

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, July 24, 2008 was called to order by Councilman David Crump, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in rooms 320/321 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Councilman David Crump, Chair
Councilman Michael Allen (departed 1:45 p.m.)
Councilman Steve Corker
Councilman Dick Denenny (arrived 12:34 p.m.)
Councilman Bill Gothmann
Commissioner Bonnie Mager (arrived 12:36 p.m.)
Commissioner Todd Mielke
Commissioner Mark Richard, Vice Chair (arrived 12:35 p.m.)
Board Member Margaret Jones

ABSENT

Mayor Mary Verner
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC

CITIZEN INPUT

- Betty Fowler, Spokane, talked about her opposition to water fluoridation and recommended the EPA's study on fluoride.
- Charles Wolfe, Spokane, talked about his opposition to abortion and requested the board to no longer do business with Planned Parenthood.
- Rose Waldram, Greenacres, talked about her opposition to water fluoridation and she submitted written materials.
- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane, talked about her concern regarding vaccines, nonoxynal 9, formaldehyde, g-force of rollercoaster rides, and full disclosure, and she submitted written information.
- Larry Priano, Spokane, talked about his concerns regarding safety and efficacy of vaccines.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilman David Crump

2009 BUDGET PREPARATION

Chair Crump thanked Torney Smith and Mike Riley for facilitating the public forums on the 2009 budget preparation and encouraged participation in those. He thanked Councilman Corker, Councilman Gothmann, and Commissioner Mager for participating on the board's Budget Subcommittee and their involvement in the budget process.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

The County Commissioner's office has posted the vacancy for the appointed position on the Board of Health. Only one of the applicants who responded to the first posting was qualified as living in Commissioner District 1 and the vacancy has been reposted.

CHAIR'S ABSENCE

Chair Crump just returned from Africa and expressed his appreciation for what we have in our country. He thanked Vice Chair Richard for chairing the June board meeting during his absence.

He also thanked Commissioner Mielke who chaired the special July 11 meeting with the legislators when Commissioner Richard was evacuated during the Dishman Hills fire. A thank you letter including attachments will be sent out to all legislators who participated in the meeting and a copy with attachments will be sent to legislators who were unable to attend. A future meeting with legislators will be scheduled.

HEALTH OFFICER SEARCH

Several new candidates have submitted applications for the health officer position and the board search committee is in the process of getting additional information for each applicant from the search firm. More information will be provided in the Administrator report.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Torney Smith

Dr. Jecha was not at today's meeting, but was available if needed.

SRHD Annual Barbecue

Mr. Smith thanked board members who were able to attend the agency's annual barbecue on Wednesday, in particular Councilman Crump who helped with cooking and serving.

West Nile Virus Update

A pool of mosquitoes in the Yakima area recently tested positive for West Nile virus; however, at this time no other animals have tested positive in the state.

Spokane Clean Air Moving

Spokane Clean Air (formerly County Air Pollution) submitted a letter to notify the Health District that they have acquired a building and will terminate their lease for space on the fourth floor of the Public Health Center. The Health District will seek another renter to occupy that space in order to continue to receive that source of revenue.

Inland Northwest Community Foundation

The Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) is working on several efforts to improve our community. Mr. Smith co-chairs the Healthy People committee along with Tim Henkel of United Way to work on improving the living conditions of people in our community. Other focus areas being addressed include economics, environment and education. INWCF is looking at data to determine how they can provide information and guidance for these community improvement efforts. The INWCF community improvement efforts are using data from the Spokane Community Indicators Initiative posted on their website at <http://www.communityindicators.ewu.edu/>.

Public Health Funding

Mr. Smith thanked Commissioner Mielke for chairing the special July 11, 2008 Board of Health meeting with area legislators to discuss public health funding. Work has begun on specific internal strategies to educate local individuals and community partners to influence funding for public health in the next biennium. Our state revenue has been flat for the past ten years and our per capita revenue has been dropping.

Public health officials have been engaged in weekly phone calls looking at statewide public health funding. Some counties across the state are looking at major deficits. Some of our staff met with Commissioner Mielke, who co-chairs the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Legislative Committee, for guidance on strategies based on his understanding of how public health links with WSAC. We will also work with the cities to strategize how they can address public health funding.

