

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, May 26, 2011 was called to order by Councilmember Dave Crump, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Mark Richard (arrived at 12:46 p.m.)
Councilmember Steve Corker
Mayor Mary Verner, Vice Chair (arrived at 12:35 p.m.)
Councilmember Amber Waldref
Mayor Tom Towey
Councilmember Bill Gothmann
Councilmember David Crump, Chair
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC (arrived at 12:41 p.m.)
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN

ABSENT

Commissioner Al French
Commissioner Todd Mielke

CITIZEN INPUT

- Ray Carlton, 22309 E. Henry Road, Green Acres, WA spoke about sewer dumped in a city meadow that empties into Shelly Lake. Follow up will be provided to determine jurisdictional responsibility.
- Rose Waldrem, Green Acres, WA spoke about the findings of TV reporter Christopher Bryson, on the fluoride deception and the forcing of immunizations and vaccinations on the public.
- Caroline Pickett, Spokane County, WA spoke about medicines and foods that heal depression and the topic of regionalism.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Crump

Agency Attorney Absence

Michelle Wolkey, Attorney for Spokane Regional Health District, was not present for the Board meeting, but was available by phone if needed by the Board.

Agenda Order

Councilmember Crump asked the Board to modify the order of the agenda to allow for item 7b to be reported directly after citizen input. The Board accepted the agenda order change.

Agency Audit

The Health District financial audit has begun. The auditors will invite the BOH Members to a audit entrance conference by email when they are settled and prepared.

NALBOH Conference

The NALBOH Conference will be held September 7-9th in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The Health District will pay for Board Members to attend. Send completed registration forms to Ann Pitsnogle by July 15th so arrangements for payment can be made.

Emergency Contact List

An updated emergency contact list is included with each packet. The 24-hour answering line has been updated. Please discard the previous version of the list.

Health Officer Evaluation

Dr. McCullough's evaluation is due this month. Councilmember Crump met with Dr. McCullough to review the goals set last year. Councilmember Crump requested the same evaluation survey as last year be sent to staff and Board Members to compare year to year results. The survey will be emailed to Board Members and staff. Board Members responses are due June 10th. Board Members not able to respond by June 10th are asked to contact Councilmember Crump. A summary will be given at the next Board of Health meeting.

Board Members Comments:

- Commissioner Richard requested the evaluation surveys forms be made available to the public.

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

Legionella Disease

Dr. McCullough left last month's Board meeting early to attend a press conference at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC). At that conference, the hospital announced the CDC's finding of Legionella bacteria in its water system. The Health District had been working with SHMC for several months before on a suspected cluster of Legionnaires Disease at the hospital. The Health District was working to determine if the cluster was associated with a common source. Two cases were discovered initially and a 3rd in April. When the 3rd case was discovered, the CDC Legionella branch was contacted.

The CDC team arrived the week of April 18th to conduct an investigation. The team collected numerous samples throughout the hospital and tested it for Legionella bacteria. The preliminary results were available the day before the press conference. Dr. McCullough attended the conference in a supporting role and to give a public health perspective.

SHMC took aggressive action to reduce the bacteria in the water system, which included limiting exposure to patients. As of last week, the water restrictions were lifted after testing results from SHMC's hyper-chlorination efforts returned negative for Legionnaire's bacteria. The Health District is still communicating with SHMC staff and waiting for the final report from the CDC.

Dr. McCullough presented a statistical presentation on Legionnaire's disease to the Board Members.

Board Member Discussion:

- Mayor Verner questioned the adequacy of the containment system to prevent contamination to the larger water supply. SHMC is on Spokane's water system and it is speculated that low levels of the dormant bacteria entered the SHMC system where there were favorable conditions for growth of the bacteria. There is sufficient chlorine within most areas of the Spokane water supply to eliminate the bacteria even with favorable conditions. There is no significant risk for the bacteria in Spokane's water system.
- Board Member Fisk questioned future prevention when the source has not been identified. SHMC has been very aggressive in the eradication and maintenance of the potable water system to ensure sufficient chlorination levels to halt bacteria growth in the future.
- Councilmember Corker shared his experience with Legionnaire's Disease.
- Councilmember Gothmann questioned whether chlorination evaporates from stagnate water. Chlorination levels decrease in stagnate water, but with constant chlorination, such as in the City's main water system, outbreaks will be prevented.

