BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Dashiell, Steve Kiss, Elbert Koontz, Karen Lyons, Steve Parker

MEMBERS PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY: Johnna Exner, Shirley Sands

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Blankenship, Karen Skoog

STAFF PRESENT: Samuel Artzis, M.D., Molly Corvino, Dale House, Judy Hutton, Kelly LeCaire, Tammy Maine, Alison McGrane, Matt Schanz, Alyssa Spradley

GUESTS: Andrew Engell, Peter Edminster, Resident Physician, Kyle Rattray, Resident Physician, Mary Selecky, Leslie Waters, M.D.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Vice Chair Steve Parker called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all.

DESIGNATION OF 2018 BOARD OF HEALTH: Appointments to the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District for 2018 were read into the record. Ferry County Board of Commissioners have appointed Commissioners Mike Blankenship and Johnna Exner; Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners designated Commissioners Steve Kiss and Karen Skoog; Stevens County Board of Commissioners have appointed Commissioners Don Dashiell and Steve Parker; Mayor Karen Lyons was appointed by the Town of Marcus; the City of Newport appointed Mayor Shirley Sands; the City of Republic appointed Elbert Koontz.

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Steve Kiss reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Karen Skoog as Board Chair and Steve Parker as Vice Chair. Elbert Koontz moved and Johnna Exner seconded the motion to approve the Nominating Committee recommendation of Karen Skoog as 2018 Board of Health Chair and Steve Parker as Board of Health Vice Chair. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Steve Kiss moved and Elbert Koontz seconded the motion to approve the minutes of November 29, 2017. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION: There was no correspondence.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances were pre-registered.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.
PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

FOLLOW-UP REGARDING FERRY COUNTY JAIL AND PROPOSED VAPING RESOLUTION: Steve Parker talked about the discussion at the last Board of Health (BOH) meeting regarding the proposed vaping resolution that included a carve out for the Ferry County jail, which raised the issue of consistency. Matt Schanz said for some time we have been giving consideration of adding vaping through local resolution into the definition of those precluded activities just like smoking was done in 2005 that stated that smoking could not occur within an indoor environment of a public place or place of employment.

NETCHD did very extensive outreach and input received was mostly supportive of those efforts both from the public and business owners. The Ferry County jail voiced concerns because they currently utilize vaping within the jail environment with both inmates and staff. This has been an ongoing conversation and was left at the last BOH meeting that Ferry County Commissioners and Elbert Koontz would have conversations with jail staff about what would best suit the needs of the jail and what they could agree to in moving this issue forward or making another determination. Matt asked Johanna Exner if she had any further conversations and/or did she have any comments. Johanna appreciates NETCHD coming and talking more in depth and offering opportunities to make alterations to accommodate the yard where the prisoners go outside. Johanna understands that has been part of the discussion, but the commissioners haven’t had a chance to sit down with jail staff and the Sheriff to see if they are going to make some type of decision. There is currently a safety concern because of snow load on the roof, which is why that area isn’t used much during the winter. That area is the only option available for outside use, even with reduced parameters of the twenty-five (25) feet that NETCHD had offered. The last that she has heard was that the Sheriff’s office had safety concerns.

Judy Hutton reported that on January 9, 2018 she and Tammy Maine met with Ferry County Jail Superintendent Sergeant Shawn Davis who took them on a tour of the jail facility. They were looking for the possibility of using the outside courtyard with a variance of the twenty-five (25) foot setback, if there were any intakes into other buildings, and how that could be mitigated. They also looked for a place for the protective custody inmates who are only out for one (1) hour because they can’t be in general population as well as the women who can only be out for about an hour and taken out into the courtyard when there isn’t snow on the mesh roof over the courtyard. The jail was built in the late 1970’s or early 1980’s and they are concerned about the snow load in the mesh coming down on top of the prisoners. According to Shawn, the ventilation is about twenty (20) years old and needs revamped. They don’t have a room available to set up for the prisoners to vape. Initially they thought it was possible for the women to vape in their bathroom because it had a new exhaust fan, not realizing that the exhaust fan is not working correctly. Several options were discussed including reinforcing the mesh in the courtyard or removing it altogether. Judy informed Shawn that meetings she is attending indicate that in the next couple of years there will be a law that includes vaping that we won’t have any control over and the State will not allow them a variance. Shawn is willing to work with NETCHD on coming up with a location for prisoners to vape, before the law is passed, but without some major changes, there is no safe place. The only thing that can be done right now is to revise their current e-cigarette policy to put prisoners that vape together and away from those who don’t.
Judy Hutton spoke with Sheriff Ray Maycumber who had a lot of opinions, and asked for a study done on a specific vaping device and nicotine currently being used at the jail. Judy said there are studies about the damaging effects from nicotine but there isn’t information about the exact device being used at the jail. With that, Sheriff Maycumber basically handed it over to the jail superintendent. Because an option wasn’t found, Judy asked where we go from here. Matt Schanz indicated that at a meeting with the Ferry County Commissioners prior to the jail visit, there was discussion about the potential of supervising people who were vaping in an outdoor environment that is unsecured. Our understanding is that they just don’t have staffing levels to do that in an effective and safe manner.

