7:30 a.m. She is scheduled to visit the Hospital, the Community Action Low Income Dental Clinic, meet with Health and Human Services staff and attend the Board of Health meeting at 1:30 P.M. Any items that you would like the Board to address with the Secretary of Health should be added to the agenda.

XIII. Public Comment (3 minute time limit, restricted to non-agenda items)

None

XIV. Adjournment

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Doherty and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS ____
DAY OF _____ 2008.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Michael C. Chapman, Chair

ATTEST:

Camille Scott, Vice-Chair

Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Stephen P. Tharinger

John E. Beitzel

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, MD

Betsy Wharton