

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FORKS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
AUGUST 21, 2007**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by John Beitzel, Chair.

Present: John Beitzel, Chair
 Camille Scott, Vice Chair
 Michael C. Chapman
 Stephen P. Tharinger
 Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D.
 Gary Smith

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2007 MEETING

John Beitzel noted the Olympic Peninsula Health Fair was incorrectly referred to as the “Sequim Health Fair.”

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to approve the minutes as amended. Gary Smith seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Department of Health Press Releases – Sexually Transmitted Disease Rates, Adult Smoking Rate, Medical Marijuana Rule Development. Dr. Tom Locke reviewed three recent press releases:

- Sexually Transmitted Disease Rates – Sexually transmitted disease rates continue to increase around the State. In Clallam County they have been stable, at a relatively high rate, for the last several years. In the 15–24 age group, Clallam County is significantly above the state rate and highest in the three county region, for Chlamydia. State and National efforts to reduce STD rates involve recommendations for annual screening for all sexually active females under age 25 and for all others with STD risk factors. Accurate urine screening test for both of these infections has made large scale screening feasible.

- Adult Smoking Rate – Washington State smoking rates continue to decline and is now 5th lowest in the nation. The millions invested in this program will save billions in healthcare costs.
- Medical Marijuana Rule Development Begins – the legislature has required the DOH determine what constitutes a 60-day supply of medical marijuana.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

August 10, 2007 Advisory Committee Meeting Report. Iva Burks reported on items covered during the meeting:

- discussed ideas the PHAC would like to pursue
- received report on the survey done by staff as well as strategic plans
- questions on the previous month's budget presentation

VII. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Forks Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) Site. Dr. Tom Locke reported, depending on when funding becomes available, the program could start October 1, 2007, or at the latest, January 1, 2008. The SEP is being done for three major reasons:

- Prevent the spread of blood borne infections - the most common of which is hepatitis C, then hepatitis B, then HIV
- Public safety measure – to reduce illegal disposal of needles in public places where people (children) are exposed to them
- Face-to-face contact between public health workers and IV drug users – for purposes of trying to get people referred into treatment programs modifying behaviors to reduce the many harms associated with IV drug abuse

The ultimate goal of the SEP is to get people off the street and into treatment; no longer needing to exchange syringes because they aren't using them any more.

Mayor Needra Reed, of Forks, reported on the general community reaction in to the syringe exchange program. She stated there may be small groups that object and there may be an element of fear of arrest by the participants but overall, it will be well received.

The SEP will be at the Health Department one evening each week. Iva Burks stated the projected cost of this program is \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year.

VIII. Health Director's Report

A. West End Public Health Services. Nancy Schiedermayer, Public Health Nurse with Clallam County in Forks, reviewed the programs offered in the West End:

- Maternal Infant Health – children up to 1 year of age not part of the maternity support program.
- Maternity Support Program

- Children 1 – 22 –
- Injury Prevention – car seat installation
- Childcare Program – nurse consultant for licensed day care
- Maternity Support Program – large Hispanic clientele
 - Infant Case Management
- Early Intervention for CPS – home visits with mothers at risk
- Dental referrals
- WIC – huge case load
- Immunizations – vaccines for children, adults and travelers
- STD, CD, HIV testing and counseling
- TB screening and treatment for latent TB
- Vital records
- Food handlers’ registration
- Water samples (intake going to Port Angeles to be tested)
- SEP – soon
- Family Planning
- Pediatrician – once a month

B. Public Health Executive Leadership Forum Meeting Report. Iva Burks reported on the quarterly meeting held recently. One subject talked about at the meeting was workforce development, the aging of the profession. Several people are retiring and few younger people are taking their places. A committee will be looking at this workforce development by interviewing, over the phone, anyone hired in Public Health in Washington State within the last two years, asking how they heard about the job, etc.

They also talked about budget reductions that may be coming from the state passed on from the feds. Two committees have been formed, one to come up with performance indicators and the other to help prioritize the programs public health does. This is for consistency across the state. There will be \$147,000 available for Clallam County.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Enhanced Communicable Disease Control Efforts: Targeted TB Testing. Dr. Tom Locke reported on the issue of improving tuberculosis control. Our efforts to control TB in this state have resulted in a stable level of new cases over the last decade, averaging around 250 active cases per year since the mid 1990’s. The largest homelessness outbreak of TB in the United States right now is in Seattle. TB remains a significant public health issue.

Once a case has been detected, we generally do a good job treating it. Where considerable improvement is needed is in efforts to identify people who are infected with TB but have not yet developed the active disease. The principle test available for detecting latent TB infection, the TB skin test, leaves much to be desired. The first generation of a new blood test for latent TB is now available. The main barrier to greater use of this test is that it must be processed by the lab within 12 hours of being drawn. Currently there are only two labs in the state that perform the test; in Olympia and Spokane. A new test is in the approval process where the specimen doesn’t need

to get to the lab for 5 – 7 days. Clallam County, partnership with Jefferson and Kitsap counties is preparing to launch a “targeted TB testing” program for the West End.

- B. West End Health Care Access Update. Dr. Locke asked Camille Scott to speak on her assessment of how things have been going since the August 2003 Assessment Report. She stated many of the concerns are the same. They began bringing in specialists to treat the chronically ill patients in the area. This has helped identify needs that have since received grant dollars. Patsy Brown works with the Hispanic and Guatemalan communities helping them with their health care needs.
- C. Health Officers’ Forum Report. Dr. Locke reported there is a plan for the State Lottery System to be involved in an adult influenza vaccine promotion involving 350 retail outlets in Washington. The focus will be to extend the vaccination season into November and December and promote other adult vaccines.
- D. Availability of Flu Vaccine. The manufacturers say they are on track. The supplies should start to come in during September and extend through October and November. They will be trying to expand the use of live vaccine to younger children

X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

The 4th Annual Clinic Fun Walk, A Dungeness Valley Health & Wellness Clinic Event, will be held Saturday, September 29, 2007, at Carrie Blake Park. Registration is at Guy Cole Convention Center at 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. The Walk begins at 9:00 A.M.; closing ceremonies at 10:30 A.M.

XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

XIII ADJOURNMENT

Mike Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary Smith seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:28 P.M.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____
DAY OF _____ 2007.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

John E. Beitzel, Chair

Camille Scott, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Michael C. Chapman

Stephen P. Tharinger

Gary R. Smith

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, MD