

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, June 26, 2008 was called to order by Commissioner Mark Richard, Vice Chair, at 12:36 p.m. in rooms 320/321 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Councilman Steve Corker
Councilman Dick Denenny
Councilman Bill Gothmann
Commissioner Bonnie Mager (arrived 12:40 p.m.)
Commissioner Mark Richard, Vice Chair
Mayor Mary Verner (arrived 12:45 p.m.)
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC (arrived 12:55 p.m.)
Board Member Margaret Jones

ABSENT

Councilman David Crump, Chair
Councilman Michael Allen
Commissioner Todd Mielke

CITIZEN INPUT

- Bill Krogh, Spokane, talked about his difficulty obtaining a building permit regarding sewer hookup and was referred to Health District staff.
- Betty Fowler, Spokane, talked about her opposition to water fluoridation.
- Charles Wolfe, Spokane, talked about enabling drug use, circulated a photo montage of a drug user, and opposes needle exchange.
- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane, talked about vaccines and g-force on roller coasters and presented a diagram.
- Rose Marie Waldram (Mrs. Thomas Larson), Greenacres, distributed a packet of information and read the letter regarding her opposition to water fluoridation.

CHAIR REPORT – Vice Chair, Commissioner Mark Richard

Emergency Preparedness Inservice Training for Board Members

Board Member Jones was asked to give a report on the Emergency Preparedness inservice training that she attended along with Commissioner Mager and Councilman Crump. Health District staff who presented the inservice included John VanSant, Mark Springer, Kris Hansen, Tiffany Reed, Lyndia Tye, Julie Graham, and Karie Brouillard. Administrator Torney Smith also attended the inservice. This very informative training explained how the Board of Health and individual board members would be included in any kind of emergency. Commissioner Mager thanked staff for this beneficial training. Following this report, additional board members expressed their interest in participating in a future Emergency Preparedness inservice. Health District staff will follow up to arrange another training.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –Torney Smith

Dr. Jecha is attending a meeting with the Mosquito Control District in the Tri Cities and could not attend this meeting.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Update

At this time, there are no cases of West Nile virus (WNV) in our state or region, however, mid July or later is when this virus would likely show up.

2007 Audit

The 2007 audit has been concluded and board members will receive an invitation to attend an audit exit meeting.

2009 Budget

One public meeting has been held to review the 2009 budget process. The Health District is continuing to work with the Logical Decisions for Windows (LDW) software to capture and measure criteria that has been developed over the past two years. Division directors are working with their staff to score every project within the agency using LDW which will ultimately prioritize and rank all programs.

Mr. Smith acknowledged the work that is being done by the Washington State Association of Counties' (WSAC) Legislative Steering Committee which is co-chaired by Commissioner Mielke. WSAC has included public health as one of their priorities for emphasis in the next legislative session.

Leadership Spokane

The Spokane Regional Health District received a Community Trustee Leadership Award from Leadership Spokane for the ongoing support that our agency provides as we continue to send employees through their valuable program over the years and link public health with other community partners.

All City Senior Picnic

Board members are invited to the All City Senior Picnic at Mission Park on July 17, 2008 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. which is sponsored by the Health District's Senior Nutrition Program and Spokane Senior and Community Centers.

Spokane Valley Performance Audit

Following the Administrator Report, Councilman Gothmann announced that the City of Spokane Valley was one of 38 agencies that completed a performance audit to supply ten public information requests to measure their performance. The Health District will be subject to that type of audit in the future.

Salmonella from Tomatoes

Mr. Smith responded to a board member question regarding salmonella from tomatoes. Spokane County has not had any cases of salmonella associated with tomatoes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the May 22, 2008 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Jones/Gothmann

Approved: approved with 7yes votes and one abstention (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 was made available to the board. Time frame of claims: May 1 – May 31, 2008. Board Member Jones moved approval of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Denenny.

Board discussion: Mayor Verner suggested that in the future, there may be a resource that could be provided at no cost through the City of Spokane for remodeling design. The Health District does not have a policy for payment of honorariums; following discussion, the board agreed to request staff to prepare a draft policy regarding honorariums. Following discussion, the board did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$1,911,373.66.

Voucher Numbers:	#81171 - #81506	\$ 606,208.07
Payroll Warrants:	#191535 -#191585	694,000.11
Advice Numbers	#389598 -#389793	
Payroll Warrants:	#191990 -#192042	611,165.48
Advice Numbers:	#391583 -#391778	
	TOTAL	\$1,911,373.66

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$1,911,373.66.

