

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, June 25, 2009 was called to order by Commissioner Richard, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in rooms 320/321 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Councilman Michael Allen
Councilman Steve Corker (arrived 12:45)
Councilman David Crump
Councilman Dick Denenny
Councilman Bill Gothmann, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bonnie Mager (arrived 12:52)
Commissioner Mark Richard, Chair
Mayor Mary Verner (arrived 1:00)
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC (arrived 12:35)
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN

ABSENT

Commissioner Todd Mielke

CITIZEN INPUT

- Rose Marie Waldram, Greenacres, distributed several documents and talked about various health-related topics.
- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane, talked about medications and their toxic effects and the need for full disclosure.

CHAIR REPORT – Commissioner Richard

- The Association of Washington Cities is meeting in Spokane and several board members were expected to arrive late due to attending those meetings.
- Legal Counsel, Michelle Wolkey, was not available and was advised that a colleague was not needed at today's meeting. She will present a report next month in regard to the approval process of the meeting minutes as a follow-up to a request last month.
- The Council of Governments will kick off the fair at their September 11, 2009 meeting at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center. Dr. McCullough has been invited.
- The Board of Health recently received a letter from Mary Wendt, Assistant Secretary, Community and Family Health at the Department of Health in Olympia which was read into the record:

“In 2007, the Spokane Regional Health District effectively used Preventive Health and Health Service Block Grant funds received through the Washington State Department of Health to increase physical activity.

To illustrate how these dollars were well spent and had a positive impact on your community, the Office of Health Promotion produced a one page “success story” on the achievement.

This story was shared with your congressional members in Washington D.C., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Washington State Department of Health

leadership. The success story will also be posted on the Department of Health's Preventive Health and Health Services webpage: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/OHP/PHHS.htm>.

It is our pleasure to share this document with you. We applaud the Spokane Regional Health District for their success."

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

Communicable Disease Updates

H1N1 Influenza

H1N1 influenza continues to spread throughout the world and is currently most active in the southern hemisphere with similar degrees of severity in terms of the clinical illnesses that have been reported. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), World Health Organization and other international health bodies are continuing to monitor the situation. Public health agencies at the local, state, and national levels continue to plan for the upcoming flu season. The Health District expects to receive H1N1 vaccine; however, the numbers of dosage is not known.

Dr. McCullough responded to Board Member questions. The H1N1 virus has been isolated and a vaccine is being manufactured. There are several steps to the manufacturing process and the vaccine will need to be tested to determine its effectiveness. When more information is available as to when the vaccine will be received and the recommendations for distribution, that information will be shared.

West Nile Virus (WNV)

So far this year in the state of Washington, there have been seven batches of mosquitoes that have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). No infected birds or horses have been identified so far. There have been no human cases reported in Washington and only one human case has been reported so far in the United States.

E. coli 0157:H7

Washington State has had five of the 65 cases of the recent outbreak of E. coli 0157:H7 related to commercial refrigerated cookie dough. The Health District held a press event last week to advise Spokane County residents to throw away the product if it was identified in their refrigerator. This product should not be cooked because it is contaminated with the bacteria which can be spread around the kitchen when handled and cause cross contamination and possibly consuming the product accidentally. A detailed list of the Nestle Toll House brand cookie dough products that are being recalled is available on the Food and Drug Administration website at www.fda.gov.

Active Transportation

Dr. McCullough and Cindy Green, our Physical Activity & Nutrition Program Manager, testified before the Washington State Transportation Commission in Spokane with the message to emphasize the importance of active transportation which includes walking, biking, or using transit. Active transportation is important to public health because these are types of physical activities that people can incorporate into their regular daily life that will increase their physical

activity in general and could result in decreasing the numbers of the twin epidemics of diabetes and obesity.

Local and State Meetings

Spokesman-Review Editorial Board

The Spokesman-Review Editorial Board invited Dr. McCullough to their meeting where they asked about public health in Spokane in general and asked about H1N1 influenza in particular and the Health District's plans for the fall. Dr. McCullough provided as much information as he had at the time. He received an open invitation to attend their editorial board meetings in the future after he has been here longer and has more information to share.

Department of Social and Health Services

Dr. McCullough met with the Region 1 Administrator of the Department of Social and Health Services in order to establish a relationship with that agency which funds a number of programs at the Health District.

Washington Regional AIDSNETs

Dr. McCullough attended a Washington Regional AIDSNET meeting in Seattle at which the statewide funding structure was discussed. The funding structure may change due to challenges. Several of the regional AIDSNETS will have ongoing communication on how to best communicate with the legislators in regard to statewide AIDS funding.

