

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **June 29, 2017** was called to order by Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair
Board Member Chuck Hafner, Vice Chair
Commissioner Josh Kerns
Councilmember Breean Beggs (arrived 12:48 p.m.)
Councilmember Lori Kinnear
Councilmember Mike Munch
Board Member Susan Boysen, EdD, RN
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH

ABSENT

Councilmember Karen Stratton
Councilmember Sam Wood
Commissioner Al French
Commissioner Shelly O’Quinn

CITIZEN INPUT

- Becky Summerville, Spokane County, WA – Spoke about her children missing two months of school due to the mumps exclusion order. Her children’s lives have been impacted negatively by the decisions of health department officials. Her children have been mocked by their peers, bullied by teachers, HIPAA information was violated, and futures compromised.
- Hannah Summerville, Spokane, WA – Spoke about the impact to her grades and future due to the school mumps exclusion orders. She asked the Board of Health (BOH) to consider the lives impacted by their decisions.
- Jonah Summerville, Spokane, WA – Spoke about his eight weeks of school exclusion and the bullying by peers when he returned to school. His grades were impacted and he was bullied by teachers about his choice not to vaccinate. He lost hope and had suicidal thoughts and reached out to counselors and parents for help. He asked the BOH to consider the impacts if there is another exclusion.

CHAIR REPORT – Mayor Kevin Freeman

BOH Agenda Changes

The Administrator Report has been changed to Agency Report on the BOH agenda. The Agency Report will include any reports from the health officer, administrator, and legislative and comptroller updates.

BOH Appointments

The BOH Chair is working with Commissioner French on the replacement for Dr. Lutz on the BOH.

July BOH Meeting

The Chair polled members for attendance at the July 27 meeting. The poll indicated there was not currently a quorum until Councilmember Beggs arrived at the meeting and stated he would be in attendance.

AGENCY REPORT

Suicide Awareness – Bob Lutz, MD, MPH

Currently, there is a crisis of suicide of all age levels. In 2001, SRHD initiated a suicide prevention program that trained hundreds of “gatekeepers” who could identify suicide ideation and direct those to the appropriate resources. In 2013, funding ceased for the program. Currently, there is an effort to keep awareness up.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) show the increasing trends affecting all age groups. It has been identified that disproportionately Caucasian individuals with low socioeconomic status (SES) are falling prey to substance and alcohol usage and suicide. Males tend to use guns and women poison to commit suicide. Hanging rates have also increased.

Spokane County shows the trend increasing since 1999 affecting all demographics and age groups. Youth in grades 8, 10 and 12 report an increase in suicidal ideation. Risk factors include depression, anxiety and low quality of life. As a community, Spokane needs to address what it does and how it can affect change.

Legislative Update – Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist

There has been an informal agreement on the state budget. It is not known what public health funding has been included in budget. Confirmation on the agreement is expected today or tomorrow. There has been no activity on the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) or other bills in the third session.

Health Officer Update – Torney Smith, Administrator

Dr. Lutz has visited with agency staff and is working to meet with community partners.

Airway Heights Water Contamination Issue – Torney Smith, Administrator

The health district continues to provide information on the water contamination issue near Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB). FAFB is responsible for water testing and the health district is following all information closely.

Washington State Board of Health (WSBOH) – Torney Smith, Administrator

The WSBOH meeting was held in Spokane in June at Gonzaga University. The board reviewed rules on disabilities, environmental health and safety, newborn screening, rabies transmission, and the national immunization guidelines related to the WAC 246.100.040. There was a presentation on mobile immunization clinics and how to link schools, health, and public health in a continuum of care to reduce disease. Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) provided its historical review and future direction.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Donation – Torney Smith, Administrator

The NFP program has received an anonymous donation for \$10,000.

Comptroller Update – Torney Smith, Administrator

The audit has been completed and an exit interview date will be set soon.

BOH Budget and Finance Committee – Torney Smith, Administrator

The Prophix software and the proposed 2018 SRHD Fee Schedule will be reviewed by the BOH Budget and Finance Committee on July 12.

Mumps Outbreak After-Action Review – Torney Smith, Administrator

The after-action review is expected to be completed by the end of July. Agency staff will meet with school superintendents to discuss protocol improvements in the case of future outbreaks.

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 25, 2017

2016 Vouchers paid: May 1-31, 2017

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Voucher Numbers: | #242864 - #243182 and EFT B&OApr2017 | \$ 958,443.71 |
| Payroll Warrants: | #966108 - #966115 #966919 - #966927 | |
| | Advice Numbers: #DD39568 - #DD39783 | \$732,202.67 |
| Payroll Warrants: | #967840 - #967858 | |
| | Advice Numbers: #DD39784 - #DD4004 | \$730,252.03 |
| | TOTAL | \$2,420,989.41 |

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

Motion/Second: Beggs/Kinnear

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #17-06 Authorizing the SRHD Administrator to Enter into Mutual Aid Agreements with Northeast Tri-County Health District and Other Local Health Jurisdictions for Substitute Health Officer Services During Absences of the SRHD Health Officer and Rescission of the Prior Designation of Substitute Health Officer – Torney Smith, Administrator

It has been the past practice of the agency to seek agreements with other local health jurisdictions for health officer coverage during SRHD health officer absences. At the recent Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), other jurisdictions reported an interest in having multiple health officers participate in an agreement for coverage services. The agency is requesting authorization to establish MAAs with other interested counties. There will be no cost for the exchange of services.

