

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **January 25, 2018** was called to order by Board Member Chuck Hafner, Chair, at 12:31 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Board Member Chuck Hafner, Chair
Councilmember Breean Beggs, Vice Chair
Commissioner Josh Kerns
Commissioner Mary Kunev (arrived 12:47 p.m.)
Commissioner Al French (departed 2:12 p.m.)
Councilmember Karen Stratton
Mayor Kevin Freeman
Board Member Donald Condon, MD

ABSENT

Councilmember Kate Burke
Councilmember Brandi Peetz
Councilmember Linda Thompson

CHAIR REPORT – Board Member Hafner

The chair welcomed Dr. Donald Condon as a new appointed citizen to the Board of Health.

The chair thanked Mayor Freeman for his service as BOH Chair for last two years.

The Chair Report, Item 4, was moved to Item 3 on the agenda. The chair shared a statement on the BOH's role, the importance of public input, and the need to facilitate timely meetings to maintain a quorum for voting. The chair explained the new procedure for citizen input.

The chair recognized outgoing Councilmember Lori Kinnear for her service on the Board of Health.

CITIZEN INPUT

- Jacklyn Gallion, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke on school exclusions due to mumps and the negative test that extended the exclusion at her child's school. She questioned the transparency of the agency to the board, noting speaking before the board is the opportunity for citizens to question the activities of the agency.
- Ed Pace, Spokane Valley, WA – Requested the board vote no on the resolution to limit public input.
- Kristina Nielsen, Spokane, WA – Spoke on the amount of vaccinations that children receive and questioned where the studies showing vaccines were safe for children were. There are risks in receiving vaccines and where there is risk, there should be choice. She requested the board vote no on Resolution #18-01.
- Jennifer Burrows, Spokane, WA – Spoke on the differing views about vaccinations. She asked the board to listen to concerns of the citizens of the community and create policies that support an individualized medical model for vaccines. She requested the board vote no on Resolution #18-01.
- Erin Kranzler, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke about her move from California to avoid government overreach regarding childhood vaccinations and her concern about the ingredients in vaccines. She asked the board to research the citizens' concerns and to vote no on Resolution #18-01.
- Kim Helm, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke on the religious exemptions for vaccines and the use of aborted fetal cells used in vaccines. Research shows the mixing of DNA is harmful. She requested the

board remove the wording on the BOH legislative agenda to eliminate exemptions and to vote no on Resolution #18-01.

- Carol Trask, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke on the board’s statement last meeting regarding public comment on school exclusions due to mumps. The board’s legislative agenda proves that citizens do need to comment about vaccinations. She asked the board to remove the BOH legislative item limiting vaccination exemptions and to vote no on Resolution #18-01.
- Danielle Loft, Spokane, WA – Spoke on her concerns about limiting parental rights and requested the board vote no on Resolution #18-01.
- Petra Hoy, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke on her support of vaccinations and on the letter and Spokesman article she will give the recording secretary about parental rights and immunizations.
- Sherri Robinson, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke about her support for the medical community who considers science first regarding vaccines.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Epidemiology Report – Malia Nogle, Disease Prevention and Response Division

As of January 23, 2018, there have been 376 influenza-related hospitalizations in Spokane County. Of those, 310 have been influenza A, predominantly subtype H3N2, with a minimal amount of H1N1. There have been 66 influenza B hospitalizations. Of these hospitalizations, 34% have verifiable vaccine status. The elderly population has been most affected, which is consistent to previous flu seasons.

Influenza cases are expected to be consistent with the recent, most serious flu season (2014-2015). There have been 18 influenza-related deaths in Spokane County and 27% of these cases have been verifiably immunized. All deaths have occurred in those who are 50 years and older. All deaths suffered from co-morbidities or conditions that contributed to the illness. The most common have been congestive heart failure, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Dr. Lutz added the hurricane in Puerto Rico has affected production of IV fluid creating a shortage nationwide. Spokane Regional Health District along with the Eastern Washington Healthcare Coalition have recently assisted Kootenai County in locating IV fluids through Spokane’s Veterans Administration.