The legislators suggested meeting one more time prior to the next legislative session. Mr. Smith asked for input from board members on a month, day, and time to target for the follow-up meeting with the legislators. The first target date for a special meeting of the board with the legislators will be November 7, 2008 and an alternate date will be November 21, 2008. Board members agreed on the importance of educating legislators about public health. A thank you letter to those legislators who attended the July 11, 2008 special meeting will be mailed which will include the materials that were presented. A copy, including materials, will be mailed to the remaining legislators and to all board members.

Commissioner Mielke commended staff on the compilation of data that was presented to the legislators at the July 11, 2008 special meeting. What he heard from the legislators at that meeting is that the state is facing a \$2.5 million deficit. Two messages that came out of that meeting are 1) that the Spokane Regional Health District is not looking to grow, but to maintain our 2008 programs, and 2) to look at the number of unfunded, mandated activities. The legislators asked us to come back to them with more specifics in those areas. Board members were encouraged to make face-to-face contact with legislators, as opportunities arise, to raise their awareness of public health and the funding issue.

The Health District has formed a Public Health Funding Advisory Committee comprised of Health District staff including Mr. Smith, Julie Graham, Elaine Conley, and Cindy Green and includes Commissioner Mielke. Additional staff will be added. That committee will bring a report back to the board.

Seasonal Influenza

A Health District committee has been established to work on our seasonal influenza plan to follow the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommendations. The primary focus this year will be immunizing individuals who are 6 months through 18 years of age with a secondary focus on healthcare workers and individuals over age 50 and followed by the general public.

Emergency Preparedness Training

As a result of the local emergency preparedness planning efforts, those agencies who were involved in the two recent fires that occurred, in the Dishman Hills in the Valley and the Joel building downtown, were able to effectively work together to determine who would take the lead to respond to media and to generate a press release.

Following a report at the June meeting on the Emergency Preparedness Inservice Training for board members, additional board members expressed their interest in participating in a future

training. An email was sent to board members with projected days and times, however, no responses have been received to date. Board members who attended the first training commented again on the value. A follow-up email be sent to arrange another training.

Drownings

In response to Chair Crump, Mr. Smith said that he is not aware of any drowning reports so far this year. Commissioner Richard talked about the potential dangers of pools and the importance of continuing messages about pool safety.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the June 26, 2008 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Corker/Jones

Approved: 6 yes votes and 3 abstentions (Allen, Crump, Mielke)

Motion: To approve the July 11, 2008 Special Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Mager/Denenny

Approved: 4 yes votes and 5 abstentions (Allen, Corker, Crump, Gothmann, Richard)

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: June 1 – 30, 2008. The board, in a vote as moved by Councilman Corker and seconded by Councilman Denenny, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$1,715,475.23.

Voucher Numbers:	#80401 - #81855	\$ 478,714.77
Payroll Warrants:	#192471 -#192523	696,238.23
Advice Numbers	#393572 -#393767	
Payroll Warrants:	#192995 -#193046	540,522.23
Advice Numbers:	#395561 -#395755	
	TOTAL	\$1,715,475.23

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$1,715,475.23.

Motion/Second: Corker/Denenny

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #08-07 - Adopting the 2009 Health District Fee Schedule – Mike Riley

Mike Riley presented Resolution #08-07 – Adopting the 2009 Health District Fee Schedule. The fees were prepared in accordance with Board of Health Resolution #06-02 Health District Fee Policy which states that fees should be based on total cost of a service. Calculation and adoption of fees is one of the steps in preparing the annual budget. Staff responded to board member questions regarding several fees including food services (charitable facility, concession stand,

mobile food service, caterer, temporary event), witness testimony, school self inspection, tobacco fees, and liquid waste application. Chair Crump believes this fee schedule is a good example of using data driven decisions. Following questions, a motion was made by Councilman Corker and a second by Commissioner Richard to adopt the 2009 fee schedule.

Motion: To approve Resolution 08-07 - Adopting the 2009 Health District Fee Schedule.

Motion/Second: Corker/Richard

Approved: Unanimously

REPORT

Health Promotion Division – Elaine Engle

Elaine Engle, Division Director of the Health Promotion Division, presented an overview and some statistics for the programs within her division.