Councilmember Beggs made motion to approve the resolution as presented. Board Member Hafner seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

Motion: To approve Resolution #17-06 Authorizing the SRHD Administrator to Enter into Mutual Aid Agreements with Northeast Tri-County Health District and Other Local Health Jurisdictions for Substitute Health Officer Services During Absences of the SRHD Health Officer and Rescission of the Prior Designation of Substitute Health Officer

Motion/Second: Beggs/Hafner

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

Peers Practicing Prevention – Kyle Unland, Division Director, Health Promotion

The Peers Practicing Prevention is a project under the Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program under the Healthy Communities program in the Health Promotion Division. SRHD is the regional lead for the project funded by the Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH) started in April 2015.

Youth marijuana prevention in the state where marijuana use is legal for those over 21 is new. Current evidence based practices have not been tested. Developing youth as leaders is a best practice in other substance use prevention efforts such as tobacco and alcohol.

As part of the overall strategy to decrease youth marijuana use, SRHD developed a grant called, "Peers Practicing Prevention" and awarded two groups to work on the project. Upon completion of the project, youth are required to present their projects to key leaders in Spokane. SRHD BOH was chosen for its cross-jurisdictional representation.

Gary Varrella, Washington State University (WSU) Extension Specialist assigned to the 4H youth development in Spokane County introduced his group. One of the 4H mandates nationally is healthy living. Spokane is very successful in securing competitive grants to develop youth-targeted healthy living projects in nutrition and substance abuse.

The project covered 26 observation sites including four in Cheney. There were 23 neighborhoods reviewed with only six having no marijuana and vaping businesses. There were 108 total advertisements in places where youth are present. Thirteen times the group witnessed individuals using products in public. Evidence of use was prominent where kids and adults hang out. Public use and advertising promotes and normalizes use.

The group would like to implement a 4H Health Rocks program that centers on tobacco and other substance prevention and integrate it with the 2017 4H Youth Summit on healthy living taking place in July. The group's call to action would include: developing an educational program that teaches elementary and middle school youth, asking officials to reconsider policy of where vaping is allowed and reconsider zoning laws. SRHD staff will provide neighborhood data sheets if requested.

The group has not researched the laws about billboard advertising. Access to products by youth have increased since legalization and youth who use marijuana are not seen differently than those who do not. Males are more likely to use in public and females use just as much, but in the privacy of their own homes.

The Youth Build Spokane group consists of young adults that have varying experiences with marijuana. The group shared videos of their own personal stories and reviewed brochures with 11 and 12-year-old youths with a goal to stop use by those under 21.

The Board reviewed the group videos.

Suicide Awareness – Staci Cornwell, Director of Crisis Response Services, Frontier Behavioral Health

Staci Cornwell presented the work of the program to the Board. Those who work the First Call for Help look for noticeable changes in mood, behavior and performance in school or work, and feelings of hopelessness, lack of interest, and thoughts of suicide. The team looks for high-risk factors such as being a law enforcement officer, military, Native American between the ages of 18-24, and middle-age men who have lost their job and are drinking. Some of the best interventions the team has found when someone is contemplating suicide is to allow the person to be heard and not judged.

Spokane County determines designation requirements for professionals who can impose involuntary commitment. The professional would assess the individual and interview others who may have information that would add or disprove allegations. A person will only be held for 72 hours not including weekends or holidays and typically in an emergency room. Within that 72 hours, a petition is usually filed with superior court and the court determines whether the individual needs to be committed for an additional 14 days or if they can be released.

There is a shortage of inpatient psychiatric beds. The team looks for beds across the state for care. The team does not assess those under 13 years of age. Parents have ability to consent children under 13 years of age. The agency performs outreach and trains community members on awareness and who to contact.

The top three things the community can do to reduce suicide include: 1) making the public aware of how to respond and resources available, 2) reducing stigma about depression, especially for males, and 3) getting parents to talk to teens about suicide.

Dr. Dave Crump continued the Suicide Awareness presentation with the Board. Suicide is now part of this current generation in songs, movies, TV mini-series, on Facebook and social media. There has been no scientific or clinical proof that discussing suicide promotes suicide. Spokane Public Schools in conjunction with community partners have held forums across Spokane to discuss suicide. Having discussions about suicide releases stress about the issue.

Spokane adolescents don't fit the national profile, which makes it difficult to develop an intervention plan. Suicides are in youth who are doing well and have good support. There has been no indication that school exclusions due to mumps have caused suicides. It is known that stress out of the norm does play a part in suicide. Spokane Public Schools has trained all its school administrators and counselors and nurses.

Children want to end the pain or die, but do not have the cognitive structure to understand death. One of the greatest protective factors against suicide and youth depression is relationships. It takes a society to address the issues related to suicide.

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 July 27, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Board Member Name and Title

Date: 7/27/2017


Recording Secretary

