

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **September 29, 2016** was called to order by Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn, Vice Chair, at 12:32 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn, Vice Chair
Councilmember Lori Kinnear
Councilmember Breean Beggs
Councilmember Amber Waldref (arrived at 12:39 p.m.)
Councilmember Mike Munch
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Chuck Hafner

ABSENT

Board Member Susan Boysen, EdD, RN
Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair
Commissioner Al French
Commissioner Nancy McLaughlin
Councilmember Pam Haley

CITIZEN INPUT

- Commissioner O'Quinn noted that citizen, Robert Withers, was not able to attend the meeting, but has left information on the Zika virus for Board of Health (BOH) review, which was included in the agenda packet.
- J. Winnioty – spoke about the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) fee schedule requesting to know how the schedule is developed. Commissioner O'Quinn recommended he speak with agency staff to review how the schedule is set.
- Rose Marie Waldrem, Green Acres, WA – spoke on the dangers of water fluoridation.

CHAIR REPORT – Commissioner O'Quinn

Spokane Valley Councilmember Mike Munch was welcomed to the Board of Health.

Board Member Keith Baldwin resigned due to relocating. His replacement, Chuck Hafner, was welcomed to the BOH.

Councilmember Mike Munch and Board Member Chuck Hafner were appointed to the BOH Budget and Finance Committee.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Torney Smith, Administrator

West Nile Virus – Mark Springer, Disease Prevention and Response Division

The largest number of West Nile Virus cases in people and animals are being reported since the outbreak began. Three people, seven horses and one crow have tested positive with the West Nile Virus. Continued activity is expected for the next couple of weeks. Climate conditions typically determine increases in cases, but it is not understood why cases have increased this year.

Zika Virus Update – Mark Springer, Disease Prevention and Response Division

Local Zika virus transmission is continuing in Florida. Congress voted to provide \$1.1 billion to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to combat the disease. There are no cases in Spokane with twenty-six people being tested. Priority testing is given to those who are in areas with identified local transmission.

Influenza Update – Mark Springer, Disease Prevention and Response Division

Influenza vaccination programs are starting for the season. There has been one hospitalization reported this year. There is flu activity being reported through the labs, but none impacting school systems or in long-term care settings. Activity for the area is typically sporadic until November/December with a peak from January through March.

Pertussis Update – Mark Springer, Disease Prevention and Response Division

Pertussis activity continues in Freeman and Central Valley School Districts. There have been nine cases reported in September. Most are in individuals who are unvaccinated primarily in elementary school or in childcare settings.

NFP Visit with Representative McMorris-Rodgers – Torney Smith, Administrator

On August 18, Representative McMorris-Rodgers participated in a home visit with Ulrike Kaufman with the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program. The clients shared the benefits they received from participating in the program.

Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Visit with Senator Patty Murray – Torney Smith, Administrator

On August 23, Senator Patty Murray toured the Opioid Treatment Program, met with two clients from the program, learned about client housing challenges, and then toured the dispensary. She then held a press conference with Dr. Matt Layton, medical officer in OTP and professor at Washington State University (WSU) and then met with Dr. Darin Neven, Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC) physician in the emergency department and medical director for the Consistent Care program.

Articles on Opioid Treatment in Spokane – Torney Smith, Administrator

Two Washington State Magazine articles and a Spokesman Review news item on opioid treatment in Spokane County highlighting the SRHD Opioid Treatment Program are included in the agenda packet.

Medical Reserve Corps – Torney Smith, Administrator

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) overseen by the Disease Prevention and Response Division participated in 73 activities between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. This is the most active MRC in the nation. There were 3,079 volunteer hours contributed with a value over \$116,000.

SRHD Elevator Update – Torney Smith, Administrator

SRHD's elevator did not pass inspection last week, but the elevator is expected to be operational next week. The remodel on the second elevator will start next week and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

SRHD Security Guard – Torney Smith, Administrator

Kodiak Security has begun providing security for the agency and has been enforcing the no smoking rules on campus. Staff and clients have reported improvements on the campus.

Agency Staffing – Torney Smith, Administrator

Currently, there are eight staff who are 65 years old or older. In five years, there will be 39 staff 65 years old or older. There are 28 staff who are eligible for retirement and in five years that will increase to 53. Over the past two years, SRHD has hired 92 new employees. The agency is working on succession planning.