SRHD Methadone Program

Dr. McCullough testified before the Board of County Commissioners about the Health District's Methadone Program. The Health District is currently limited to serve 350 clients in the Methadone Program Clinic and requested an increase to serve 400 clients based on a survey of people who are on a waiting list for this service. Approximately 50 people come to our methadone clinic daily and sign in on a waiting list. The Commissioners approved the increase.

Legislative Outreach

Dr. McCullough has begun a legislative outreach process, contacting various legislators to start an ongoing dialogue about public health and other issues. So far, he has met with Senator Marr. Senator Shea is scheduled to visit the Health District in early July and meetings with other legislators are being scheduled.

Discussion following Dr. McCullough's report:

- The regular flu vaccine will likely arrive prior to the H1N1 vaccine. The vaccines will not be combined in order to look for possible adverse reactions.
- The Health District's influenza preparedness plan does include outreach to our community partners such as the schools; however, some parts of the plan cannot be activated until more is known about prioritization of the vaccine. We do maintain open communication with our partners and there will be coordination of our efforts.
- Commissioner Richard said he valued the Emergency Preparedness Training provided by Health District staff which he recently attended and he recommended the training to board members who had not yet had an opportunity to attend any of the trainings.

- As part of the legislative outreach, a suggestion was made to share the letter read during the Chair Report regarding the Health District's effective use of funds with legislators.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the May 28, 2009 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Crump/Denenny

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: May 1 – 31, 2009. Following discussion and clarification of some vouchers, the board, in a vote as moved by Councilman Crump and seconded by Commissioner Mager, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$1,789,502.05.

Voucher Numbers:	#90056 - #91505	\$ 480,607.82
Payroll Warrants:	#607900 -#607947	738,105.91
Advice Numbers	#DD1565 -#CC1764	
Payroll Warrants:	#610484 -#610528	570,788.32
Advice Numbers:	#DD1765 -#DD1963	
	TOTAL	\$1,789,502.05

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$1,789,502.05.

Motion/Second: Crump/Mager

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

2009-2014 Strategic Plan – Elaine Conley

Elaine Conley, Director of Community & Family Services, facilitated the Spokane Regional Health District's strategic planning process. Board members were provided with the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan Executive Summary, a Strategic Planning Process document, and Goal Statement Action Plans. Ms. Conley reviewed the strategic planning process using a PowerPoint presentation.

In February 2009, the Health District engaged in a strategic planning process, as the current plan was in its fifth year. The process began by understanding our current strengths and weaknesses and identifying key partners. Members of the Board of Health were invited to participate in the strategic planning process which was done in a fairly short time; Board members who participated were Councilman Corker, Commissioner Mager, Mayor Verner, Board Member Lutz and Councilman Gothmann.

To begin with, participants went through a number of exercises intended to help them understand:

- The environment in which the organization is functioning
- What external issues will influence the success or failure of the organization
- Key stakeholders
- Internal strengths and weaknesses
- Optimal resources, competencies and capabilities needed by the organization

Participants then identified the optimal bundle of resources, competencies and capabilities that SRHD would need to be a successful organization:

- Funding
- Reinvent public health
- Workforce development
- Leadership
- Efficiency/Effectiveness

A Gap Analysis was then done to compare current resources, competencies and capabilities with optimal resources, competences and capabilities and determine if they were or were not a match. Two were not a match (funding and reinvent public health) and three were a partial match (workforce development, leadership, and efficiency/effectiveness); all needed to be worked on.

The mission, vision and value statements were reviewed and slightly modified:

- Our mission is to serve as the region's public health leader and partner to ~~promote and~~ protect and improve the community's health.
- Our vision is a safe and healthy community for all.

Our values are: Integrity, Leadership, Courage, Visionary, Teamwork, Partnering, Culturally Competent, Caring/welcoming, Excellence, Accountable, Inclusiveness, Ethical.

Our guiding principles are: Focus on science-based prevention and data driven decision-making; Institute current methodologies and technologies into practice; Engage and strengthen community partnerships; Target and reduce health disparities; Sustain a dedicated, competent workforce.

In order to make key decisions participants had to answer four key questions:

- What are we currently doing, but should stop doing?
- What are we not currently doing, but should start doing?
- What should we continue to do as we are currently doing it?
- What are we currently doing and should continue to do but in a fundamentally different way?

