

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 was called to order by Councilmember Dave Crump, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Todd Mielke
Commissioner Mark Richard (arrived at 12:33 p.m.)
Councilmember Steve Corker
Mayor Mary Verner, Vice Chair (arrived at 12:39 p.m.) (departed 2:32 p.m.)
Councilmember Amber Waldref (arrived at 12:31 p.m.)
Mayor Tom Towey
Councilmember Bill Gothmann
Councilmember David Crump, Chair
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC (arrived at 12:36 p.m.) (departed 2:42 p.m.)
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN (departed 2:13 p.m.)

ABSENT

Commissioner Al French

CITIZEN INPUT

- Caroline Pickett, Spokane County, WA –spoke on the bylaw change proposed in Resolution #11-07 and her opposition to the accreditation effort of the Health District.
- Donna Pierce, retired Public Health Nurse, Cheney, WA -- spoke on the elimination of the Maxillofacial Program and the two public health nurse coordinator positions.
- Laurie Ulman, Spokane Valley—spoke on behalf of the parents with children with cleft lip and palate stating the disappointment of the group with the handling of the program transition.
- Chuck Madison, member of the Maxillofacial Review Board, Spokane, WA—spoke about his concerns about the Maxillofacial Program cuts at the health district.
- Rose Marie Waldrem, Greenacres, WA – submitted information for Board Member review.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Dave Crump

Included in the agenda packets are two additional citizen letters of support for the eliminated Maxillofacial Program.

Board Members were asked to complete the BOH Governance Assessment Survey and the meeting evaluation forms included in the agenda packets before leaving the meeting.

County Commissioners are continuing the process towards building ownership for the Spokane Regional Health District.

The tentative meeting date of December 21, 2011 at 1pm is still being held; but at this time, there is no need for the meeting.

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

Flu Update

Spokane County had its first reported case of influenza. In the next several weeks, it is anticipated there will be an increase of cases in the county and nationally. Last month, the Iowa Department of Public Health reported to the CDC 3 cases of a new strain of Swine influenza reported in young children. The typing was consistent with other Swine origin influenzas discovered this year. The CDC and the Iowa Department of Public Health believe the cases are over and no active transmissions are happening, but are increasing surveillance to determine if there are additional cases.

State Budget Update

Governor Gregoire released the 2012 proposed supplemental budget last week. Cuts to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) total \$14.5 million. These cuts include \$6.6 million to HIV/AIDS prevention outreach and direct client services. The state would only pay for coverage of Medicaid Part B prescription drugs so that clients can access antiretroviral medications. The cuts also eliminate dental care for 1,200 clients with HIV.

Other cuts include reduction of \$1.8 million in family planning grants, \$1.3 million in environmental health protection, \$700,000 in emergency medical systems in area health education centers, and \$1 million in administration to include cuts in central administration, data collection and to the state board of health. It also eliminates malpractice insurance for 600 volunteer, retired physicians who serve 7,800 patients.

Board discussion:

- Board Member Fisk commented on information he read on the malpractice insurance elimination for 600 volunteer physicians which stated services for \$300,000 a year have a return of \$82 million worth of services and asked what the health district could do about the loss. A) The legislature is currently in special session and it would be possible to contact legislators and notify them of the effects of the cuts locally.
- Councilmember Crump stated the Board can write a letter or contact the legislators individually as citizens.
- Councilmember Corker encouraged the Board to call, email and write their legislators.

Board Member Fisk made a motion for the Board of Health to construct a letter addressing effects of budget reductions to each of the area legislators.

Commissioner Richard asked for the letter to include the Board expressing overall concern with the proposed budget reductions to the delivery of public health services in communities throughout the State of Washington; and in particular, the loss of invaluable leverage gained by a minimal investment to allow for volunteer employees to provide critical services. Commissioner Richard then seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion:

- Commissioner Mielke stated concern about the challenge to legislators to reduce the budget by \$2.1 billion. Many funds are protected by the federal government and

mandates. Out of a general fund budget of \$32 billion, only \$8 billion is left for legislators to find the \$2.1 billion in reductions. He recommended the Board be sensitive to decisions the legislators are facing especially when there are programs that the community has identified as top priorities. If the Board asks the legislature to save one program, it may sacrifice another identified as a core public health program.