Elbert Koontz said this BOH can pass the resolution, but a resolution isn’t a law. Elbert asked what would be done to the jail if they continued to vape and said there is nothing we can do about it until the State passes a law. Alison McGrane said the issue would be, is the resolution going to be enforced by the county prosecutor. Alison noted that the Ferry County Prosecutor was at the meeting stating that they don’t want the vaping stopped, which would be problematic. Matt said the resolution could have violation penalties associated with it, but the prosecutor would have to enforce the penalties. Alison said a violation of a resolution is usually a civil penalty, which is money, with enforcement done in district court. Steve Parker said since he has been commissioner, very rarely if ever have the commissioners passed a resolution with a penalty clause because it has the kinds of things attached to it that Elbert mentioned. Elbert reiterated that the jail is using vaping as a tool to help keep prisoner’s calmer and if they don’t behave, it is taken away. Alison said obviously there are health risks associated with vaping or we wouldn’t be having this conversation. Alison said Ferry County would not be doing themselves any favors by just waiting for the law, because then they are going to have bigger problems. She suggested that NETCHD continue to work with Ferry County to see if there is a way to mitigate the issue. Judy said Shawn Davis was very interested in getting the variance for the courtyard with help from NETCHD because the exhaust ventilation in the jail was going to be expensive and they still don’t have a room to do that with. Matt noted that the existing smoking in public places law says you cannot smoke within twenty-five (25) feet of any entrance or ventilation system intake, but included a presumptively reasonable distance that could be evaluated by the local health jurisdiction (LHJ) to determine how much of that smoke, or in this case vapor would make its way back into the building. Even if you weren’t twenty-five (25) feet away from that, if there was an effective strategy, you could be allowed that type of variance, which is what we wanted to look at in Ferry County in the outdoor courtyard. Judy said the outdoor courtyard was the only area they agreed may work, but there are two (2) mesh covered windows that go into the courthouse. According to Shawn, those windows are not ever opened, and they could easily state that the windows are never to be opened. Johnna Exner said she has no doubt the law is coming, maybe they can get the variance done or see what can be accommodated for the jail. In the interim, we need to figure out some way to work together towards that goal instead. She reiterated that vaping is used as a tool and has made a huge difference in the safety of deputies and jail staff because it calms down the prisoners, and if that is taken away, they don’t have the staff to deal with the repercussions as well as smuggling in tobacco which was the biggest problem prior to vaping.
Steve Parker said regardless of what we choose to do with the resolution, even if we pass it with the carve out for the Ferry County jail, that is not going to supersede if the State passes a law. He asked Alison McGrane if our action would be null and void or would it stand? Alison said the carve out would be null and void. Johnna Exner asked if they would be grandfathered-in if the law changes, and will they still be subject to the law when it changes if they can find a solution between now and when the law changes? Matt Schanz said there won’t be any revisions included in the proposed resolution until we receive direction from the BOH. Alison agrees with the point made at the last BOH meeting by Wes McCart that when you make a carve out, it makes your resolution a lot more difficult to enforce. When you carve out one person, others ask why not them too, and it just opens that ability to question. Steve P. said much of the discussion at the last meeting was around that whole precedent issue that we have been cautioned repeatedly about picking and choosing. Matt said this was just an opportunity for us to report back and hear from Ferry County and for the BOH to provide direction. NETCHD staff would like to know if the BOH would like to table the resolution indefinitely, and give Ferry County the opportunity to seek solutions, and revisit this at a subsequent BOH meeting. Johnna suggested tabling it for now and allow Ferry County more time to see what Shawn Davis can come up with and see if we can find middle ground.

Don Dashiell asked if about the vote on the motion made to approve the proposed vaping resolution on page 3 of the November 29, 2017 BOH minutes. Kelly LeCaire said the vote on the motion is located on page 7 that states “All opposed. Motion failed”. Don doesn’t know if you must have official action to table something that is not currently in some official action status, and he doesn’t know how Matt will be given direction on it unless it is officially tabled. Mary Selecky said you can handle it in a slightly different way and give staff direction to bring this back to the next BOH meeting, having further discussions about a possible law. She noted that the weather is going to be different by then and you might be able to deal with a variance in March that is harder to deal with in January. Steve P. thanked Mary for her suggestions, especially the point about better weather.