Out of that process, the following goals were developed:

- Increase the awareness of the value and role of public health in our community
- Develop and implement strategies to obtain sustainable, adequate public health funding
- Ensure an optimal competent work force to fulfill our mission
- Focus public health practice to address the determinants of health
- Practice collaborative/integrative leadership

- Commit to continuous quality improvement
- Enhance our ability to respond to emerging health issues.

Action plan committees were formed for each goal statement consisting of Executive Management staff, Joint Management staff, and any Board of Health members who were interested in participating. Action plans were developed for each goal statement and the goal teams will be in place for the next five years and be responsible for implementation and oversight of action plans for their particular goal.

The Executive Management Team believes that this is not only a strategic plan but a new sense of momentum for the organization and, as an outcome of this planning process, we will have additional understanding of where the organization is today, where it wants to go and where it should be five years into the future. This should result in:

- Increased awareness of the role of public health among community partners and the public;
- Improved advocacy for public health funding;
- Leadership that is more flexible and adaptable to changes in both the internal and external environments;
- A shift in organizational thinking from categorical programs to population based and systems work with an emphasis on a reduction in health disparities;
- A philosophy that embraces continuous quality improvement at every level of the organization; and
- Ability to measure and articulate the difference that programs/activities make through cost avoidance and cost recovery analysis.

This plan establishes a strategic direction and serves as the template for moving the organization forward and “stretching” us to fulfill our vision for public health in Spokane County.

Board member discussion following the presentation included some of the following:

- There was no consumer involvement in this process.
- Fiscal accountability, which is part of the responsibility of a board member, is not listed as a specific goal but can be added to an action plan.
- The goal statements are currently being done but these goals will stretch what we are currently doing to assure those things are being done throughout the agency.
- Commissioner Mager expressed the value of going through the strategic planning process and expressed her appreciation and thank you to Elaine Conley who facilitated the process.
- When the strategic planning process was set up, it was not possible for all board members to participate due to the open public meetings act.
- This is a draft plan that was developed to go before the Board of Health for approval.
- Councilman Corker would understand if a decision on adopting the plan was deferred in order to allow the Board to have time to review the planning process.
- Board members who did not initially participate on a goal action committee may participate on any one or more at any time.
- Benchmarks will be established for activities for each goal using various tools.
- Board members asked for more time to study the planning process.

Following discussion, Board members agreed to schedule a special meeting to study the strategic planning process. Councilman Corker made a motion to defer the action item to adopt the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan to the July meeting and schedule a briefing session in the interim with the Board; motion seconded by Councilman Denenny.

Motion: To defer the action item to adopt the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan to the July meeting and schedule a briefing session in the interim with the Board.

Motion/Second: Corker/Denenny

Approved: Unanimously

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

The following comments were made and questions answered during Board Member Concerns:

- Councilman Crump complimented Dr. McCullough for visiting with other agencies and community partners. He has invited him to meet the Liberty Lake City Council.
- Commissioner Mager commended Dr. McCullough for reaching out to the legislators.
- Board Member Fisk asked if the Health District had a process for recovering any fees for service, for instance if a person has Medicare coverage through the state. Mr. Smith responded that we do and that in most instances the Health District is the payer of last resort.
- Dr. McCullough gave a brief overview of some of what we learned during the H1N1 situation. This was a larger ramp up of public health than we have had in the past few years and we learned some areas of strength and some areas that we need to improve. Communication is key in any response activity and we learned that some of our routes of communication were inadequate. We have begun working on those areas in preparation for the fall.
- During this H1N1 response, CDC put forth guidance and has been proactive in providing us with information; we will continue to look to the CDC and others in regard to this virus. It may be later in the year before we have more specific information about some things, such as the number of vaccine doses that will be available and when they will be available.
- A proposal for significant funding for pandemic preparedness has been made at the federal level.
- Mayor Verner asked for clarification regarding a comment she heard from a community member saying that the Red Cross is trying to offer a drinking fountain during Hoopfest and the property owner was told that the Health District would not allow them to offer a drinking fountain to the players. She said that the City of Spokane dispenses drinking water and she did not want to do anything out of compliance. David Swink said that the Health District has no jurisdiction over the water and that any water should come from an approved public water supply.
- Councilman Crump brought his daughter into the Health District for an immunization and they had a positive experience and he thanked staff who treated her well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on July 23, 2009 in rooms 320/321 at 1101 W. College Avenue in Spokane.

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED: 
Board of Health Chair

Date: 7/23/09


Recording Secretary