

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 was called to order by Councilmember Chuck Hafner, Chair, at 12:32 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

#### **PRESENT**

Councilmember Chuck Hafner, Chair  
Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn (arrived 12:36 p.m.)  
Councilmember Mike Fagan (left at 1:29 p.m.)  
Councilmember Jon Snyder  
Councilmember Amber Waldref  
Councilmember Ed Pace (arrived at 12:34 p.m.)  
Board Member Keith Baldwin, MHA  
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN  
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH

#### **ABSENT**

Mayor Kevin Freeman, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Al French  
Commissioner Todd Mielke

#### **CITIZEN INPUT**

- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane County, WA – Spoke on solar radiation, “chemtrails” from airplanes, GMO foods, and the GMO-free restaurant, Sage Brush restaurant, in Spokane.
- Rosemarie Waldrem, Greenacres, WA – Spoke on an anti-fluoride billboard she sponsors, fluoridation, and the accuracy of information she advertises.

#### **CHAIR REPORT** – Councilmember Chuck Hafner

There was no chair report.

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

##### Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC) Grant

SHMC and SHMC Children’s Hospital was awarded a federal grant to become the regional Ebola and special pathogens hospital for Region 10, which includes Washington State, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. This is part of a federal effort to enhance the nation’s response capability for emerging infectious diseases. The award is between \$3.2 million and \$4.6 million. Other impressive hospitals that have received the grant include Massachusetts General Hospital and John Hopkins UMV Hospital.

##### Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)

There were two cases of MERS reported in the United States last year. Most of the infections from the virus occur in the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding countries. There is a large outbreak of MERS in S. Korea with 175 cases reported. MERS is spreading to other Asian countries as well. The outbreak is being monitored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Locally, a health advisory has been sent to local providers, which informs them about this outbreak and advises them of the signs and symptoms of MERS.

##### Ebola Update

Liberia was declared Ebola free in May. The CDC advised that monitoring is no longer needed of travelers returning from Liberia unless they’ve traveled to Sierra Leone or Guinea.

##### Pertussis Update

There have been close to 200 cases of pertussis in Clark County this year. Last year, there were only 16 cases with most cases in children 10-18 years old. Approximately 75% of those cases were up-to-date with

vaccines, which indicates waning vaccine immunity. There have been 27 cases in Spokane this year, which is about normal.

Heat Wave

The health district has alerted the public to the dangers of extreme heat. A joint press release was created with community partners to assure the public knows the precautions to take to prevent any heat related illnesses.

Board Member Lutz commended the health officer and agency for assuring patients get the correct information regarding pertussis treatment.

Councilmember Fagan questioned what preparations have been made in case of a government shutdown due to the lack of state budget approved by the legislature. Dr. McCullough responded there have been no recent meetings to discuss how SRHD would provide social services if DSHS were to shut down, but the agency will work to assist community partners if there is a shutdown.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – Linda Graham, Healthy Policy Specialist and Communications Manager

The second session is nearing an end. House Bill 2211 on taxation for e-cigarette and related devices will enter an executive session this afternoon. There has been no other movement on any other public health priorities. If there is no budget agreement reached, the agency will communicate statuses of policy, budget and impacts to the health district staff.

Board Member Baldwin requested web links for updates on programs expected to continue in the event of a government shutdown. Councilmembers Hafner and Fagan requested information on agency plans in case of a government shutdown. Torney Smith, Administrator, responded most services won't be impacted short-term. Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (ESIT) programs would not be impacted and the agency plans on continuing other services for a few weeks after a shutdown. Councilmember Snyder recommended BOH members who are concerned about a government shutdown contact their legislators to let them know that a shutdown is unacceptable.

**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: May 28, 2015

2015 Vouchers paid: May 1-31, 2015

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Voucher Numbers:	#236903 - #237123	- #EFT B&OApr2015	\$ 754,991.68
Payroll Warrants:	#884177 - #884200	Advice Numbers: #DD29647 - #DD30133	658,408.76
Payroll Warrants:	#885414 - #885442	Advice Numbers: #DD30134 - #DD30320	648,988.59
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,062,389.03</b>

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

***Motion/Second: Pace/Waldref***

***Approved: Unanimously***

**ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

## **REPORTS**

### Environmental Public Health Director Report – David Swink, Division Director

Assessment, policy development, and assurance are the three core functions of public health. EPH works most with assurance. It is EPH's responsibility to prevent problems rather than respond to problems after they occur. There are nine programs in the division: food safety, water recreation, school health and safety, zoonotic disease, liquid waste, solid waste, site hazard assessment, land use, and local source control. EPH provides training to community partners, consulting, and inspections. In 2014, the water recreation program had 517 inspections, 40 reinspections and one permit suspension. In the Food Safety program, there were 2937 inspections, 334 reinspections and two permit suspensions.

### Bring It Summer Pests Campaign – Julie Awbrey, EPH Special Projects/Living Environment Program Manager

The Living Environment/Zoonotic Disease program is responsible for working on prevention of both animal and insect carried diseases. The majority of the work completed in the program is investigating animal bites for the prevention of rabies. Approximately 700 bites per year are investigated. While most bites comes from dogs and cats, wild animal bites are also investigated.

The program also provides direct education to the public. In 2014, the program worked with SRHD's communication team to develop a new campaign to reach the public with pest prevention tips for homes and yards. The campaign moved from the previously "text heavy" messaging to easy-to-understand and eye-catching graphics. The campaign was marketed by media releases and public service announcements and utilized social media (e-blasts, twitter, and Facebook). The response was favorable with the campaign in the top 30% of Twitter campaigns and with an increase from 275 visitors to the website to 1723 visitors –a 600% increase. With the success of the campaign, the Water Recreation program will launch a "Pool Safe" campaign aimed at drowning and illness prevention from pools.

Commissioner O'Quinn requested the Board of Health meeting be moved from July 30 to July 23 due to vacations of the Spokane County Commissioners.

## **BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN**

### Library Bond, Board Member Keith Baldwin

Board Member Baldwin requested information on the library bond. Councilmember Hafner commented the current bond is from a previously proposed bond that would include Central Valley, West Valley, East Valley and some areas of the county. They will request a \$20 million bond to be voted upon August 4. Last year, the bond failed to achieve a super majority.

### Health Officer Media Interview on the Heat Wave – Councilmember Snyder

Councilmember Snyder thanked Dr. McCullough for his media interviews about heat concerns.

### Marijuana Forum – Councilmember Ed Pace

Councilmember Ed Pace thanked Councilmember Jon Snyder for his work on the Marijuana forum.

### Staff Recognition – Board Member Baldwin

Board Member Baldwin recognized the good work of the Communications staff with the Neighborhood's Matter program.

### Tour of Agency Remodel – Councilmember Hafner

The Executive Committee of the BOH requested a tour for BOH members of the recent building remodel. After meeting adjournment, please contact Ann Pitsnogle for the tour.

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on July 23, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

APPROVED: Charles E. Halmer, Chair  
Board Member Name and Title

Date: July 23, 2015

[Signature]  
Recording Secretary