

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, June 28, 2012 was called to order by Commissioner Todd Mielke, Vice Chair, at 12:31 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Al French (arrived 12:52 p.m., departed 1:51 p.m.)
Commissioner Todd Mielke, Vice Chair
Commissioner Mark Richard (departed 2:00 p.m.)
Councilmember Ben Stuckart
Councilmember Jon Snyder (departed 1:57 p.m.)
Councilmember Chuck Hafner
Mayor Tom Towey
Mayor Tom Trulove
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC (arrived 12:36)
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN

ABSENT

Councilmember Amber Waldref, Chair

CITIZEN INPUT

- Dick Denny, Spokane County, WA, Chair of Spokane Valley Partners, spoke about the Valley WIC offices currently located at the Spokane Valley Partners building and requested the agency reconsider its decision to relocate WIC from its current location.
- Caroline Pickett, Spokane County, WA spoke on the health care governance, whooping cough and ergot poisoning causes, and the shingles viruses.

CHAIR REPORT – Vice Chair, Commissioner Mielke (12:43 pm)

Vice Chair, Commissioner Mielke, reported that Councilmember Waldref was absent from the meeting due to a scheduled vacation. In addition, Spokane County is having an important meeting whereby Commissioners French and Richard would need to leave early to attend.

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

WA State Auditors Visit

The Washington State Auditors have returned for their yearly audit of the Health District's finances. The Board will be invited to the exit conference when it has been scheduled.

Pertussis Update

The State of Washington has reported 2,600 cases of Pertussis this year compared to 187 last year. There have been 34 infants hospitalized; most were under 3 months old. Spokane County has 84 confirmed or suspect cases of the virus. Vaccines are being distributed to the pharmacies, hospitals and health care providers.

Coal Train Update

The letter approved by the Board at last month's meeting has been sent to the Department of Ecology (DOE). No response has been received yet. At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the BOH, Commissioner Mielke requested the Health District work with Spokane Regional Transportation Commission in providing a presentation on the Inland Northwest Transportation Hub. The agency will also work with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway to present their environmental control measures to prevent pollution.

State Association of Local Boards of Health (SALBOH)

SALBOH has been renamed to Local Health Boards of Health Alliance and it will operate as a subset of WSALPHO. A charter has been introduced and an official launch of the group is planned to coincide with the Washington State Associations of Counties (WSAC) meeting in November.

Spokane Regional Transportation Commission (SRTC) Appointment

The SRTC has unanimously approved a SRHD appointment as a voting member to the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC).

Employee Achievements

Joyce Fox, Laboratory Division, was a co-author of an article published in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice. The title of the article was, "Screening for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Using an Interferon Gamma Release Essay."

Torney Smith was been elected to serve on the National Association of City and Counties Health Officials (NACCHO) Board.

Board Discussion:

Commissioner Richard commented that the council of governments meeting will be held tomorrow morning from 9am until Noon. The meeting will have a presentation on the regional transportation hub planned for Spokane. Another presentation will be on the Spokane Valley Hub (Sports Complex).

Commissioner Richard asked for an update of hospitalizations from pertussis in Spokane County.

Commissioner Mielke commented on interest from the mental health therapeutic court and Superior Drug Court in meeting with Health District staff to coordinate services with its clients. Plans are being made to meet and discuss the opportunities.

CONSENT AGENDA (12:53)

Consists of items considered routine which are approved as a group. Any member of the Board may request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately.

Meeting Minutes: May 24, 2012

2012 Vouchers paid: May 1-31, 2012

Voucher Numbers:	#220892 - #B&OAPR12		\$ 675,154.94
Payroll Warrants:	#758293 - #758321	Advice Numbers: #DD16397 - #DD16598	677,826.81
Payroll Warrants:	#760298 - #760322	Advice Numbers: #DD16599 - #DD16798	601,604.92
		TOTAL	\$1,954,586.67

Motion: To approve the consent agenda including meeting minutes and vouchers as presented.