Motion/Second: Jones/Denenny

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #08-05 - Encouraging WSAC, AWC and Legislative Delegation Prioritization of Funding Public Health by Supporting the Recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing – Torney Smith

Mr. Smith presented Resolution #08-05 - Encouraging WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties), AWC (Association of Washington Cities) and Legislative Delegation Prioritization of Funding Public Health by Supporting the Recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health financing description. Both WSAC and AWC have taken action on this issue.

Motion: To approve Resolution #08-05 - Encouraging WSAC, AWC and Legislative Delegation Prioritization of Funding Public Health by Supporting the Recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing.

Motion/Second: Corker/Mager

Approved: Unanimously approved

Resolution #08-06 - Support and Endorsement of the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation – Cindy Green

Cindy Green, Physical Activity & Nutrition Program Manager in the Health Promotion Division presented Resolution #08-06 - Support and Endorsement of the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation. Councilman Denenny said that STA recently supported a similar motion and asked for clarification on the rails piece of this resolution to which he was advised is not specifically related to the railroads as compared to Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's. In response to Board Member Fisk, Ms. Green said she could not specify the source of the \$50 million that will be used to expand and promote active transportation. Mayor Verner said the City of Spokane has identified resources to enhance this application. All of the projects in the proposal have been vetted by the affected jurisdictions.

Motion: To approve Resolution #08-06 - Support and Endorsement of the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation.

Motion/Second: Verner/Fisk

Approved: Unanimously approved

REPORTS

Disease Prevention and Response (DPR) - Lyndia Tye

Lyndia Tye, Division Director of Disease Prevention and Response (DPR), focused her report on immunizations which affect all programs in the division.

Immunizations are a successful public health intervention having eradicated some diseases and reduced others to very low rates. We still have vaccine-preventable disease in Spokane, such as 105 cases of pertussis and 69 cases of acute hepatitis B over the past five years.

A survey conducted in 2006 to determine immunization status of infants and toddlers 19-35 months in Spokane County concluded that only 73% were up-to-date, compared to 76% statewide and 81% nationally. In other words, over one-quarter of Spokane County children are not fully immunized.

The rates for varicella (chickenpox) vaccination, which was recently added to the immunization schedule, were looked at separately. In 1999, we were at 22% and in 2006, the rate rose to 60% for one shot. It is now a school requirement to have two shots by Kindergarten entry.

For the 2006-2007 school year, the immunization exemption rate for Spokane kindergarteners was 9.2%, compared to a statewide exemption rate of 6%. For all K-12 students in Spokane, the exemption rate was 6.1% compared to 4.8% statewide.

CHILD Profile is our statewide immunization registry database administered by DOH. The goal is to have all children's records and eventually all adults in the registry. Spokane currently has less than 40% of providers using the system, although Rockwood recently signed an agreement. This database has the capability to order vaccine from the state, generate recall reminder cards to send to clients which is a best practice for raising immunization status, and to send immunization information to parents from DOH. In our 2006 survey, parents who reported receiving

information were more likely to have their children vaccinated. In the recent elementary school chickenpox outbreaks, staff were able to identify and therefore not exclude children who were registered in CHILD Profile.

Staff in the Community Health Assessment Program conduct surveys regarding immunization status and barriers to getting children vaccinated; monitor vaccine preventable disease data; and develop and distribute professional and public information which is available in DPR.

Staff in Communicable Disease Epidemiology advocate for vaccinations of high-risk populations (e.g., individuals with hepatitis C are recommended to get Hepatitis A and B immunizations); recommend vaccine prophylaxis for individuals exposed to disease; participate in influenza season planning and increased surveillance; and compile annual communicable disease data, including vaccine preventable disease data.