Budget Update

The state legislative session ended this week. Dr. McCullough requested an opportunity to gather more specific information on the DOH budget and its impact on public health to report back to the Board at the next meeting. In the short-term, no staffing changes are expected from now until the June Board meeting.

Board Member Comments:

- Mayor Verner requested an overview of how the budget cuts will impact the mental health system and the disability lifeline for the homeless and very low income.

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 5005 – Childhood Immunization Exemptions has passed. Parents or guardians who desire to exempt their children from immunizations need a healthcare provider signature on the exemption certificate that verifies that parents and guardians have received information on the benefits and risks of immunization. For religious exemptions, parents and guardians will not be required to obtain a provider's signature. DOH is developing tools and information to educate providers on the new legislation. Public health is supportive of the legislation because it creates another barrier in the exemption status, which is hoped to increase immunization rates in the community.

Senate Bill 5542 – Cigar Lounges allowing retailers to have special endorsement for cigar lounges, did not pass. The bill was considered because of the estimated \$41 million in revenues that could result from the legislation.

The proposed medical cannabis legislation was to address gaps in the current law. One part of the legislation was to clarify the status of medical marijuana dispensaries and to strengthen requirements for medical marijuana cards. The governor vetoed the main portions of the

legislation over concern that the U.S. Department of Justice would not exempt state workers from prosecution in regards to the law. Proponents are pushing for future legislation.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Fisk questioned who is responsible for developing immunization informational material to be distributed to parents/guardians. DOH is finalizing the process and the draft information documents have been submitted. Information that is to be provided to the public is not prescriptive at this time.

Radiation from Damaged Japanese Reactors Update

A system of 100 monitoring stations throughout the country shows radiation levels are dropping. Because radiation levels have dropped so low, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has resumed baseline testing. Spokane is at background levels of radiation at this point. Radiation levels in the country never reached a level of concern.

WSALPHO Conference

On June 8th, WSALPHO will meet at the Public Health Center for its bi-annual meeting.

Washington State Auditors

The first auditor arrived at the Health District this Tuesday. The auditors will be at the Health District for 3 weeks and Board Members will be notified of the audit entrance conference when it is set.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Included in the agenda packets are updated minutes with clarification of Board Member Fisk's comments on page 5, which will become the corrected minutes for approval.

Board Member Lutz also requested the word "most" under the second bullet on page 6 be changed to read "some."

Motion: To approve the April 28, 2011 Board of Health meeting minutes as corrected.

Motion/Second: Corker/Norwood

Approved: Unanimously

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, payroll warrants, and those other claims as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board. Time frame of claims: April 1 – 30, 2011.

Voucher Numbers:	#210606 - #B&OMAR11	\$ 409,371.09
Payroll Warrants:	#708044 - #708082	\$683,788.17
Advice Numbers	#DD11060 - #DD11268	
Payroll Warrants:	#709775 - #709813	\$632,662.16
Advice Numbers:	#DD11269 - #DD11478	
	TOTAL	\$1,725,821.42

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$1,725,821.42.

Motion/Second: Corker/Gothmann

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

Neighborhoods Matter/Sheridan Elementary PhotoVoice Project – Rowena Pineda

Rowena Pineda, Neighborhoods Matter Program Manager, introduced the PhotoVoice project on which SRHD partnered with Sheridan Elementary School. The project focused on environmental safety issues that students identified.

Pete Hall, Principal of Sheridan Elementary School, spoke about the Leadership Academy whose students participated in the PhotoVoice Project. The project team consisted of Peggy Slider, Public Health Nurse with the Neighborhoods Matter Program, and students Carolina Pavlenco, Malarie Schultz, and Brayden Rinas.

The students explained that PhotoVoice is a process whereby life experiences can be captured and shared with the community through photos. The photos presented shared environmental safety concerns and issues in the community.