- Mayor Verner asked that the letter describe local impacts due to the cuts highlighting the loss of leverage for the retired physicians.
- Commissioner Richard stated his intention for the letter is not to insist that the legislature reinstate the funds reduced, but to highlight the importance of the leveraging, draw to their attention the value of the program, and to take that into consideration when making their decisions. The intention is that the Board is concerned with all cuts to public health and the letter should imply that it would be appreciated if cuts could come from somewhere other than public health.

Motion: To write and send a letter to local legislators highlighting the concern of public health budget reductions expressing local to general impacts plus highlighting concern about elimination of malpractice insurance for volunteer, retired physicians.

Motion/Second: Fisk/Richard

Approved: Unanimously approved

The Board directed Dr. McCullough and Councilmember Crump to compose the letter.

Maxillofacial Program Transition Efforts

Since the last meeting, staff has met with healthcare organizations that may have an interest in providing the program. On November 28th, a stakeholder meeting was held and was well attended with 23 individuals including representatives from the Spokane Smiles, Spokane County Medical Society, Shriners Hospital and Providence Children's Hospital. From the agency, Torney Smith and Elaine Conley attended the meeting. Staff feel there was a positive outcome from the meeting with the community agreeing to form a committee to work on the transition. The next transition meeting will take place after the Shriners Board meeting, December 10, 2011, where the Board will give Shriners more direction about moving forward.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Meeting Minutes October 27, 2011 and November 9, 2011

Vouchers 2011 A/P paid October 1-31, 2011

Vouchers paid October 1-31, 2011

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the October 27, 2011 and November 9, 2011 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Corker/Waldref

Approved: Unanimously

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: October 1 –31, 2011. The Board, in a vote as moved by Councilmember Corker and seconded by Councilmember Waldref, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$1,823,983.68.

Voucher Numbers:	#212481	-	#B&OSEPT11	\$ 515,069.08
Payroll Warrants:	#731859	-	#731897	676,625.15
Advice Numbers	#DD13548	-	#DD13754	
Payroll Warrants:	#733904	-	#733941	632,289.45
Advice Numbers:	#DD13755	-	#DD13962	
			TOTAL	\$1,823,983.68

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$1,823,983.68.

Motion/Second: Corker/Waldref

Approved: Unanimously

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

Board of Health Chair, Councilmember Crump, recognized the following outgoing Board Members and thanked them for their dedication and service to the Board of Health and the agency.

- Mayor Mary Verner
- Councilmember Bill Gothmann
- Councilmember Steve Corker

Torney Smith recognized outgoing Board Member and Chair, Councilmember Crump, and thanked him for his work on the Board and help in the health officer hiring process.

ELECTION OF 2012 BOARD CHAIR

Councilmember Crump asked for nominations for BOH chair for 2012.

Councilmember Corker asked the Board to consider Councilmember Amber Waldref as chair for the 2012 Board of Health. Mayor Verner seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Richard recognized the informal chair rotations already in place, supported the nomination of Councilmember Waldref and asked for the continued observance of that rotation.

Councilmember Crump stated with the informal rotation a Spokane County Commissioner would serve as vice chair upon nomination by the Board of Health at the January 2012 meeting.

Motion: To elect Councilmember Waldref to serve as Board of Health Chair for 2012.

Motion/Second: Councilmember Corker/ Verner

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #11-07 amending the SRHD BOH Bylaws to authorize the BOH to issue nonbinding guidelines and recommendations on issues impacting public health – Board Member Lutz

Councilmember Waldref moved to approve Resolution #11-07. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Steve Corker.

