

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, September 23, 2010 was called to order by Councilmember Gothmann, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Bonnie Mager (departed 2:10 pm)
Commissioner Todd Mielke
Commissioner Mark Richard
Councilmember Steve Corker
Mayor Mary Verner, Vice Chair (departed 2:38 pm)
Councilmember Amber Waldref
Councilmember Rose Dempsey
Councilmember Bill Gothmann, Chair
Councilmember David Crump
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN

ABSENT

Board Member Michael Fisk, DC

CITIZEN INPUT

- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane, presented material on pertussis and its causes; as well as, lead poisoning, asbestos, and mercury poisoning from light bulbs imported from China.
- Rose Waldram, Spokane, spoke on the Milk Diet and presented the book to the Health District attorney and handouts to the Board of Health members.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Gothmann

Biggest Improver Program

Staff was thanked for offering the Biggest Improver Program to the agency and Board of Health members.

Comments Sheet

Board members were reminded to complete the meeting evaluation forms after the meeting.

NALBOH – Board Member Dr. Lutz

Board Member Dr. Lutz commented that the NALBOH team is currently working with state representatives on the structure of a State Association of Local Boards of Health (SALBOH) and seeking to discuss it at the upcoming Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) meeting.

The 19th Annual NALBOH meeting in September of 2011 will be held in Coeur'd Alene. Since the meeting is close to our area, it is recommended that participation be considered.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Joel McCullough, MD, MPH, MS

Flu Immunization Update

Unlike last year, there are reports of low level activity of different flu strains locally and nationally this year. It appears there is not a risk of a pandemic this year. It is difficult to predict what will happen later this season, but staff is working to increase awareness about the flu

vaccine. For the first time, the Health District will be sponsoring a drive-thru flu clinic on October 2nd near the Valley YMCA. Shots are available for individuals 13 years or older at the clinic with a cost of \$10 for adults and no cost for youth.

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Investigation Updates

The CDC had participation from 20 of 22 citizens asked to take part in its investigation of the *Vibrio mimicus* infections. At the end of the investigation, it was discovered that crawfish was the source of contamination, specifically the crawfish that was consumed the night after cooking. This investigation was submitted and accepted to the Infectious Disease Society of America Conference because of the uniqueness of the organism and route of exposure. The conference session will be posted and several SRHD staff will be mentioned.

The CDC also sent a team to investigate a *Klebsiella pneumoniae* infection in Spokane. The infection was discovered during a routine medical workup of a person transferred to the area from a foreign country. This is the first time this drug resistant infection was discovered in the U.S. The CDC performed surveillance and determined the organism did not spread to others and the individual survived the infection. This particular investigation was reported in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. It is available on the CDC's website.

Budget

The latest forecasted State revenues have dropped \$1.4 billion. The Governor has issued a directive to keep the budget balanced. This means across the board cuts of 6.3% from the general fund. For the Department of Health, that means \$6.6 million dollars cut starting October 1st. We anticipate cuts and will know within a week how local health will be affected.

Reshaping Governmental Public Health in Washington State and Agenda for Change

DOH Secretary Mary Selecky formed a group to look at the future of public health. The group has produced a draft document from the outcomes of its meetings, which will be available within a week or two. There are 3 essential pillars listed in the document: 1) protect the public from communicable diseases and other health risks through early detection, prevention and response; 2) build communities and environments that prevent injury and illness, and provide for healthy starts and ongoing wellness, and better the opportunity for well and healthy lives; 3) improve access to quality, affordable, integrated health care that incorporates routine, clinical preventable services that are available in rural and urban areas. The document will be circulated to the Board Members for input when it becomes available.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consists of items considered routine which are approved as a group. Any member of the Board may request to remove any item from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately.

Meeting Minutes July 22, 2010

Vouchers 2010 paid July 1-31, 2010 and August 1-31, 2010

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the July 22, 2010 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Crump/ Dempsey

Approved: 10 yes/1 abstained-Verner

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, payroll warrants, and those other claims as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board. Time frame of claims: July 1-31, 2010 and August 1-31, 2010. The board, in a vote as moved by Councilmember Crump and seconded by Commissioner Richard, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$4,114,001.

Voucher Numbers:	201929	-	B&OJUN10	\$ 731,296.79
Payroll Warrants:	670255	-	670300	
Advice Numbers	DD7323	-	DD7532	\$721,567.33
Payroll Warrants:	672450	-	672494	
Advice Numbers:	DD7533	-	DD7738	\$559,978.41
			TOTAL	\$2,012,842.53
Voucher Numbers:	202257	-	B&OJUL10	\$ 806,241.99
Payroll Warrants:	674393	-	674439	
Advice Numbers	DD7739	-	DD7944	\$744,384.63
Payroll Warrants:	676390	-	676425	
Advice Numbers:	DD7945	-	DD8148	\$550,531.85
			TOTAL	\$2,101,158.47

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amounts of \$2,012,842.53 and \$2,101,158.47.