Board Member Condon commented that two Fridays ago, he had seen 57 patients with ¼ of them having culture proven influenza and more having clinical influenza. Last Friday, he had seen 48 patients with a similar ratio.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist

There is approximately one week until the first cutoff in the legislative session and 1.5 weeks until the House of Origin cutoff. Under Tier 1 on the SRHD BOH Legislative Agenda, HB2489 and SB6150 (Mental Health and Substance Abuse) are likely the bills of choice to move forward. They are expected to be heavily amended. HB2489 should be moved out of executive committee next week.

Under Tier 2, Tobacco21 has three bills to monitor this year. Two bills were introduced last year and the third this year. All are receiving hearings and moving forward. The fiscal note has been revised to show a much lower fiscal impact. HB1054 did pass committee and SB5025 is scheduled for hearing next week. SB6048 has a hearing this week. There is very strong support for the bills among those speaking at hearings or signing in.

Last year, legislation was introduced to impose a tax on vapor products. HB2165 is in action again this year and is partially tied to Tobacco 21. The intent is for the vapor products tax to, initially, offset the lost revenue caused by Tobacco 21 legislation. Later, 40% of the revenue would go to public health and 60% would go to the general fund.

Councilmember Beggs stated a point of clarification for the audience that BOH members have not taken a position on any legislative bills on the BOH Legislative Agenda, Tier 3. The bills are only being monitored. The bills in Tiers 1 and 2 are for intended action.

AGENCY REPORT – Torney Smith, Administrator
SRHD Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Reaccreditation

The process for reaccreditation is underway and is being led by Patricia Rhoades. Teams have been established to complete narrative descriptions on how the agency meets 12 domain measures.

SRHD Strategic Planning Process

There are 15 SRHD staff working on the Strategic Plan Goal 4 group to develop the new strategic plan goals for the agency. Lyndia Wilson, Disease Prevention and Response Division Director, is leading the group. Board of Health members were encouraged to work on the goal group.

Community Health Assessment

SRHD staff are working with community partners on the Community Health Assessment Board (CHAB) to determine significant issues in Spokane County. Priority Spokane’s website has a listing of multiple task forces working on the project. The Healthy People Task Force has met twice reviewing data indicators from SRHD.

Health Equity Assessment

The agency is using the Bay Area Regional Health and Inequities Initiative (BARHII) to strengthen knowledge and work on inequities in the agency and with partners in the future.

Board Member Hafner’s Birthday Recognition

Board Member Hafner’s 86th birthday was recognized by agency staff and the BOH.

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: December 7, 2017

2017 Vouchers paid: November 1-30, 2017

Voucher Numbers:	#244581 -#244879 and FT B&O October 2017	\$ 1,071,642.15
Payroll Warrants:	#986710 - #986713 Advice Numbers: #DD42258 - #DD42488	\$788,384.88
Payroll Warrants:	#988281 - #9988282 #988608 - #988615 Advice Numbers: #DD42489 - #DD42717	\$753,389.09
	TOTAL	\$1,541,773.97

2017 Vouchers paid: December 1-31, 2017

Voucher Numbers:	#244880 -#245134 and FT B&O November 2017	\$ 861,704.85
Payroll Warrants:	#990383 - #990384 Advice Numbers: #DD42949 - #DD43180	\$798,795.28
Payroll Warrants:	#991345 Advice Numbers: #DD42949 - #DD43180	\$774,535.41
	TOTAL	\$1,573,030.69

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

Motion/Second: Freeman/Beggs

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Adopt 2018 Meeting Schedule – Board Member Hafner

Board Member Hafner presented the 2018 BOH meeting schedule.

Motion: To adopt the 2018 Board of Health Meeting Schedule as presented.

Motion/Second: Beggs/Kuney

Approved: Unanimously

Adopt 2018 Board of Health Committees

Board Member Hafner presented the 2018 BOH committees. Board members were asked to contact the Recording Secretary, Ann Pitsnogle, to volunteer for the committees. The following appointments were made:

Budget and Finance Committee

Commissioner Kuney, Chair

Education and Communications Committee

Councilmember Stratton, Chair

Councilmember Thompson

Executive Committee of the BOH (ECBOH)

Board Member Hafner, Chair

Councilmember Beggs

Mayor Freeman

Commissioner Kuney

Resolution #18-01 Amending a Policy on Public Comments, Concerns and Conduct During Board Meetings – Board Member Hafner

Commissioner French made a motion to accept Resolution #18-01. Mayor Freeman seconded the motion.