Discussion on the motion:

- Commissioner Mielke asked for clarification under Article 4 of the Board of Health Bylaws and the RCW whether his assumption that boards of health are already permitted to issue statements on public health matters was correct and whether a need was present for approving the proposed guidelines and recommendations.
- Board Member Lutz answered the proposed guidelines and recommendations are weighted more than a resolution allowing more formal education to the community on public health matters.
- Commissioner Mielke expressed a concern for maintaining cohesiveness for the betterment of the community without a conflict of interest between the agency and the community.
- Councilmember Waldref stated she understood the guidelines and recommendations would be a means of providing input to agencies when they are making decisions. It would not be asking for advocacy on specific changes.
- Commissioner Richard stated he understood Commissioner Mielke's concern by placing Spokane County Commissioners in an unfavorable position when serving on multiple boards. There will be times when elected officials will have to make decisions in opposition to recommendations, but having a framework of guidelines when making those decisions could make it potentially easier.
- Mayor Verner agreed with Commissioner Richard's comments stating the change of the bylaws has no requirement for the Board to neither consider nor take action on an issue. The guidelines and recommendations would be consistent in reinforcing an authority that the Board of Health already has.
- Councilmember Gothmann stated the proposed guidelines and recommendations would allow the health district to provide information and statistics which would assist agencies in making decisions. In previous matters pertaining to public health as part of his duties, he would have appreciated the input on ways to address those matters. Approval of the resolution would formalize recommendations that were previously given orally.

- Commissioner Mielke clarified that any position or recommendation made by the health district is approved by the Board and is not a staff decision. The administrative procedures act applies and any recommendations handled follows procedure like a resolution. He stated it appears, it is possible to do the same thing as what is being proposed with the procedures currently in place.
- Commissioner Richard stated absent the clarity and purposeful directive from the Board, there leaves a void that will either be filled by a health officer, staff or will remain unfilled. What is being proposed could help improve the delivery of reasoned public vetted health initiatives.
- Commissioner Mielke commented that previously where the Board did not take a position on a potentially controversial issue there was the potential for the health officer and the Board arriving at different conclusions or different approaches.
- Councilmember Waldref commented that it would save research time for jurisdictions if guidelines are available.

Councilmember Crump explained the rules for amending the bylaws whereby two readings amend the bylaws except when a motion is made to waive the second reading. With that motion, a 2/3rds majority would be needed for approval.

Councilmember Waldref moved to waive the second reading and approve Resolution #11-07. The motion was seconded by Board Member Norwood.

Discussion on the motion:

- Commissioner Mielke spoke against the motion citing the Board's responsibility to give the public as many opportunities to interact with Board as possible. He stated the rules are typically waived when an item is time sensitive or an emergency exists, which doesn't exist for this issue. He recommended the Board follow the standard course of approval.
- Mayor Towey stated his favor of the motion based upon the repeated information given to the Board already. New 2012 Board members would need to be educated on the proposal that the Board has previously heard.

Motion: To waive the second reading of the bylaws to vote on Resolution #11-07 amending the SRHD BOH Bylaws to authorize the BOH to issue nonbinding guidelines and recommendations on issues impacting public health.

Motion/Second: Waldref/Corker

Approved: 10 approved/1 opposed (Mielke)

Motion: To approve Resolution #11-07 amending the SRHD BOH Bylaws to authorize the BOH to issue nonbinding guidelines and recommendations on issues impacting public health

Motion/Second: Waldref/Corker

Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #11-08 approval to sign a MOA covering 2012 wages and benefits for employees of SRHD who are members of the PTE, Local 17 – Torney Smith

Councilmember Gothmann moved to adopt Resolution #11-08. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corker.

Torney Smith stated the agency had negotiated with the unions (WSNA/PTE) and partial agreements have been agreed upon. The partial agreements involve the economic portion of the full agreement. Staff will not receive a cost of living increase in 2012 and the medical contributions of the agency have been tiered to align with the industry standard.

Discussion on the motion:

- Board Member Fisk asked what pieces of the contract were still under negotiation. A) Policy items, grievance discussions, and the immunization policy. All portions of the PTE contract except the medical insurance and economics piece are still under negotiation. The rest of the agreements will be brought before the Board at a later time.

Motion: To approve Resolution #11-08 for approval to sign a MOA covering 2012 wages and benefits for employees of SRHD who are members of the PTE, Local 17.

Motion/Second: Gothmann/Corker

Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #11-09 Ratification of the SRHD/WSNA Collective bargaining Agreement Relative to article 9.16 Salaries & articles benefits for employees of SRHD who are members of the WSNA – Torney Smith

Councilmember Corker moved to approve Resolution #11-09. Mayor Verner seconded the motion.

