

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, November 29, 2007 was called to order by Councilmember David Crump, Vice Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in rooms 320/321 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

## **PRESENT**

Councilmember Steve Corker  
Councilmember David Crump, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Dick Denenny (arrived at 12:50 p.m.)  
Councilmember Bill Gothmann  
Councilmember Brad Stark (departed at 1:15 p.m.)  
Commissioner Mark Richard (arrived at 1:10 p.m.)  
Board Member Margaret Jones

## **ABSENT**

Commissioner Bonnie Mager  
Commissioner Todd Mielke  
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC  
Board Member Charles Wolfe, MD

## **CITIZEN INPUT**

- Sally Aiken, Medical Examiner, Spokane, Washington, talked about the EDRS (Electronic Death Registration System) and the difficulty in registering electronic digital signatures and asked for the Board's help to follow through on proposed legislation to broaden the definition.

Following Dr. Aiken's testimony, Vice Chair Crump appointed Torney Smith to act as a liaison between the Board and the Medical Examiner's Office regarding the electronic digital signature and to report back to the Executive Committee and to the Board.

## **CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Dave Crump**

Councilmember Crump distributed the Third Quarter, 2007 National Association of Local Boards of Health *NewsBrief*.

Councilmember Crump read a letter from the Liberty Lake Water & Sewer District to commend the work of the Health District, in particular, Diane James and Gwen Augustine in the Water Lab, for their outstanding service to test and report on water samples over a weekend when Liberty Lake's water reservoir had been tampered with. Fortunately, the system was not contaminated.

Councilmember Crump noted of the absence of Mary Verner who just assumed the duties of the Mayor of Spokane. In accordance with a Board of County Commissioner Resolution regarding the makeup of the Board of Health, the mayor cannot serve on the board, which does not align with the Board of Health Bylaws.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Torney Smith**

### **Small Cities Representation on the Board of Health**

The mayors of the small cities in Spokane County have confirmed that Councilman David Crump of Liberty Lake will continue to represent the small cities on the Board of Health.

### **Health Officer Search**

Mr. Smith asked Councilmember Crump to provide an update on the health officer search. A Selection Committee was established consisting of Board Members Wolfe and Jones, Commissioner Richard and Councilmember Crump. Six application packets for the health officer position were forwarded from The Waters Consulting Group. Members of the Health District's Executive Management Team and the Selection Committee are developing interview questions. Each applicant will be primarily interviewed by phone as a first screening. Following the phone interviews, applicants will be invited for an on-site interview. Finalists will be invited to meet employees and members of the community. Dependent on the outcome and agreement of the committee, an employment offer will be made. Although the position is open until filled, the process will be pursued aggressively and with expedience.

### **MRSA**

MRSA was first identified in England in 1961 and has been around the world since then. It can have tragic consequences; however, it is a common infection. As a result of MRSA being talked about in the media, staff at the Health District has been responding to phone calls and emails and has given presentations to many of our partners including staff at ESD 101, the Intercollegiate Nursing Center, Group Health physicians, law enforcement, the Ryan White Consortium, and staff in our Methadone Clinic. Talking points and brochures have been developed and a letter was written and provided to Educational Service District 101 for all schools to mail to parents along with a two-page fact sheet. Board members were given copies of the materials.

Comcast Local Edition recently interviewed one of our epidemiologists, Dorothy MacEachern, about MRSA, which will be aired several times over the next few weeks. The Governor's Advisory Council on MRSA includes two representatives from eastern Washington, the director of microbiology and virology at Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories, and the chief epidemiologist at Sacred Heart Medical Center. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5 – 6:30 p.m., a forum will be hosted for parents at the Center Place auditorium in Spokane Valley.

Board discussion following this item:

Board Member Jones asked staff to assure that the athletic departments at the schools receive the information on MRSA. Councilmember Crump attended the State Board of Health meeting on November 14 in Olympia where MRSA was discussed; MRSA is made up of a large group of infections and the best prevention is hand washing.

### **WASABE (Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise)**

WASABE, the Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise, was conducted in Spokane on October 30, 31, and November 1. This exercise had statewide engagement and provided an opportunity for us to go through a public health related experience that engaged other sectors of

the response community. The Major Incident Support (MIS) team, primarily fire and law enforcement, was involved and helped us work through the exercise. These experts know how to run Incident Command and helped structure us and helped us function. Also, they were provided an exposure to public health. This exercise gave us an opportunity to identify shortcomings and how to respond in a public health emergency. An after action report will be completed. Another exercise is planned for next year.

