

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, December 3, 2009 was called to order by Commissioner Richard, Chair, at 12:40 p.m. in rooms 320/321 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Councilman Steve Corker
Councilman David Crump
Councilman Dick Denenny
Councilman Bill Gothmann, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bonnie Mager
Commissioner Mark Richard, Chair
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC (arrived 12:47 p.m.)
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN

ABSENT

Commissioner Todd Mielke
Mayor Mary Verner

CITIZEN INPUT

- Rose Marie Waldram, Spokane, distributed written materials, and read an article about fluoride.
- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane, distributed documents and a booklet about fluoridation and talked about influenza, vaccines, and her opposition to a state board of local health.

CHAIR REPORT – Commissioner Richard

Board Composition

There will be some changes to the composition of the Board of Health for 2009 due to the changes on the city councils of both Spokane and Spokane Valley. Chair Richard explained that vacancies on the Board of Health for representation from the City of Spokane and City of Spokane Valley are appointed to the Board by those jurisdictions from among their elected officials and that the small cities representative on the Board is decided annually by the mayors. In accordance with the Board Bylaws, all appointments to the Board of Health are to be made by the second Monday in January.

Strategic Plan Goal 8

Chair Richard thanked Board Members Denenny, Corker, Crump, and Lutz who joined him on a subcommittee to develop Strategic Plan Goal 8 for the Board of Health. The draft goal, which was distributed for review, is comprised of three objectives which the subcommittee believed were essential towards the improvement of the functioning of the Board of Health: ongoing education; advancement of proactive regional policy development related to social determinants of health and environmental change; and advancing public outreach and legislative advocacy. There are many ongoing board activities that were not identified in this goal, as the purpose of the Strategic Plan is to focus on areas for improvement.

Health District Administrator Torney Smith thanked members of the Board of Health who developed Strategic Plan Goal 8. He requested board members to forward additions or modifications to the goal to Marcia Olson within the next week.

Board Member Survey

Councilman Crump acknowledged Liz Wallace, an epidemiology in the Health District's Community Health Assessment Center, who worked with the Board's subcommittee to develop Strategic Plan Goal 8 and an accompanying Logic Model. The Logic Model refers to a survey of Board Members which is included in today's Board of Health Agenda under Action Item 8. c. Councilman Denenny requested each Board Member to complete the survey, entitled BOH Governance Assessment, before leaving the meeting. Chair Richard requested that outgoing Board of Health Member Mike Allen to also complete the survey.

Education Materials

As referenced in Strategic Plan Goal 8 and the Logic Model, a three-ring binder is being compiled as an orientation manual for members of the Board of Health. Chair Richard acknowledged Councilman Gothmann who was instrumental in initiating the compilation of this educational resource for members of the Board of Health. Councilman Gothmann thanked the Health District's Administrator, Torney Smith, for getting this project completed. He read a list of some of the topics covered in the manual which include: agency history; mission, vision, and values; org chart; strategic plan; functions of board members; board bylaws; state laws; budget and finance processes; and emergency preparedness.

Injury Prevention Volunteer Recognition

Chair Richard thanked Health Promotion staff for the opportunity to open the Injury Prevention Volunteer Recognition this morning. He met many individuals and learned more about the injury prevention programs and what staff do in those programs. He commended staff for their efforts and for recognizing our volunteers and partners in this time of reduced budgets.

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

H1N1 Influenza

The Health District continues to respond to H1N1 influenza activity in our community. A significant decrease in H1N1 activity has occurred over the past month in eastern Washington. Our surveillance shows that the emergency room visits for people with influenza-like illnesses has decreased and absenteeism in the school systems is at baseline for this time of year.

Since the onset of H1N1, about 189 Spokane County residents have been hospitalized and, of those, about 48 were hospitalized in the last month and seven people have died. Nationally, there has been a decline in the number of illnesses associated with H1N1 influenza; however, the levels of illness are higher than normally expected at this time of year with over 99% of the influenza illnesses being related to H1N1 and not much seasonal influenza activity. Most people with influenza-like illness are not tested and do not go to the hospital. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) did what is called modeling results to estimate the number of people in this country infected with H1N1 at approximately 22 million.

Vaccine distribution has been one of the challenges with the H1N1 virus. In Spokane, there continues to be more demand than supply for the H1N1 vaccine. The Health District continues to target those priority groups who have increased risk for medical complications from H1N1. Thus far the Health District has received about 98 thousand doses of vaccine in Spokane County with most of the vaccine going to our healthcare providers so that they can vaccinate their high risk patients. The Health District has sponsored a number of public health clinics where over 7,200 individuals have been vaccinated. Additional clinics are planned up to December 10, 2010 and we anticipate our vaccine supply to get better throughout the month so that hopefully more people will be able to get vaccinated.

Dr. McCullough responded to board member questions.