Communicable Disease Prevention is a new program established with the 5930 public health funds to increase the uptake of new and under-used child and adolescent vaccines; specifically focusing on improving and reporting on Varicella, Rota Virus, HPV and Pediatric Influenza. Four activities are being implemented:

- Increase utilization of CHILD Profile with health care providers in the community by increasing the number of clinics with contracts; increasing data submission from those with a contract; engaging clinics in reminder recall projects.
- Work with schools to decrease exemption rates by identifying barriers with the schools and parents; educating schools and parents; working with office staff on records management; and possibly coordinating vaccination clinics.
- Develop and implement a social marketing campaign to increase and promote immunizations and counter negative misperceptions and fears by targeting: pregnant women whose immunization decisions begin at birth; parents whose children enter kindergarten; adolescents who receive well check visits (specifically for HPV); plan seasonal flu campaigns moving the population target into the pediatric group. The state is forming a subcommittee to look at pooling resources from other LHJs, so instead of each doing their own campaign, working with others to make a stronger campaign across the state.
- Improve the immunization status of our own public health clients; e.g. clients in WIC, First Steps, and Methadone programs.

The HIV/AIDS Program advocates for their clients to be fully vaccinated for protection from disease since their clients have low immunity to disease.

The Public Health Clinic provides routine immunizations and travel shots to people of all ages. The shingles and HPV vaccines were recently added to shots available in the clinic. Immunizations are also given through the refugee health program. Clinic staff gave 16,607 shots in 2007. Most of the state's vaccine for children is distributed directly to local providers and the role of our clinic is to monitor the inventory and proper storage and use of the vaccine.

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program prepares public health staff, healthcare providers, and other agencies to respond effectively to public health emergencies in Spokane County. Mass vaccination clinics may need to be set up for some events. Signs,

staunches, screens, and other equipment have been purchased and are available to quickly set up a mass clinic. Both regular and intermittent clinic nurses can give shots, as well as public health nurses who are being kept current to give shots. Agreements are in place with the Intercollegiate College of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy to assist, if needed.

Group Health Foundation traditionally funds many small community projects but this year decided to put their funds toward improving immunization levels for the next three years by working with providers to use CHILD Profile, developing social marketing campaigns, working with schools, and increasing client immunization levels. This work will assist us in our efforts.

Suggestions for what members of the Board of Health can do include: advocate for immunizations to protect the community from disease; get your own vaccinations current and recommend people in your agency or family get vaccinated; get the annual flu shot; consider being a spokesperson for the flu vaccine during the Health District's seasonal media campaign; consider a project to work with school superintendents on strengthening their monitoring of immunization levels; and work with the State Board of Health on the personal exemption issue.

Board member questions and discussion following the presentation:

A form is required to be completed and forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for any adverse reactions to a vaccine; a suggestion to use data on reactions as part of the immunization campaign to help people make informed decisions; an interest in seeing data that correlates the uptake of vaccine to a decrease in disease; all of the Grant County children who became infected with the measles were unimmunized; a suggestion was made to print information on the school immunizations form on how and where to get immunizations as well as information on how to get the form for exemptions.

Board members thanked Ms. Tye for the report.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Leadership Spokane – Board Member Jones

Board Member Jones asked what the impact to the community is regarding the knowledge of public health due to sending Health District employees to the Leadership Spokane class. Mr. Smith, who is a graduate of the class, said that many leaders in our local community have gained a better understanding about public health through their contacts in Leadership Spokane.

Health Officer Search Status – Mayor Verner

In response to Mayor Verner's inquiry as to the status of the health officer search, Mr. Smith said that the Board of Health Selection Committee continues to work with Mr. Anderson and the Waters-Oldani search firm. Two local individuals have inquired about the position and we are expecting more names from Waters-Oldani. The salary continues to be brought up as a possible issue but we are in line statewide. Councilman Crump has been working with Mr. Anderson on the language regarding the salary in order to give more leeway to the board in negotiating a salary. Board Member Jones believes that real estate and the inability of any potential candidate to sell their home has been an issue.

Board Member Vacancy – Mayor Verner

The vacant position on the board of health will be an appointment by the County Commissioners for a citizen at large to represent Commissioner Mielke’s district. The recording secretary was requested to get an update on the status of filling that position for the chair to report at the next meeting.

Maxillofacial Program Funding – Commissioner Richard

Commissioner Richard asked for an update on the Maxillofacial Program Funding. The Health District’s Comptroller, Mike Riley, has billed the County for their portion and will work with Spokane’s Mayor regarding the portion for the City of Spokane. The only funding received so far is half of the amount from the City of Spokane Valley. The program will be sustained through the end of this year as funding is collected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

A special Board of Health meeting is scheduled on Friday, July 11, 2008 at 10 a.m. – Noon in the auditorium. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on July 24, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED: David A. Erving
Board of Health Chair

Date: 7.24.08

Marcia K. Olson
Recording Secretary

