

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **September 26, 2013** was called to order by Councilmember Amber Waldref, Acting Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn
Councilmember Ben Stuckart
Councilmember Jon Snyder
Councilmember Amber Waldref
Mayor Tom Towey
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH

ABSENT

Commissioner Todd Mielke, Chair
Councilmember Chuck Hafner, Vice Chair
Commissioner Al French
Mayor Tom Trulove

CITIZEN INPUT

- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane County, WA – spoke on the water issue on Saltese Flats and the causes of pertussis. She recommended the BOH read a book entitled, “Salt, Sugar and Fats” by Michael Moss.
- Linda Swenson, Spokane Valley, WA - donated her citizen input time to Rose Marie Waldrem.
- Rose Marie Waldrem-Larsen, Spokane Valley, WA – spoke on the possibility of a synthetic version of marijuana being used to treat medical patients and the use of genetically modified food and fluoride as a threat to public health.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Waldref

Susan Norwood has been reappointed to the Board of Health with a term that expires in December 2017. Spokane County Commissioners will vote on the BOH appointed position for District 2 on October 8.

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

State Audit Exit Conference

The State Audit Exit Conference was held September 17 with no findings or management letters for the health district. Mike Riley and Kim Kramarz were thanked for their help in completing the audit and Mayor Towey was thanked for attending the exit conference.

Coal Train Update

There was a public hearing in Spokane on the Millennium Bulk Terminals yesterday. The scoping process will end in November 2013. Last year, the Board requested the Department of Ecology (DOE) perform an environmental impact study (EIS) on the Gateway Terminal Project. Dr. McCullough asked the Board for direction on sending a letter to DOE requesting an EIS on the Millennium Bulk Terminal Project.

The co-lead agencies have agreed to look at statewide impacts of the rail traffic, related environmental issues and a health impact assessment (HIA), which will be integrated into the draft EIS. The HIA will look at communities near the project and along the transportation corridors. The draft EIS will be released by 2015 or thereafter.

Commissioner O'Quinn expressed concern over approving a letter when the issue has not been discussed with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). She requested the vote be deferred until the BOCC

had the discussion on the coal train issue. Commissioner O'Quinn requested a copy of the letter before the vote.

Councilmember Snyder clarified there would not be a vote on the letter today. There was just a question about bringing a letter forward at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner O'Quinn apologized stating she thought the request was for a vote on an EIS letter to DOE not whether to construct an EIS letter to DOE.

Dr. McCullough will distribute the copy of last year's letter to BOH members. The Board approved a letter to be drafted and voted upon at the October Board meeting. The 2012 letter will be posted on the BOH website and the newly drafted letter will be posted on the website when the agenda packets are available.

Health Policy Specialist

The newly hired Health Policy Specialist, Linda Graham, was introduced to the Board. She will work with the Board and agency programs to promote health policies and will communicate with the Board on legislative and policy updates.

Board of Health Survey

Stacy Wenzl, Assessment Program Manager, spoke on the strategic goal planning group related to the BOH and requested support on producing and implementing a survey to the Board at the October 24 meeting. The survey will: inform the Board on governance function, help arrange upcoming planning sessions, meet future public health standards, and provide information on how the agency can support the Board more effectively. The survey will be followed up with in-depth, qualitative interviews in November and December. The outcomes and next steps will be reported at the January 2014 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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: June 20, 2013 and July 25, 2013

2013 Vouchers paid: July 1-31, 2013 and August 1-31, 2013

Voucher Numbers:	#231751 - #231976 & B&OJULY13		\$ 248,837.69
Payroll Warrants:	#811553 - #811096		
	#811553 - #811577	Advice Numbers: #DD22189 - #DD22368	\$615,737.40
Payroll Warrants:	#812541 - #812574	Advice Numbers: #DD22369 - #DD22552	\$594,408.39
		TOTAL	\$1,458,983.49

Voucher Numbers:	#231462 - #231750 & B&OJUNE13		\$ 740,084.48
Payroll Warrants:	#808083 - #808089		
	#808131 - #808155	Advice Numbers: #DD21826 - #DD22007	\$614,177.71
Payroll Warrants:	#809351 - #809384	Advice Numbers: #DD22008 - #DD22188	\$587,368.48
		TOTAL	\$1,941,630.67

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

Motion/Second: Snyder/Stuckart

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

Group Health Pertussis Campaign – Deb Harper, MD

Deb Harper, MD, a pediatrician with Group Health, presented to the Board the *2013 Silence the Whooping Cough Campaign*. Spokane County is at an all-time high for pertussis cases for the past 50 years. So far, there are 49 cases reported in 2013. Children likely to be affected are infants, children under 1 year old and children under 6 months. Children aren't fully protected from the vaccination until they have had 2 vaccinations. In order to protect the children, people who work closely with children need to be protected from whooping cough.