The students recommended: 1) posting signs warning of hazards and repairing existing signs; 2) keeping crosswalks well maintained and visible; 3) fixing sidewalks so they are safe; and 4) having park patrols monitor activities and trash. Students will contribute by: 1) telling others not to graffiti, not participating if asked and reporting to adults when seeing someone do it; 2) throwing their own garbage in appropriate places and reporting litter when found; and 3) obeying safety rules and encouraging family and friends to also be good citizens.

Board Member comments:

- Councilmember Crump expressed his gratitude for the presentation.
- Mayor Verner expressed her appreciation for a very well done and persuasive report. The Mayor will follow up on the crosswalk mentioned in the report and the graffiti near Underhill Park.
- Councilmember Corker admired the students' civic involvement. This is the third time he has seen students from Sheridan take an active leadership role in the community.

- Councilmember Waldref thought there may be a partnership opportunity between school students and the neighborhood council using community development dollars to improve the neighborhood.
- Commissioner Richard appreciated the recommendations to the Board and for the courage the students had to speak before the Board.
- Councilmember Crump questioned the letter written to code enforcement. The letter was written because the house had many no trespassing signs and looked threatening to the neighborhood.
- Councilmember Gothmann appreciated the students' hard work in making the community better.

Washington State Standards Review – Julie Awbrey

Julie Awbrey, Living Environment Program Manager, presented highlights from the Washington State Standards Review in March. Since the last review in 2008, the Washington State Standards were modified to align with the Beta Test version with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards. These changes increased the amount of standards the agency were required to meet. Agencies were given the option for scope of review. The Health District chose the most comprehensive review level, which included the full set of PHAB Standards and the Washington State Measures. The Health District received an excellent score of 94% fully demonstrated and 6% partially demonstrated.

The reviewers identified 6 agency strengths.

- Board of Health and its level of involvement in strategic planning, quality improvement, health policy, orientation manual and orientation activities.
- Human Resources for its comprehensive policies and processes, such as, insuring a diverse workforce, succession planning, recruitment policy and leadership training.
- Community Health Assessment for its comprehensive assessment processes for collecting and reporting health data.
- Agency for the way it communicates its mission, vision and values to its partners, the community and within the agency.
- Agency for the mechanisms utilized for informing and educating the community about public health risks.
- Agency for its Strategic Plan and Planning Process.

Areas for improvement included continuing to expand our quality improvement work especially at the program level and reviewing agency plans to add more specifics. The revised PHAB Standards are being voted on this week with an expected roll-out in June. Torney Smith will update the Board on the Health District seeking national accreditation when he returns from the PHAB Board meeting.

Board Member Discussion:

- Mayor Verner congratulated the agency for its review, especially in light of the current condition of declining resources.

Smile Survey - Ida Ovnicek

Ida Ovnicek, ABCD, ABCDE Dental Program Manager, reported the survey results for the Smile Survey. The survey is completed at a state level every 5 years with sites randomly selected by the Department of Health (DOH). Results from the survey are used as guidance to monitor program activities progress. In 2005, Preschoolers, 2nd and 3rd graders were screened. In 2010, only Kindergarten and 3rd graders were screened. The state performed a more thorough screening of preschoolers, but local funding only allowed for Kindergarten and 3rd grade screenings.

Key findings on decay:

- Spokane County has less untreated decay than the state in Kindergarten and 3rd grade children.
- Spokane reports more rampant decay in both the Kindergarten and 3rd grade children than the state.
- Spokane County has less urgent dental care issues than the state average.
- Dental sealants on permanent or adult molars are reported lower than the state average.
- History of decay is similar to the state average.
- Nationally, children from low income families or white, non-Hispanic children, whose primary language is not English, are more likely to experience dental disease. This is also true for Washington State.
- Rampant decay among Spokane children who are eligible for free or reduced lunches is 28.4% while non-eligible children are 8.7%.
- Among white, non-Hispanic children rampant decay is 17.5% but among racial and ethnic minorities it is 22.5%.