- Surveillance systems look at adverse events related to the vaccine and what has been found so far looking at national results is that there is no difference than what is normally seen with seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Healthcare providers place orders to receive vaccine which is distributed in amounts dependent on their size of practice, etc. Healthcare providers are required to report how many doses they are using and had agreed to vaccinate the high priority groups but there is no way to monitor that.
- There was significant demand for the H1N1 vaccine early on and, although demand is decreasing, we have not met the demand in terms of individuals in priority groups being vaccinated. It appears that the demand for H1N1 flu vaccine is higher than for seasonal flu vaccine which may be due to the attention it is getting. The target group for H1N1 vaccine is different than for the seasonal flu. We anticipate receiving increased supplies of H1N1 vaccine.
- Due to a delay in reporting by physician's offices, we do not know what quantity of the 98 thousand doses has been given and what may still be available; staff are calling the physician's offices to request them to file their reports with the state.

Councilman Gothmann thanked Dr. McCullough and staff at the Health District for their leadership, education, and distribution of the vaccine during this difficult time.

CDC ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) Funding

The Health District is applying to CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) through the Department of Health (DOH) for ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding in two project areas: one for physical activity and nutrition and one for tobacco. Dr. McCullough thanked program managers Cindy Green and Christopher Zilar who put in a tremendous amount of work putting together information for this funding application which was extremely complicated involving multiple partners. DOH chose both of our agency's projects to forward on to the CDC for funding. Dr. McCullough thanked everyone involved in this application process and thanked our partners including the Board of Health, school districts, elected officials, and others who supported these projects to make our application competitive at CDC. Our agency fell within the applicant category of small cities and rural areas and was the only local health department in the state that went forward in both project areas. We anticipate to hear sometime in February whether or not we were successful in receiving funding for these projects.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the October 22, 2009 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Crump/Corker

Approved: Unanimously approved

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, 2009. The board, in a vote as moved by Councilman Crump and seconded by Councilman Denenny, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$1,919,153.45.

Voucher Numbers:	#93006	-#B&OSEP09	\$ 643,047.49
Payroll Warrants:	#631041	-#631080	714,073.19
Advice Numbers	#DD3590	-#DD3796	
Payroll Warrants:	#633539	-#633581	562,032.77
Advice Numbers:	#DD3797	-#DD4001	
	TOTAL		\$1,919,153.45

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$1,919,153.45.

Motion/Second: Crump/Denenny

Approved: Unanimously approved

ACTION ITEMS

Elect 2010 Board of Health Chair

Councilman Denenny made a motion to appointment Councilman Gothmann as the chair of the Board of Health for the 2010 calendar year; motion seconded by Councilman Crump.

Councilman Corker made a motion to close the nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot; motion seconded by Councilman Crump.

Motion: To cast a unanimous ballot for Councilman Bill Gothmann as chair of the Board of Health for the 2010 calendar year.

Motion/Second: Corker/Crump

Approved: Unanimously approved

Recognize Outgoing Board Members – Chair Richard

Outgoing board members are given the opportunity to designate a charity of their choice to receive a donation from the Health District in recognition of their service as a member of the Board of Health in lieu of receiving a plaque.

Chair Richard read a letter written to the Juvenile Diabetes Association to send a \$50 donation on behalf of Councilman Allen in recognition of his service on the Board of Health in 2008-2009. Councilman Allen said he chose the Juvenile Diabetes Association because his daughter is

a type 1 diabetic. He said he enjoyed working with the board and that the Spokane Regional Health District is one of the best run organizations he has been involved in.

Chair Richard read a letter written to the Spokane Valley Partners Food Warehouse Project to send a \$50 donation on behalf of Councilman Denenny in recognition of his service on the Board of Health from September 2003 through December 2009; Councilman Denenny personally pledged an additional \$100 to that project. Councilman Denenny commented on the time and commitment that is needed to understand what the Health District does and the importance of bringing all board members up to speed on the vast array of services. He appreciated the opportunity to work with staff to contribute to the improvement of public health in the community and found his service on the Board of Health to be one of the most rewarding aspects of his position on the Spokane Valley City Council.

Board Member Survey – Chair Richard

As discussed during the Chair Report, board members were requested to complete the Governance Assessment survey before leaving the meeting. The anonymous survey will also be forwarded to those Board Members who were absent from today's meeting.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Thank You – Councilman Crump

Councilman Crump did not have a concern but took this opportunity to thank everyone and to wish them a happy holiday season.

Board Member Involvement – Councilman Denenny

Councilman Denenny is leaving the Spokane Valley City Council and the Board of Health, but he plans to continue to invest his time in other organizations such as the Spokane Valley Chamber. He encouraged members of this board, as they move toward the legislative side of the equation, to get involved with their area chamber and to utilize those resources to forward their messages to Olympia and create a line of communication.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on January 28, 2010.

EXECUTIVE SESSION There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVED:


Board of Health Chair

Date: 1-28-10


Recording Secretary