Motion/Second: Crump/Richard

Approved: Unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Gothmann announced the Board would adjourn to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to perform an employee evaluation. Councilmember Crump requested Barb Lorang, Human Resources Program Manager, and legal counsel attend the session. The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 1:12 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 1:37 pm with action to be taken following Executive Session on the next agenda item under Action Items.

ACTION ITEMS

Health Officer Salary – Councilmember Crump

The Board clarified the increased amount presented in the original employee contract for the 12-month period review would be the increase given to the Health Officer. The contract states the increase would be given upon completion of licensure and a satisfactory performance review after 1 year of employment.

Motion: To fulfill the terms of the Health Officer contract and increase the salary from \$155,000 to \$157,500 retroactive to the anniversary date based on the successful completion of licensure and satisfaction survey.

Motion/Second: Crump/Corker

Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #10-05 to Support and Encourage Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Electronic Cigarettes to Minors, Use of Electronic Cigarettes by Minors – Julie Scholer

A report on electronic cigarettes was presented to the Board of Health at the July 22nd regular meeting, after which a resolution supporting the restriction of sales and distribution of electronic cigarettes to minors was requested for the next Board of Health meeting. In support of this effort, the Health District's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program will provide technical assistance to any jurisdiction that would like help writing their policies.

Other health jurisdictions are approving similar resolutions across the state but we are unsure if they are planning to bring information forward to request legislation. A draft resolution has already been sent for consideration to the Public Safety Committee at the City of Spokane.

Motion: To approve Resolution #10-05 to Support and Encourage Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Electronic Cigarettes to Minors, Use of Electronic Cigarettes by Minors

Motion/Second: Richard/Mager

Approved: Unanimously

REPORT

Neighborhoods Matter Program - Elaine Conley/Cindy Green/Adrian Dominquez

Elaine Conley, Division Director of Community and Family Services, opened the presentation with background information on the Neighborhoods Matter project.

The need for addressing maternal health indicators started after an assessment was published in the Healthy Start Spokane's Future. The report showed, among other facts, that smoking rates in pregnant women in Spokane County are at a higher rate than the State and increasing. Based on the published data, it was apparent that the Health District would not be able to impact clients on the current one-on-one approach used for years serving approximately 1,000 women a year in the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program. Elaine Conley proposed a change in the use of local dollars to try a new population based approach. The program, which started January 2, 2010, has an interdisciplinary team from the Health District with Cindy Green as the acting Program Manager. The staff includes representatives from Epidemiology, Environmental Public Health, as well as, a Public Health Nurse and Public Health Educator.

The project has 3 tiers: 1) to work with a neighborhood within Spokane County to improved MCH indicators, 2) to address policies and systems that hinder healthy maternal health outcomes, 3) and to establish a communication effort that will raise awareness of county residents and begin to make a cultural shift in the population around some of these MCH issues.

Since the project involved multiple divisions, a multi-tiered structure for the project was developed as well. An internal steering committee was established along with an advisory board

in which Board of Health Members, Mayor Verner and Councilmember Corker are members. The primary purpose of the advisory board was to select the neighborhood for the project, then to address policy and system issues that create barriers to improve the health of the community. Additionally, a neighborhood governance council is being established, which will partner with us to plan and implement the project.

Cindy Green continued the presentation by stating the vision for the Health District is to have a healthy community for all. Within our community, not everyone enjoys the same level of health. Studies show that a person's zip code can impact their health more than their gene code. Most people look first to the health care system when dealing with health issues, but people who are in the health care system are already sick. After that, most people look at individual behaviors that cause people to be in poor health. Public health has been working for years to get people to change their behaviors one person at a time. In time, policies were developed to impact those health issues. In some cases, policies have helped by guiding people to make healthier choices. All policies impact health. An example of this is communities without sidewalks may have higher obesity rates. Other influences are: equitable opportunities for education, equitable job opportunity, social capital and positive norms. Neighborhoods Matter will attempt to address many of these issues throughout the course of the project.

