

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **July 29, 2021**, virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic was called to order by Commissioner Mary Kuney, Chair, at 12:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Commissioner Mary Kuney, Chair (*departed at 3:03 p.m.*)  
Mayor Kevin Freeman, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Josh Kerns  
Council President Breean Beggs (*arrived at 12:44 p.m.*)  
Councilmember Karen Stratton  
Councilmember Betsy Wilkerson  
Mayor Ben Wick  
Board Member Andrea Frostad

**ABSENT**

Commissioner Al French  
Councilmember Tim Hattenburg  
Board Member Jason Kinley, ND

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Due to Governor Inslee’s March 24, 2020, proclamation prohibiting in-person meetings and limiting meetings to action items that are routine, necessary or in response to COVID-19 and the public health emergency, only written public comment was accepted. Written comment was sent to all Board of Health members and was entered into the record.

**BOARD REPORT**

- The Chair reflected on the former Board of Health Appointed Member Chuck Hafner’s passing and his many years of service on the Board.
- The Chair asked the Board to encourage Council President Breean Beggs who has some health concerns.
- The following staff were acknowledged for their outstanding work at the Health District: Joel Reeves, David Castro, Mark Springer, Julie Hudson, and Sean Policani.
- The BOH Budget & Finance Committee members have reviewed and moved forward for Board consideration the proposed 2022 SRHD Fee Schedule, vouchers, and financial reports. The members have reviewed the funding review documentation and request the Board review the document in preparation of the 2022 budget discussions.
- The BOH Policy & Education Committee is soliciting education topics from members. Members were asked to forward recommendations to Councilmember Wilkerson or Amelia Clark. The educational topics and legislative agenda will be brought to the BOH for consideration in September.

**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: June 24, 2021  
2021 Vouchers paid: June 1-30, 2021  
Contract: Treatment Services Facility

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Voucher Numbers:	#256674 - #256867	\$ 984,741.30
Payroll Warrants:	#1107717- #1107721	
Advice Numbers:	#DD64370 - #DD64651	\$1,099,824.80
Advice Numbers:	#DD64652 - #DD64934	\$1,065,040.55
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,149,606.65</b>

**Motion:** To approve the June 24, 2021, meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Wilkerson/Wick

**Approved:** Unanimously

**Motion:** To approve the June 1-30, 2021, vouchers as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Wick/Wilkerson

**Approved:** Unanimously

**Motion:** To allow the Administrative Officer to engage in negotiations for a treatment services facility lease not to exceed \$360,000 with final lease consideration by the Board of Health.

**Motion/Second:** Wilkerson/Stratton

**Approved:** 6 yea/2 abstain (Kuney/Kerns)

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Wilkerson requested an executive session to review a letter received by the Board members. The executive session was approved and tabled until Agenda Item 7 was completed.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Resolution #21-06 Adopting the 2022 SRHD Fee Schedule – Mayor Freeman

**Motion:** To approve the 2022 SRHD Fee Schedule as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Freeman/Wilkerson

**Approved:** Unanimously

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Amelia Clark, Administrative Officer**

- Health Officer recruitment has begun, and an update will be provided at the September meeting.
- The SRHD Funding Review report is included in the Board agenda packet. The goal of the report is to provide an education tool for Board members in reviewing and considering the agency budget.

## **COVID 19 REPORT – Steve Smith, Quality, Planning & Assessment Director**

- COVID-19 cases have increased 86% from July 22-28.
- Several new outbreaks are being monitored in long-term care facilities, congregate and shelter sites, and childcare facilities. SRHD is providing testing as needed.
- Approximately 440,00 vaccinations have been provided in Spokane County. Of Spokane County, 44.6% of individuals have initiated their vaccinations and 42.4% are fully vaccinated. SRHD has administered 33,885 doses of the vaccine to the homebound, shelters and community centers.
- To date, the SRHD Environmental Health Program has completed 7,938 requests from businesses for support. The program has shared survey results with schools and began fall planning.
- The isolation facility will close on August 31. Spokane County is working with SRHD on new plans for isolation.

## **HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Francisco Velázquez, MD, SM, FCAP, Interim Health Officer**

- Spokane County's COVID-19 positivity rate is 10% which is significantly higher than it has been in the last several weeks.
- The CDC has released updated masking guidance. The guidance recommends everyone in schools wear masks and universal masking in areas of high transmissions (i.e., Spokane County). The CDC recommends testing for fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure within 3-5 days and to wear a mask in public for 14 days or until a negative test result. SRHD recommends fully immunized individuals wearing a mask in indoor public spaces.
- COVID-19 transmission rates in schools follow the rates in the community which shows transmission is in the community and not solely in the schools.
- The Delta variant is 83% of all sequenced cases in the country. In Washington State, the Delta variant is 75.9% as of July 10. Only 17-18% of COVID-19 cases are sequenced in the state.

- Approximately, 95% of COVID-19 cases in Washington State are in the unvaccinated.
- There have been approximately 100 cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome related to the Johnson & Johnson vaccination.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – Kim Kramarz, Controller**

- The monthly financial and COVID-19 reports are included in the agenda packet. Expenses are at 48.1% and revenues are at 42% due to grant reimbursement after expenses. The agency is on budget target.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

- Julie Awbrey, SRHD Living Environment Program Manager, provided a report on the Water Education program.
- Casey Schooley, SRHD Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager, provided a report on public health’s role related to wildfire smoke.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board adjourned at 2:35 p.m. for 10 minutes for an executive session pursuant to RCW §42.30.110(1)(f), RCW §42.30.110(1)(g) and RCW §42.30.110(1)(i). Legal counsel, Michelle Fossum, was asked to attend and the Administrative Officer did not attend the executive session. At 2:45 p.m., the BOH Chair requested an extension of the executive session for an additional 5 minutes. At 2:52 p.m., the BOH chair requested an extension of the executive session for an additional 5 minutes. At 2:58 p.m., the BOH Chair requested an extension of the executive session for an additional 5 minutes.

**MEETING RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened at 3:06 p.m.

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

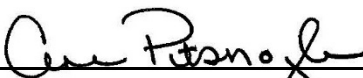
The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on September 30, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07pm.

APPROVED:   
Commissioner Mary Kuney, Chair

Date: September 30, 2021

  
Ann Pitsnogle, Recording Secretary