

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2006**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Chair.

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

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Jeanette Stehr-Green proposed the following change to the agenda due to the possible loss of a quorum before the end of the scheduled meeting:

Move Item X. Next Meeting Agenda Items 1. Cancellation or Rescheduling of October 17, 2006 BOH meeting, before Old Business and Informational Items.

Mike Chapman moved to approve the amended agenda. John Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2006 Board of Health meeting. John Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Jeanette Stehr-Green and Tom Locke noted schedule conflicts with the Board's October 17, 2006 meeting date. They asked that the October meeting either be cancelled or rescheduled. The Board discussed the issue.

John Beitzel moved to reschedule the October 17, 2006 meeting to October 24, 2006 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Steve Tharinger seconded and the motion carried.

**V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A.     West Nile Virus (WNV) Case in Yakima Horse. This report was superseded on the news cycle by Washington State's first confirmed endemic human case of WNV. The case is a Pierce County resident infected in July. It took most of the month of August to complete the confirmatory tests. Human risk of infection in Washington States is negligible at this point. However, it is still recommended that people take precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito bites.
  
- B.     Governor Announces Drop in Adult Smoking Rate. Washington has made a huge investment in tobacco control and prevention. The goal is to be the healthiest state in the nation with the lowest rate of smoking. Washington has made substantial progress towards this goal and now has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest smoking rate in the nation. The current adult smoking rate in Washington State has been estimated at 17.8 percent, dropping from 22.4 percent in 1999.
  
- C.     No HPAI (High Pathogenic Avian Influenza) H5N1 Detected in North America. The U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture have been monitoring wild

migratory birds in Alaska since April 2006 for HPAI. Over 13,000 birds from 26 target species have been tested. The concern is that HPAI - a virus that has killed wild birds, commercial poultry, and more than 140 people in Asia, Europe, and Africa - might be introduced into North American migratory birds. Based on this summer's monitoring, there is no evidence that this has yet occurred.

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

Paul Stehr-Green, chair of PHAC, reported that the September meeting was scheduled but could not be held due to a lack of a quorum of members.

## VII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Letter of Appreciation to Ann Johnson, Acting Program Manager. Iva Burks had requested the BOH write a thank you letter to Ann Johnson, who had been the Acting Program Manager in the Public Health section for the past 15 months while simultaneously performing her own job duties. The Board commended Ms. Johnson for her dedication and good work. All members present signed the letter.
- B. Introduction – Christina Hurst, New Program Manager. Ms. Burks introduced Christina, Program Manager in Public Health, who talked briefly of her background. Ms. Hurst is a native of Phoenix, Arizona and is a social worker by training. Before coming to Clallam County, she worked for the Arizona Department of Health in the Office of Infectious Diseases. Among other things, Ms. Hurst has worked in HIV and Hepatitis C, specifically at correctional facilities. She also has a background in emergency preparedness, training with the Phoenix Fire Department.
- C. Strategic National Stockpile Drill. In August, a strategic stockpile exercise was undertaken that included the Public Health, Environmental Health and Administrative sections of HHS. The scenario focused on the distribution of an oral medication at Peninsula College after a ship in the harbor released anthrax into the atmosphere. The exercise went well. In the future, all supplies/equipment will be located in the Environmental Health storage unit by the airport for greater efficiency.

## VIII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. State Association of Local Boards of Health Proposal. Julia Patterson, chair of the King County Board of Health, sent a letter to all Washington local BOH's requesting input on a proposal to develop a Washington State Association of Local Boards of Health.

Members of the Clallam County Board of Health discussed the proposal. In general, Board members felt that our county already enjoys good access to critical public health information through our county health officer. In addition, there was a shared feeling that the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials was an effective voice to the legislature for most public health issues in our community.

Mike Chapman moved to empower the Chair to respond to this letter. Steve Tharinger seconded and the motion passed. The Chair agreed to consult with Board members not present to solicit their ideas before responding to Ms. Patterson's letter.

- B. Preview of Health Care Initiatives Before 2007 Washington State Legislature. Dr. Locke gave a brief overview of the initiatives with an emphasis on #5 Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing (EHCR 4410 (2005)).
- C. Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Cost and Access – Summary of Proposals. Dr. Locke presented an overview of this Summary. A common theme covered by many of the proposals was universal access to health care services.

- D. Washington State Medical Association Public Health Resolutions for 2006. As the delegate for the Public Health Officers, Dr. Locke submitted a resolution on mandatory influenza vaccination among health care workers to the Washington State Medical Association. The Resolution passed as originally submitted. With support from the Medical Association, the next step is to gain support for the resolution from the Governor and the Legislature prior to a State Board of Health action.

**IX. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**National Association of Counties Water Quality Issue Brief.** An article that appeared in this national publication regarding Clallam County, Washington was distributed to the Board. The article dealt with reduction of bacterial waste in natural waters and highlighted Clallam County efforts to improve water quality in the Sequim-Dungeness watershed.

**X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

- The Health Walk is Saturday, September 23. Several BOH members are planning to walk the five mile route. Registration starts at 8:00 AM; the walk starts at 8:30 AM.
- Congratulations to John Beitzel and all people involved with the Olympic Peninsula Health Fair held Saturday, September 16.

**XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Hand Sanitizer in County Courthouse
2. Update on Implementation of I-901

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Tharinger seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting of September 19, 2006 was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

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

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
John E. Beitzel, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

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Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

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

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

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

Gary R. Smith

Excused Absence

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Camille Scott