Motion/Second: Richard/Hafner

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

Upon request of the Vice Chair, Councilmember Stuckart updated the Board on the progress of the BOH Budget and Finance Committee. The meetings are on target with the fee schedule set for distribution next month. Staff are using the award-winning Logical Decisions for Windows (LDW) software to prioritize agency programs which will then be reviewed by the committee in 2 months.

Health Equity Roundup – Dr. McCullough/Dr. Lutz

Board Member Lutz opened the final presentation on Health Equity commenting that social determinants of health (such as the four reported to the BOH: race/ethnicity, neighborhoods, education and social-economic status) affect the health of people beyond the control of the individual.

Joel McCullough, MD, MPH, MS reported the traditional view of disease was previously completed through the biomedical model. In the 1990's, researchers began reviewing the actual causes of preventable death and injury in the country. With that methodology, tobacco, physical inactivity and diet represented the vast proportion of preventable illnesses in the country. Over the last several years, researchers have been trying to quantify the effects of social factors on health. In their analysis, low education, racial segregation, low social support caused a large number of deaths.

The Health District is addressing health equity through its Strategic Planning Goal 4, and the conceptual framework from the World Health Organization's (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of Health was adopted, Priority Spokane, and by educating the community with over 40 presentations completed by Adrian Dominguez. As a result of those presentations, the Health District is working with community partners to hold a forum on ways to address the issues. Programs in the Health District that already address the issues are Weaving Bright Futures and the Neighborhood's Matter Program.

Commissioner Richard commented that he is hopeful the Board will consider some of the social determinants and make recommendations regarding policy to be given to members respective jurisdictions.

Councilmember Snyder stated the City doesn't have a policy addressing any of the four health inequities reported. It would be very useful in setting priorities and making policies.

Commissioner Mielke shared that education is vital to changing the issues and Health District involvement with Priority Spokane to improve graduation rates has been important in addressing the issue. Mental health issues are another that a community has a responsibility to attend to and when provided helps the community to succeed. A third issue to focus on is type II diabetes in the aging population. All are issues that the Health District can address and educate the community on.

Board of Health Legal Authority – (1:46)

Michelle Wolkey-Fossum, Spokane Regional Health District Attorney, reported on the legal authority of the Board of Health. Sources of Board of Health authority originate from 3 places: the state constitution, the RCWs and the Board of Health Bylaws thereby granting authority to enact rules and regulations necessary to "preserve, promote and improve the public's health" and provide for enforcement.

Board Member Lutz requested examples of the need for extraordinary powers use to protect the public's health. Ms. Fossum shared an example from the Needle Exchange program whereby the County Prosecutor legitimately took the position that it was unlawful for the Health District to provide needle exchange services because it was a violation of the trading paraphernalia law. The Health District legitimately took the position that the benefit to public health outweighed the law. The Supreme Court ruled in the Health District's favor. In cases of infectious disease; such as Tuberculosis, isolation and quarantine are necessary and the benefit to public health outweighs the individual rights.

Board Member Lutz asked for clarification on the legal authority of the Board to make ordinances or policy. Ms. Fossum stated if there is no existing rule on a topic, then the Board has flexibility in developing a rule or regulation if it is in the benefit of public health. For example, electronic cigarettes had no policy or law addressing the issue. The policy created by the Board of Health was built to be

subsumed by any Federal regulation. In the case of fluoridation in Spokane County, the jurisdiction has been given to water districts and the Board of Health has no authority on the issue.

Commissioner Mielke clarified that the Board of Health has no authority to adopt ordinances, but authority to make resolutions which can then be taken to local jurisdictions for adoption. Though, resolutions can under the appropriate circumstances be enforced as law.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK-IN (2:03 p.m.)

Resource Booklet for Nursing Students – Board Member Norwood

Board Member Norwood thanked the Health District for compiling a resource book that will be used for her nursing students.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on July 26, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

APPROVED: *Amb Walden, Chair* Date: 7/26/12
Board Member Name and Title

Care Peterson
Recording Secretary