Torney Smith stated a tentative agreement has been reached with WSNA, which will be ratified upon by the union on December 21st.

Motion: To approve Resolution #11-09 Ratification of the SRHD/WSNA Collective bargaining Agreement Relative to article 9.16 Salaries & articles benefits for employees of SRHD who are members of the WSNA.

Motion/Second: Corker/Verner

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

PHAB Accreditation Efforts Update – Torney Smith

Torney Smith informed the Board that the agency was ready to apply for accreditation. A group of 8 employees have worked through all the standards and measures with a goal to have all completed by November 30th. All but 3 measures, which have minor changes, have been

completed. Two staff members will be sent to a PHAB training in mid-December and immediately after the agency will enter all data collected.

Discussion:

- Councilmember Crump asked when the application will be sent and when a response is expected. A) The application has been accepted and data entry is now required. PHAB has yet to recruit and train site reviewers because the first review sites need to be identified. A response is anticipated early first quarter 2012.
- Commissioner Mielke asked how the agency benefits from accreditation. A) Agencies who go through the accreditation process identify areas for improvement within their agencies. The Institute of Medicine has published recommendations for law and policy for improving public health. The third recommendation from the institute endorses national and state mandates for accreditation of all health departments. It has also been supported by the director of the CDC.

WIC Campaign – Tiffany Muller/Kyle Unland

Kyle Unland, Health Promotion Division Director, spoke for Tiffany Muller, WIC Program Manager, who was ill. The WIC Program has participated in a campaign to attract eligible participants to the WIC Program. In general, the program provides nutrition education, breastfeeding information and assistance, USDA supplemental foods, smoking cessation opportunities and referrals to other services. The SRHD WIC Program serves approximately 12,000 participants within the county and attracts approximately \$9 million in federal funds to support the WIC Program.

With a decrease in eligible participants noted last year, the program partnered with the Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) WIC Program in writing a grant to the USDA. Approximately \$100,000 was provided to the program to launch a social marketing campaign to increase WIC enrollment, increase awareness, and address WIC clinic efficiencies. Stakeholders and community partners were then contacted to determine the barriers that prevented WIC participation.

A production company was hired to develop the campaign with the information from the focus groups. A logo and website was then developed and tested within the target population. The website provides a way for the public to determine WIC eligibility. The website address is SpokaneWIC.org. After 6 weeks of the campaign, enrollments have increased drastically.

Discussion:

- Councilmember Waldref asked what the goal for increased participation was and its timeframe. A) WIC experienced a 450 participant decrease last year. The goal was to build numbers back to those originally held.
- Commissioner Richard requested to view one the three advertisements for the campaign.
- Mayor Towey asked if any other grants were available or plans in place for future sustainability of the campaign. A) The WIC Program is working with DOH to ensure the process continues.

- Commissioner Mielke asked if there were referrals to local food banks from the WIC Program. A) The WIC Program Manager has a coalition of community stakeholders, which includes food bank representatives.
- Board Member Fisk recommended looking at other relief agencies that WIC participants could be referred to for relief.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK-IN

Washington State Association of Counties-Commissioner Mielke

Commissioner Mielke stated the legislative committee of WSAC made a motion to add two-tenths sales tax authority for public wellness and social services. It was not successful at the legislative steering committee level because of concern over approval before the legislative session that would invite the legislature to cut programs to force agencies to find local funding.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Ribbon Cutting – Councilmember Gothmann

Councilmember Gothmann reported on the ribbon cutting for the new wastewater treatment plant. The new plant allows the public to end septic tank use and wastewater to be processed which results in reduced disease.

Chair Remarks – Councilmember Crump

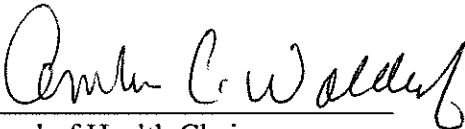
Councilmember Crump thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve 6 years on the State Board of Health and 10 years with Spokane Regional Board of Health. The experience has been one of the best in his public career.


NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on January 26, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

APPROVED:  Date: 1/24/12
Board of Health Chair


Recording Secretary