Councilmember Beggs clarified the amendment is not intended to limit public comment and noted additional ways the public can reach out to the board. The challenge for the board is to complete business in the time allotted. Citizens who have not spoken to the board previously will be allowed to speak first to allow equitable ability to speak before the board.

Commissioner Kerns encouraged the BOH members to vote no on the resolution. Elected officials' responsibilities include listening to the public. The board meets once a month and the public has that time to present issues important to them. The agency is funded by those who come to testify and citizens are allotted three minutes a piece. Some citizens may drive up to 45 minutes to speak before the board and not have a chance to testify.

Councilmember Stratton requested clarification whether citizens can speak at the end of meetings. Board Member Hafner stated citizens would be allowed to at the current meeting.

Councilmember Beggs suggested a possible amendment to allow public comment at the end of each meeting.

Councilmember Stratton made a motion to amend the current resolution to include an additional public comment period at the end of each meeting. Councilmember Beggs seconded the motion.

Board Member Condon noted the current resolution allows for additional time for public comment upon the chair's discretion or approval by a majority of the board members present. Board Member Condon

asked if there was a way to determine prior to the meeting how many citizens would be present for comment. Councilmember Beggs responded citizens sign up at the meeting and there is no way to anticipate how many.

Mayor Freeman asked for a clarification of the amendment. Councilmember Stratton responded the amendment would allow an additional comment period at the end of the meeting for citizens who did not have an opportunity to speak in the first 30-minute comment period.

Board Member Hafner called for a vote on the amendment to Resolution #18-01.

Motion: To amend Resolution #18-01 allowing an additional comment period at the end of each meeting for citizens who did not have an opportunity to speak in the first 30-minute comment period.

Motion/Second: Stratton/Beggs

Approved: Unanimously

Board Member Hafner called for a vote on Resolution #18-01.

Motion: To approve Resolution #18-01 Amending a Policy on Public Comments, Concerns and Conduct During Board Meetings

Motion/Second: French/Freeman

Approved: 7 Yea, 1 Nay (Kerns)

REPORTS

There were no reports.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN

New BOH Member, Councilmember Burke – Councilmember Beggs

Councilmember Beggs noted Councilmember Burke is excited to join the board, but was unable to attend this month's meeting due to a conflict.

SRHD Funding – Commissioner French

Spokane County has provided funding to SRHD since Initiative 695 (1999) and represents a minority of the BOH. The cities that don't contribute can adopt policies and decide on direction that costs the agency resources while not contributing to its financial well-being. Spokane County along with 39 other counties are experiencing financial stress. He stated its appropriate for the board to start having discussions about creating financial stability for the agency because Spokane County cannot afford to fund much longer. Spokane County had a \$9.4 million shortfall made up by eliminating programs, reducing personnel, and using reserves. Commissioner French encouraged discussions about an appropriate financial model for SRHD.

Mayor Freeman stated he will be speaking to the other small city mayors about the issue and encouraged the board to begin discussions early in the year and asked how that may take place. SRHD Administrator, Torney Smith, commented the topic should be presented to the BOH Budget and Finance Committee and other participants and SRHD is willing to facilitate the discussions.

CITIZEN INPUT

- Gary VanDusen, Liberty Lake, WA – Spoke on thankfulness for SRHD, its services and his experience with infantile paralysis.
- Kebby Johnson, Spokane Valley, WA – Stated she had planned on speaking on Resolution #18-01, but it was passed. She requested a question and answers meeting.

- Charis Keller, Spokane, WA – Stated she had planned on speaking on Resolution #18-01, but it is now a moot point. She stated that she was happy for the interest of citizens to speak to the board. She asked the board to safeguard the public input protocol. She stated her memory of the agency was having an adverse reaction after a vaccination she received at the health district. She encouraged the board to hear all public comments on agenda items before voting.
- Grant Keller, Spokane, WA – Stated he came to speak on Resolution #18-01 and was going to urge the board not to restrict public comment. He encouraged the board to reconsider and amend the resolution.
- Carly Howarth, Spokane, WA – Spoke on her concern about the BOH legislative agenda regarding immunizations (SB277). She encouraged the board to fight for more research on immunizations instead of passing more policy.

Councilmember Beggs clarified the board had not taken a position on SB277 and is only monitoring the bill.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING


The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on February 22, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Board Member Name and Title

Date: 2/22/18


Recording Secretary