Drug Take-Back Program – Torney Smith, Administrator

The national drug take-back day is scheduled for Saturday, October 22. The Riverpoint Pharmacy and Walgreens on the corner of Division and Lincoln will participate in the program. Riverpoint Pharmacy will not take back controlled substances. The Washington State Poison Control Center is working on a drug take-back program for the state. They have a website with information on efforts.

SRHD Tobacco and Vape Free Campus – Torney Smith, Administrator

The SRHD campus has become tobacco, vape and chew free. The public will be instructed to go to the designated areas on the Spokane County campus to use tobacco, vape or chew products.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist

Currently, the BOH Policy Committee has only two members. Councilmember Waldref requested the recording secretary send a list of all committee vacancies and a brief synopsis of committee duties to BOH members requesting volunteers.

There is a smoke-free housing and worksite packet included in the agenda packet for BOH review. There will be a presentation in October and an option to vote in either October or December on the proposals.

The SRHD legislative agenda process was reviewed by the BOH. Included in the packet is the outcome of last year’s legislative session related to SRHD’s agenda. The biggest issue for next year’s legislative session is the foundational public health services. Information on the proposed legislation will be available at the October meeting.

Commissioner O’Quinn requested as much detail that is available on foundational public health services be presented to the BOH at the next meeting.

Another major statewide push is to raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco and vaping products from 18 years of age to 21. There are studies that show those who are 21 years old and older are less likely to start smoking. This is legislation that is being sponsored by the Washington State Department of Health, Governor’s office, the Attorney General’s office and the Heart, Lung and Cancer Associations. A letter of support or a resolution specific to the Tobacco21 effort will be brought forward for review next month.

Commissioner O’Quinn requested specifics of legislation that SRHD is promoting be included in the legislative agenda report for October.

COMPROLLER REPORT – Mike Riley, Comptroller

The new BOH Budget and Finance Committee members (Hafner/Munch) were invited to participate in the meeting scheduled immediately following the BOH meeting. The committee will review the final proposed 2017 SRHD Budget.

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: August 18, 2016

2016 Vouchers paid: August 1-31, 2016

Voucher Numbers:	#240596 - #240862 & EFT B&OJuly2016	\$ 659,226.44
Payroll Warrants:	#934515 - #934544 #935508 - #935515	

	Advice Numbers: #DD35891 - #DD36088	\$697,699.28
Payroll Warrants: #936187 - #936222	Advice Numbers: #DD36089 - #DD36284	\$672,893.31
	TOTAL	\$2,029,819.03

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

Motion/Second: Waldref/Hafner

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

Influenza and Vaccine Update – Dorothy MacEachern, Disease Prevention and Response

Influenza is often confused with the cold. Influenza produces high fevers, exhaustion, muscle aches, a terrible cough and can lead to pneumonia. There are two ways to prevent transmission: vaccination and respiratory etiquette. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends everyone over 6 months of age receive a vaccination.

Influenza A is most likely to have pandemic potential. Those most at risk for flu complications are the young, old, pregnant and immune compromised (including those with diabetes, obesity, and heart conditions.) Influenza is not a reportable disease, but is tracked by lab reporting at sites across the nation. In 122 cities across the United States, influenza and pneumonia mortality are reported with Spokane being one of those cities. In 2009, when an influenza strain that strongly affected children was active, pediatric deaths became reportable nationwide. In 2009, the SRHD BOH made influenza hospitalizations a reportable condition in Spokane County.

The CDC conducts an internet survey each season to determine how many medical personnel are receiving flu vaccinations. Two out of three healthcare providers are vaccinated early in the season and three out of four by later in the season. Staff in hospitals are more likely to be vaccinated than those in long-term care facilities. If an employer requires vaccination, then 86% of staff will receive a vaccination. If there is no recommendation or policy, less than half will receive a vaccination. Ten to 20% of the population will get influenza each year, which is higher than the 3,000 people who are in vehicle accidents each month.

The proposed resolution encourages healthcare facilities to mandate vaccination of their employees or wearing of masks during the entire influenza season. The local flu season is determined in coordination with Sacred Heart Medical Center. This policy has been adopted at some area healthcare facilities and at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, which now has a 98% vaccination rate among staff.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #16-05 Encouraging All Health Care Facilities to Adopt Policies that Mandate All Staff to Either Receive Annual Influenza Vaccine or Wear a Mask During the Influenza Season

The BOH Policy Committee has approved bringing the resolution forward for BOH consideration. If the resolution is approved, SRHD staff will work with local media and healthcare facilities to bring awareness of the BOH recommendations.