Currently, Group Health, Spokane Regional Health District, Providence, and WSU School of Nursing are involved in the campaign. Other community partners are welcome to join the campaign including those who are in direct economic competition with Group Health. Free Tdap clinics are being offered with the next one being offered this Saturday at Riverfront Group Health.

The campaign is offering a free diapers for a year contest as an incentive to participants. Postcards are being distributed announcing the incentive and are available from Pat Nash at Group Health. The postcards direct the public to the campaign website: www.silencewhoopingcough.org.

Community Transformation Grant – Kyle Unland

Kyle Unland, Health Promotion Division Director, updated the Board on the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) through the Healthy Communities program. The Healthy Communities program works with target populations county-wide to change behaviors and policies by supporting policy systems and environments to help support individuals in choosing healthier lifestyles.

Spokane County is one of just a few nation-wide counties to have 2 CT Grants. The largest grant is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is a 5-year, DOH partnered grant, which supports healthy eating choices, tobacco free policies, smoke-free multi-unit housing, provisions to the transportation plan, and promoting safe street design and physical activity.

The small grant is a 2-year grant that is part of a 4-agency collaboration to educate and improve health of children in childcare facilities across 6 counties. The goal is to increase the use of whole foods in childcare center menus. This is completed by a hired chef providing healthy food preparation classes to centers.

As a result of the grants, 850 families in multi-unit housing have been protected from second-hand smoke through policies, 2400 employees have been protected by smoke-free worksite campus policies, 10.4 miles of bike lanes and 43,662 linear feet of sidewalk have been completed, 5000 employees have healthier food options at vending machines or cafeterias, and 141 children in 2 childcare facilities are enjoying more whole foods. A handout explaining other activities in Spokane County was distributed to the Board.

Councilmember Snyder thanked staff for their work and commented on the exceptional Transportation Symposium which was sponsored by CTG funds. He and Mayor Towey requested copies of the presentations offered at the symposium.

Mayor Towey recommended following up the symposium with more events such as that.

Councilmember Waldref recommended clarifying the time period for CTG work on the graphics to avoid confusion with those who view the graphic.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN

Recreational and Medical Marijuana Zoning – Councilmember Snyder

The City of Spokane has finalized an interim ordinance for recreational and medical marijuana zoning. Councilmember Snyder has noticed there is a lack of useful data on marijuana use and it will be important to have appropriate data as Washington transitions into one of the only states in the country that allows recreational marijuana. There have been discussions with WSU and SRHD on tracking marijuana usage. He encourages the collaboration to build expertise in this area, which would benefit elected officials in making the best decisions possible.

Dr. McCullough commented there are provisions in the legislature that funds research on the health effects of marijuana. A portion of the monies go to University of Washington, Washington State University (WSU), and Washington Policy Institute to look at public safety issues and short and long term health effects.

Gonzaga Article on Susan Norwood

Councilmember Stuckart mentioned the article he distributed on Susan Norwood and asked her to comment on the piece. Board Member Norwood stated the article was on a program she started 2 years ago to provide a clinical experience for her community health nursing students. The students provide basic first aid for clients who get services at the Shalom Ministries at the Central Methodist Church. The students have held flu clinics with SRHD provided vaccine.

Annual NALBOH Meeting – Board Member Lutz

Board Member Lutz attended the annual NALBOH meeting in August. The main focus was governance and SRHD efforts match those nationally. He attended several sessions on public health law and discovered that Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has sponsored a public health law resource available nationally. He has shared that information with the SRHD attorney, Michelle Fossum. There were reports of boards struggling with what they are allowed to do by statutes, what they can do based on public health framework, and what they can do by all remaining factors of decision making.

Board Member Lutz also attended the Prevention Alliance last week with Kyle Unland, Heleen Dewey and Linda Graham from SRHD. The group looks at public health policies for potential legislation around such as topics as tobacco, active living, and nutrition practices. The alliance then looks for partners across the state that will assist in collaboration.

Neighborhoods Matter – Councilmember Waldref

Councilmember Waldref thanked Neighborhoods Matter staff for working with the Spokane City Council and staff on implementing policy changes for the East Central neighborhood. The issues being addressed have merged into economic issues surrounding areas of the neighborhood that can be revitalized to which the City of Spokane can take action on. The Neighborhoods Matter project has moved to Hillyard and Councilmember Waldref requested an update on efforts in any new neighborhoods.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on October 24, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

APPROVED: *Todd Mielke, Chair*
Board Member Name and Title

Date: *10/24/2013*

Curt Harwood
Recording Secretary