As a quality improvement project, the program decided it would update and translate the critical ABCD program materials into Russian and Spanish. These downloadable materials were placed on the agency website and community partners were informed by email and community meetings.

As reported in the Healthy Smiles and Healthy Living report given by Amy Riffe last year, the opportunities for the program include encouraging regular dental visits for Medicaid-eligible and pregnant women, supporting early intervention programs and dental access to uninsured, and consideration of water fluoridation.

Board Member Discussion:

- Board Member Fisk questioned the treated decay being reported as rampant decay. As untreated decay declines the rampant decay statistics increase. This reporting process is consistent across the state and nation.
- Councilmember Crump asked about the consistency of visual tooth decay screening techniques across the state and locally. All state and county screeners must be calibrated each time a survey is conducted.
- Councilmember Gothmann asked how much fluoridation occurs in King and Snohomish Counties compared to Spokane, and stated his surprise that Spokane was similar in statistics with the state despite a fluoridation difference. In Spokane County, only

Fairchild Air Force Base and Cheney are fluoridated. The schools were randomly selected by the state and research would need to be completed to determine which cities were represented in the report.

- Board Member Fisk questioned how the program could do a better job in encouraging the Medicaid-eligible to seek dental treatment. The priority for the program is to encourage those eligible families to use services. For those in the ABCD program, there is an increase in percentages of Medicaid-eligible who seek services.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Building Ownership/Methadone Slots/Medical School – Commissioner Richard

Commissioner Richard and Torney Smith met on the ownership of the public health building. They reviewed previous conversations and concerns from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and surrounding property owners. There will be a legal review on some of the addressed concerns with a goal to bring the matter to the BOCC.

Commissioner Richard received notice from Christine Barada, Spokane County Regional Support Network Director, that as incomes decline more individuals are eligible for Medicaid services. As a result of that, work is being done to expand the Methadone slots available for the Medicaid-eligible.

Financial support for the 4 year medical school has been approved. This is yet another step forward in providing better healthcare in the community by training medical professionals, who by statistics, often chose to locate where they are trained.

Union Negotiations Support – Board Member Fisk

Board Member Fisk offered to serve on the BOH subcommittee that will work with the agency on union negotiations.

Cancer Cluster in the East Trent Area

Mayor Verner met with a constituent who was told by the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) of a cancer cluster in the area of East Trent. She requested Dr. McCullough contact Mr. Dansworth and SRCAA on the issue. Dr. McCullough commented on his awareness of the issue starting last year. He will contact the Spokane Clean Air Agency, review the report, and update the Board at its next meeting.

Neighborhoods Advisory Board Request – Councilmember Corker

Councilmember Corker participates on the Neighborhoods Matter Board that looks at a variety of health related issues in the East Central Neighborhood. The advisory board asked Councilmember Corker to share several legislative attempts from around the country and to ask for input from the Board. The three legislative actions he will share aren't recommendations because they are controversial. They are intended for feedback in terms of legislation and agency roles. This information will be sent by email and feedback should be sent directly to Councilmember Corker.

Citizen Input /Sewer Issue – Councilmember Gothmann

Councilmember Gothmann requested Mr. Carlton, who gave citizen input at the beginning of the meeting, speak with Commissioner Richard on the sewer issue.

Strategic Planning Goal 2 Update – Mayor Verner

Mayor Verner gave an update on Strategic Planning Goal 2 efforts. The team discussed providing a menu list of SRHD programs and services asking the delegations to pick 3 items of interest from the menu. This will ensure greater participation from delegations visiting the Health District. The list was sent to delegations in Olympia and Spokane County.

Board Reminders – Councilmember Crump

Councilmember Crump reminded the Board of the Health Officer Evaluation survey and the upcoming NALBOH conference.

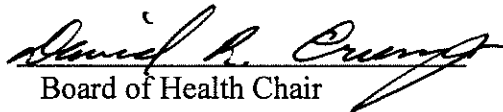
NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on June 23, 2011.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

APPROVED:


Board of Health Chair

Date: June 23, 2011


Recording Secretary