Councilmember Waldref made motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Hafner seconded the motion.

Motion: To approve Resolution #16-05 Encouraging All Health Care Facilities to Adopt Policies that Mandate All Staff to Either Receive Annual Influenza Vaccine or Wear a Mask During the Influenza Season

Motion/Second: Waldref/Hafner

Approved: 5 Yea/2 No (Beggs/Munch)

Resolution #16-06 Amending the BOH Bylaws to Reflect a Change in the Governance Structure to the Administrator as the Director of the Agency

The BOH Health Officer Selection Committee members contacted health districts in the state to research reporting structures. All health districts contacted, except one, recommended the administrator report to the BOH.

One county health district has a dual reporting due to budgetary constraints. The representative from the district noted it was not the ideal situation and having a good administration made the structure possible. One larger health district has the health officer reporting to the BOH, but struggled with having time for administration of the district; therefore, contracted for health services. Of the Washington State health districts, 32 have administrators that report to their BOH and 3 that do not (Snohomish, Spokane and Tacoma-Pierce). The BOH Health Officer Selection Committee recommends that the BOH bylaws be changed whereby the administrator directs the agency and reports to the BOH and the health officer reports to the administrator.

Councilmember Beggs noted concern with the proposed reporting structure, because there would be no direct relationship between the BOH and the health officer. Councilmember Hafner responded that was discussed openly with those contacted and the jurisdictions recommended the reporting structure proposed.

Councilmember Beggs stated his concern is with the hiring and firing of the health officer. Commissioner O'Quinn stated the administrator would be accountable to the BOH for the firing of the health officer.

Councilmember Kinnear noted the same concern as Councilmember Beggs and asked whether agency staff were allowed to provide input to the committee. Torney Smith responded that executive management provided input, but other agency staff were not asked to provide input.

Councilmember Waldref stated it was encouraged that the committee develop a briefing paper to outline reasons for the proposed recommendations and questioned whether it would be beneficial to clarify the role of the health officer. It was noted the position descriptions of the health officer and administrator further define the duties and roles.

Councilmember Hafner made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Waldref seconded the motion for discussion.

Councilmember Beggs asked the Board members to consider both the health officer and administrator reporting to the BOH. Board members commented the intent for the administrator and health officer is to work as a team readjusting their job descriptions to best fit their strengths and having the administrator report to the BOH would avoid division between staff on who to bring matters to.

Councilmember Beggs recommended the hiring and firing of the health officer remain with the BOH to minimize administrative efficiencies impacting health issues.

Commissioner O'Quinn suggested changing, Article IV, Item 3 in the BOH Bylaws to add the word "termination."

BOH attorney, Michelle Fossum, asked whether the BOH would like to include the word discipline to the bylaws. Commissioner O'Quinn commented discipline will be addressed in the policies.

Councilmember Beggs made a motion to amend the BOH Bylaws, Article IV, Item 3, to add the words "and termination" after "appointment." Councilmember Hafner seconded the motion.

Motion: To amend the BOH Bylaws, Article IV, Item 3 to add the words "and termination" after the word "appointment."

Motion/Second: Beggs/Hafner

Approved: 5 yea/1 no (Kinnear)/1 abstain (Lutz)

BOH attorney, Michelle Fossum, instructed the Board the resolution could not be voted upon presently and the entire Board would need to receive the amended bylaws five days prior to voting on the proposal.

Commissioner O'Quinn continued BOH agenda item 10B, Resolution #16-06 amending the BOH bylaws as amended to reflect a change in the governance structure to the administrator as the director of the agency until the October 27 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOH adjourned at 2:15pm for five minutes for an executive session pursuant to RCW § 42.30.140(4). Commissioner O'Quinn requested Michelle Fossum, Torney Smith, and Sue Winters remain for the session.

MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 2:20pm. No action was taken.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN

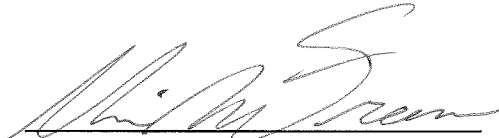
There was no board member check-in.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING


The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on October 27, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27pm.

APPROVED: 
Board Member Name and Title *Chair*

Date: 10/27/2016


Recording Secretary