### **Influenza**

The first case of influenza has been reported in Spokane County. We will encourage folks to get a flu shot and will lower the cost of our shots here. We ordered a lot of flu vaccine to distribute as part of the WASABE exercise and have an ample supply. We will drop our price to \$20. The Department of Health has worked with the Washington State Lottery to find a way to their influence through the major distributors of lottery tickets, such as Safeway, to do a major push to provide flu vaccine. That will occur on November 30 and December 1 when many Safeway stores in our area will participate. People can access the website, [findaflushot.com](http://findaflushot.com), for a list of those places in Spokane.

### **Services for Programs Eliminated in 2008**

The following information was provided in response to a request on services that were eliminated from the Health District as a result of the 2008 budget process and where those will be available elsewhere in the community.

We are currently talking with the Spokane Guilds' School, Sacred Heart Medical Center, and the Shriners Hospital about enhancing their outpatient services to cover some of the components of the nutritional services that will be eliminated from our Children with Special Health Care Needs Program. However, the home visits and coordination of services will not be provided by any of our community partners.

The HIV/AIDS education services that will be eliminated are primarily delivered to high-risk youth at the Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility and to the females at the Pine Lodge Corrections Center for Women. Pine Lodge is currently looking for resources for us to continue to provide those services but there will be no services at Martin Hall.

The P-CAP (Parent-Child Assistance Program) that serves mothers who are pregnant and using substance will continue in our community at New Horizons where the University of Washington will shift the funding.

The male STD services that will no longer be offered in our clinic will be predominantly picked up by two clinics in our community, NATIVE Health Services and The People's Clinic, where we will refer our clients.

### **Union Negotiations**

We are currently engaged in negotiations with both of our unions and are close to finalizing an agreement with IFPTE. A proposal in our agreement for the next contract period, if the contract is ratified, would be that December 24 (Christmas Eve), would become a holiday day for our

employees. History over the past 50 years shows that Christmas Day has fallen on a Tuesday seven times and every time there has been a federal declaration of a holiday on Monday, which we have observed; two of those times was for a partial day. We have been requested through the negotiation team from the union that in good faith, we might consider doing something this year to provide that as a holiday. We follow suit if and when either the county or the federal government declare December 24 a holiday. The challenge is in planning where we are in a situation that, without board directive, Mr. Smith cannot authorize the request.

Councilmember Crump indicated the union negotiation and ratification would be for future years and entertained a motion to approve the twenty-fourth as a holiday this year in order for the District to be able to notify clients of the closure. Following discussion and assurance there would be no adverse impacts to services and finances, Councilmember Gothmann moved that the Board of Health allow the employees to take the twenty-fourth of December off this year, one time only; in the future it will depend upon negotiations. Motion seconded by Councilmember Corker and approved all in favor.

***Motion: The Board of Health allow employees to take the twenty-fourth of December off this year, one time only; in the future it will depend upon negotiations.***

***Motion/Second: Gothmann/Corker***

***Approved: Unanimously***

Chair Crump asked Mr. Smith to interrupt his Administrator report in order to address agenda items that required a vote while a quorum was available.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Motion: To approve the October 27, 2007 Board of Health meeting minutes.***

***Motion/Second: Stark/Croker***

***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, 2007. The board, in a unanimous vote as moved by Councilmember Stark and seconded by Board Member Jones, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$1,808,988.92.

Voucher Numbers:	#73128 - #73568	\$635,479.44
Payroll Warrants:	#185309 -#185354	660,398.73
Advice Numbers	#331891 -#332089	
Payroll Warrants:	#185942 -#185988	513,110.75
Advice Numbers:	#333855 -#334054	
	TOTAL	\$1,808,988.92

***Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$1,808,988.92.***

***Motion/Second: Stark/Jones***

***Approved: Unanimously***

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Election of 2008 Chair**

Councilmember Stark moved to elect Councilmember Crump as the 2008 Chair of the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Councilmember Denenny. There were no other nominations. The motion was approved with all in favor.

***Motion: To elect Councilmember Crump as the 2008 Chair of the Board of Health.***

***Motion/Second: Stark/Denenny***

***Approved: Unanimously approved***

## **BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS**

### **Board Membership – Crump**

Chair Crump acknowledged Councilmember Stark who was attending his last meeting and gave him an opportunity to speak. Councilmember Stark has been impressed by the hard work and dedication of the employees here and has great respect and appreciation for the work done by Mr. Smith and the support given to him when he chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Agency Structure earlier this year. He has enjoyed working with all of his fellow board members. Councilmember Denenny thanked Councilmember Stark for his time on the Ad Hoc Committee on Agency Structure.