Adrian Dominguez presented the process for selecting the neighborhood. The project identified 38 neighborhoods within Spokane County and ranked each according to specific indicators that affected mother and child health, which were identified in Healthy Start Spokane's Future. Each neighborhood for each indicator was given a ranking of 1-4 based on the rate for the indicator and how it compared to the other neighborhoods. Neighborhoods in the upper percentile received a score of 1 and neighborhoods in the lower percentile received a score of 4. The overall average score for Spokane County was 2.4. Seventeen neighborhoods with a score lower than Spokane County's average score were considered for the program. These neighborhoods were then examined to determine if they had the desired assets needed to work with the program; such as a community center, organizations that would assist in addressing concerns in the neighborhood, and engaged citizens. This identified 3 neighborhoods: East Central, Hillyard and West Central.

The 3 chosen neighborhoods were reevaluated and compared to one another using quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative data had demographic/health factors, which was 40% of the overall weighted score. The qualitative data had community/application, which was 60% of the overall weighted score. Quantitative data included demographics, poverty, health, and maternal/infant factors. Qualitative data included protective, stabilizing, willingness to partner, and resident involvement factors. When the scoring was complete, East Central scored the highest and was selected.

Elaine Conley stated the project also conducted 48 interviews with key community leaders to determine their concerns. Staff also held 2 focus groups in each of the 3 neighborhoods. Each shared the same concerns: cultural issues, employment, poverty, environmental issues, food and good nutrition, education, healthcare, housing, maternal health issues, neighborhood image, resource utilization, substance abuse, crime and safety, and youth concerns. Some of the issues presented will need policy system changes to effectively address the concerns.

Currently, the neighborhood governance council is meeting to prioritize the concerns. The council is aware that some of the concerns addressed must be focused on maternal health. Health District staff would like to request the assistance from the Board by supporting requests for policy changes that may happen as a result of this program.

Questions and Discussions:

- Initially, when the MCH report was written, the Assessment Center had different neighborhood boundaries than the City of Spokane. Initial rankings of the neighborhoods did not include East Sprague with East Central. The quantitative and qualitative data for East Central, though, does include East Sprague.
- The program is funded in part by the Washington State Consolidated Contract dollars that was initially slated for the First Steps Program along with a portion of the program's local dollars. It is also supported by some Local Capacity Development Funds.
- Even though the Unnatural Causes document presented to the Board of Health Members is not widely distributed, staff was asked to consider carefully the documentation it uses to guide the program. It may be offensive to some businesses in the community and it is important to avoid having the agency defend statements on that document.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK-IN

School Based Health Centers – Councilmember Crump

Councilmember Crump attended a school-based health center meeting at the Health District last night. A community group was awarded the Gates Grant to look at implementing these school-based health care centers. There are currently centers across the state, but feedback from last night's meeting participants was strong. It appears that it may be difficult to establish these in the community.

Strategic Planning Goal #2 Communications Committee – Councilmember Corker

Councilmember Corker and the Communications Committee have been working on ways to raise awareness in the community about the role of public health. The committee would like to ask the Board to consider within this next month community partners they would like to invite to a 1 hour meeting to promote community connectivity and public health.

Gonzaga University Student Nursing Project – Board Member Norwood

Board Member Norwood is teaching a Community Health Course this quarter at Gonzaga University. One of the projects her student nurses are working on this semester is a community health education and health risk message scheduled for November. One group is working on e-cigarettes and they would welcome the Board and staff judging their work.

The Regional Support Network and Budget Cuts – Commissioner Richard

Spokane County will be affected by the State budget cuts like the Health District. The Regional Support Network (RSN) and community development, as well as other areas, will be experiencing budget reductions. This will affect mental health and substance abuse services. DSHS is considering the restructure of the RSN and its involvement with substance abuse treatment and delivery. Christine Barada will be meeting with community partners, non-profits, civic leaders, and the Health District to ask about the role of the RSN in the possible new restructure.

In addition, the RSN is piloting a program for 10 to 15 applicants who are currently on the Methadone Program waiting list to be part of a clinical trial for the drug Suboxone. It may have a long term partnership effect with the Methadone Program depending upon the outcome of the new program.

Diabetes Awareness Screening Update – Commissioner Mielke

Commissioner Mielke commended Dr. McCullough and staff for thinking outside the box and doing a commendable job driving policy on public health.

At the last meeting, Commissioner Mielke spoke about PSA announcements to promote the October 3rd Diabetes Walk and a possible screening. Due to the ongoing political campaigns, local TV stations didn't have time to work on and promote PSAs. Also, the WSU School of Pharmacy asked the foundation to reconsider the screenings at the beginning of next year. During the second half of November or the first part of December, there will be a broadcasted report on Diabetes in Spokane. There will be PSA announcements leading up to that and he will refer those working on the announcements to contact the Health District for input.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on October 28, 2010 in Room 140.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Board of Health Chair

Date: 10/28/2010



Recording Secretary