- The Breast & Cervical Health Program is a federally funded program that serves uninsured or underinsured women ages 40-64 in nine eastern Washington counties to receive free mammograms and pap tests, referral, testing, and cancer treatment. Last year, eight cervical cancers and 19 breast cancers were detected.
- The goal of the Physical Activity & Nutrition Program is to make it easier for people to be physically active and choose healthy foods. Program staff has presented policy work to the Board of Health at recent meetings. In addition to the policy work, the Basic Food Nutrition Education Program component encourages young people to make healthy eating choices and demonstrates how to stretch food dollars, food preparation and proper hand washing and food safety.
- The goal of the Reproductive Health Program is to support healthy reproductivity by decreasing unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and teen pregnancies. The curriculum for the teen pregnancy programs covers abstinence, sexually transmitted diseases, sexuality and the media, body image, and decision-making skills. A teen pregnancy prevention program for boys is being piloted.
- The Senior Nutrition Program makes healthy meals available to seniors to help them live independently and to address mal or over nutrition. In 2007, eleven congregate meal sites served 70,000 meals to seniors. Of those seniors receiving meals at congregate sites, 53% were over the age of 75, 70% were handicapped, and 50% were at high risk for malnutrition. In the home delivered meal program, 130,000 meals were delivered to seniors of which 70% were over the age of 75, more than 96% were handicapped, and 98% were at high risk for malnutrition. The program issues farmer's market vouchers to qualified seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables thereby contributing \$40 thousand to the local economy.
- The goal of the Tobacco Program is to reduce illness and death caused by tobacco use and enforce the law that prohibits smoking in public places, I-901. Program staff have been focusing on policy changes, such as working with landlords who want smoke-free properties. Program staff conduct compliance checks of retailers to see if they sell tobacco to minors and have found an 87% compliance rate in Spokane County. The program collaborates with staff in the Environmental Health Division to monitor compliance with I-901 regarding smoking inside, within 25 feet and proper signage.
- The Women Infants & Children (WIC) program helps low-income people receive education and healthy food vouchers to prevent malnutrition and resultant negative health outcomes. In 2007, WIC served 18,673 clients. 56% of infants born in Spokane County receive WIC

services, 65% are working families, 62% live in poverty. WIC staff provided 48,077 nutrition education sessions, issued over \$7 million in food vouchers to purchase specific food items, and provided over \$35 thousand in vouchers for fresh produce to the area Farmer's Markets.

- The Injury Prevention Program provides education and assists the community to adopt policy and environmental changes to address falls in the elderly, suicide prevention, and motor vehicle concerns including passenger and pedestrian safety and the use of bicycle helmets. Suicide prevention targets adults ages 45-64 due to a rise in that group; in Spokane County in 2002-2006, the rate of suicide was 25.6 per 100,000 compared to the state rate of 18.4 per 100,000 with about 1,600 attempts annually. Of 500 child passenger seats checked for proper installment, 89% were improperly installed and 86 were replaced. The Injury Prevention Program ties in with physical activity through the Safe Routes to School; 250 youth and parents participated in Walk Your Child To School Day in 2007. The program collaborates with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission on corridor projects, such as the D-Zone and Y-Zone, to coordinate and provide education to schools, businesses, companies and organizations along these routes.

Board members thanked Ms. Engle for her presentation. Commissioner Richard suggested that Ms. Engle contact board members to inform them about or engage them in community events.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Vaccines – Board Member Jones

Board Member Jones distributed several documents to board members to promote vaccines including a newspaper article about a woman who spent her life in an iron lung due to polio, an article from the June 2, 2008 issue of *Time* magazine “The Truth About Vaccines” and an immunization schedule from Group Health.

Second Hand Smoke – Councilman Crump

Chair Crump recently returned from a couple of foreign countries and talked about being exposed to second hand smoke; he has become accustomed to no exposure to second hand smoke and appreciates that choice.

Learning About Public Health Programs – Councilman Crump

Chair Crump noted that we are midway through the year and asked board members to arrange to visit one or more programs or divisions at the Health District.

“Unnatural Causes . . . is inequality making us sick?” – Councilman Crump

Chair Crump had the opportunity to watch a portion of a documentary video, “Unnatural Causes,” that explores racial and socioeconomic inequities in health. He will work with Mr. Smith to find a way to share it with all members of the Board of Health. The video will provide useful information to board members both in their official capacity and as individuals to work with our community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Crump announced that there would be no Executive Session.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on September 25, 2008 as there is no regular meeting scheduled in August. Chair Crump did ask board members, however, to hold the August 28 date open to be available if there was going to be an opportunity to meet with a prospective health officer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at about 2:10 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Board of Health Chair

Date: September 25, 2008



Recording Secretary