Chair Crump acknowledged and thanked outgoing Chair, Mary Verner, who was not present at the meeting and who was recently elected as the Mayor of the City of Spokane.

Chair Crump thanked Councilmember Stark and appreciated his abilities in chairing the Ad Hoc Committee during a difficult time. He thanked him for his work and appreciated knowing and working with him.

Chair Crump thanked Councilmember Crow who was not present and welcomed Councilmember Corker who had previously served on the Board of Health.

## **NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on January 24, 2008.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT (Continued) – Torney Smith**

### **Board Membership**

Mr. Smith expressed his appreciation for all board members who are leaving. The Health District will formally acknowledge those outgoing board members at the January meeting.

## **Freedom of Information**

The Health District is serious to respond to freedom of information requests. Over the past six months, one media outlet requested two pieces of information that took enormous amounts of time calculated at just over \$3,000 to collect, redact and get the requested information ready. Many requests are generated based on a "hot topic." We sent two letters to the entity that made the request to let them know the information was ready to pick up and it was never picked up. This is a challenge when we want to show our openness and willingness to share information, to be transparent and respectful of confidentiality, and then not have the information picked up. Mr. Smith would like to discuss this with board members and include our Public Information Manager, Julie Graham. Councilmember Corker volunteered his services and said that Spokane is looking into software that will help collect information that is requested in a fraction of the time. Spokane faces the same problem that Mr. Smith described. The Health District is allowed to charge 15 cents per page for copies that are taken, but cannot charge if the information is reviewed on site and cannot charge for the time to collect, redact, and copy information requested.

## **5930 Public Health Funding**

The bill to fund public health, 5930, is one step closer in defining the work that will be funded. The draft recommendations will be sent to Secretary Mary Selecky tomorrow to be finalized in mid-December. We know the amount of funding which we will receive in January, but do not yet know the work that will be funded. Two statewide committees were established to make the recommendations to Secretary Selecky who can either accept those or change them with justification. The number one priority will be focused around communicable disease. The specific measures are not known but will likely fall within a subset of all reportable communicable diseases. We will then focus on some measure of the achievement of that reporting. The second component is looking at the structure and the processes that are followed statewide in working with reporting of communicable diseases. The third focus is dealing with chronic disease, specifically obesity.

## **December 1 is World AIDS Day**

World AIDS Day is observed on December 1 every year. A local observance is scheduled on Saturday from 3 – 5 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. At this time in Spokane we have between 750 and 1,250 individuals impacted with HIV. It is estimated worldwide that there are 33 million people living with HIV and already more than 25 million people have died. This is an epidemic that is a long way from being over. About half of all HIV infections occur in people who are between the ages of 15 and 24.

## **Legislator Meetings**

Mr. Smith has a meeting scheduled with Representative Barlow as a follow-up to the discussion at the October board meeting regarding public health funding. A meeting with Senator Brown has not yet been set.

### **Budget Prioritization Software Training**

The Executive Management Team is scheduled for their third training on the Logical Decisions for Windows (LDW), a software for budget prioritization, on December 4 - 5. Commissioner Mager plans to attend some of the training and the trainer, Gary Smith, will stay following our training to demonstrate the software to the Commissioners. Board members can visit the LDW website at logicaldecisions.com to learn more about the software. Tailoring this software to the needs of the Health District has been challenging and has led to some very meaningful, in-depth discussions about budget and prioritization. Mr. Smith invited any board member who was interested to attend the training.

### **Maxillofacial Program Funding**

The state has agreed to reinstate funding for the Maxillofacial Program until the legislative session when they are hopeful that the legislature will provide additional funding. At the September Board of Health meeting, a request was made by Commissioner Richard for each local entity to provide funding for that program. Commissioner Richard gave an overview of the process he initiated to get the funding from each entity and the status of receiving the funds. The City of Spokane approved contributing \$7,500; the County has talked about their contribution; and the City of Spokane Valley will discuss it their next meeting.

### **CITIZEN INPUT**

Chair Crump invited citizens who had arrived to the meeting late an opportunity to provide their input to the board.

- Rose Waldram distributed a "Statement of Conscience" and talked about legislation and chemicals in drinking water.
- Carolyn Pickett talked about global warming generated by microwaves, a book entitled "Plutonium File," and vaccines.

### **Closing Remarks**


Board of Health members are invited to attend the Health District's holiday reception, 8-9 a.m. on December 13. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at about 1:40 p.m.

APPROVED:   
Board of Health Chair

Date: 1-27-08

  
Recording Secretary