Steve P. thanked NETCHD staff for time spent on this, including response to Board questions, working with Ferry County, public outreach, etc., and asked that no more time is spent on this. He feels that possibly until the State makes the law, we aren’t having to rush into this. Steve P. said if the Board concurs, this matter will be considered tabled until further instruction. Matt clarified that it is not proposed in this legislative session, so it will likely be two (2) years out at the very least to be able to look at anything given at the State level to revise the indoor air act. Steve P. feels that we are in good position to be able to provide input and guidance. Matt asked if it is possible for Ferry County Commissioners to at least continue that conversation and report back to the Board with a way to address and evaluate those concerns. Johnna said yes. Matt said one of the things discussed was talking to the prosecutor about the merits and whatever associated risks there may be with current activities as well.
2018 NETCHD LEGISLATIVE AND RULE MAKING PRIORITIES: Matt Schanz provided a list of legislative and rule-making priorities and said he is unsure if this has been done in the past. There have been times that NETCHD staff have opinions about a proposed rule change, such as the rule change with Group B water systems, and staff ideas on implementation weren’t necessarily in-line with BOH considerations. That was used as an example of the benefits of establishing a legislative agenda or priority legislation by which the management team and staff can educate for or against certain rule changes or legislative actions. Matt noted that we would be advocating and educating, not lobbying. He is proposing establishing a 2018 legislative and rulemaking priority list that the BOH is supporting prior to his attending the legislative education day on February 7, 2018. Steve Parker asked Matt how he proposes to do that. Matt said the Board of Health may wish to make the motion to approve the following 2018 legislative and rulemaking priorities:

1. **Support Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Funding and Oppose Reductions in Funding for Existing Local Public Health Jurisdiction Services**
   Sustainable and adequate statutorily-directed revenues are needed to ensure mandated and critical public health services can be provided to the public within Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties. Legislation will be reintroduced to support FPHS to:
   - increase local capacity for monitoring, investigating, and preventing communicable diseases;
   - Increase local health capacity for monitoring impact and causes of chronic diseases and disease response coordination.

2. **Encourage the Passage of a Capital Budget**
   NETCHD has seen a significant impact due to the lack of a Capital Budget, which provides funding for solid and hazardous waste enforcement activities. Lack of funding has significantly reduced our ability to respond to solid waste enforcement activities such as dumping complaints and garbage stockpiling on residential property. As passage of a Capital Budget has been linked to adequate resolution of the Hirst decision, it is important a fix is found.

3. **Support Raising the Tobacco Age to 21**
   The current age to purchase tobacco products in Washington is 18. Evidence strongly suggests that raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21 will lead to less smoking and tobacco use among Washington teens 12-17. Tobacco use remains a leading cause of preventable death in Washington, contributing to 8,300 deaths annually and costing the state more than $5 billion a year in healthcare costs and lost productivity. Youth generally access tobacco products from older individuals in their social network, which can include 18-year-old high school seniors. Nearly 90% of smokers begin smoking before the age of 18 and people who do not smoke by the age of 21 generally do not initiate smoking.
4. **Support Statewide Safe Medicine Return Program to Reduce Access to Opioids**
   Improved and viable options are needed for the safe collection and adequate disposal of unused and unwanted medications statewide, and stable, adequate funding (by pharmaceutical industry) is needed to support the implementation of such a program. Program elements should include convenient drop boxes at pharmacies, hospitals, police stations, and other Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) authorized collections sites, as well as collection events and return mailers. Several localities/local health jurisdictions (LHJs) have already adopted such programs and any statewide program should not preempt or undermine these existing programs.

5. **Continued State Funds for Group B Drinking Water Program**
   Funding that has allowed LHJs to develop and maintain programs has been determined to be critical. Such funding allowed NETCHD to develop and implement a program in 2017. State funding for the program was for two (2) years and is due to expire. The Washington State Department of Health will be asking for legislative support to continue the funding appropriation.

6. **Support of Enhanced Funding for Youth Marijuana Prevention Account**
   Protecting and enhancing the funding stream dedicated to marijuana education and prevention program is a critical public health consideration. Under State law, a portion of marijuana revenue is provided to public health supporting grants aimed at prevention and reduction of marijuana use by youth and for media based education campaigns. Funding for these efforts has been insufficient to meet the needs and it is important that the maximum allowed appropriation be sought to support these activities.

Steve Parker indicated that this is a short-session and is already in session. Elbert Koontz said all seem like worthwhile objectives and all impact the BOH. Steve P. talked about “Support Raising the Tobacco Age to 21”. If you look at this strictly from a public health perspective, it has a lot of good dynamic to it in terms of dissuading early smokers. A big red flag for him is in how he is going to tell that soldier coming home to Washington State off combat duty that they can no longer buy tobacco. He said he can’t do that and that is just one example. Matt Schanz was asking for a motion to support those priorities as either stated or as otherwise modified. Johnna Exner asked Steve P. if he is suggesting a modification on “Support Raising the Tobacco Age to 21”. Steve P. said that is a non-starter for him, and he is not suggesting a modification.

Elbert Koontz moved and Shirley Sands seconded the motion to approve the Proposed 2018 NETCHD Legislative and Rulemaking Priorities as stated above. Elbert Koontz and Shirley Sands voted in favor of the motion. Don Dashiell, Johnna Exner, Steve Kiss and Steve Parker opposed the motion. Karen Lyons abstained. Motion failed.
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Matt Schanz reiterated that legislative education day is February 7, 2018 and asked if the BOH would like more discussion and if raising the tobacco age to twenty-one (21) is the main sticking point from the proposed list. Don Dashiell told Matt not to waste his time trying to encourage the passage of a capital budget as there is a lot of hollering etc. and he would be on the fringe of that. Matt said the intent was to at least allow us to educate as we talk to Representative Kretz and/or Maycumber about the lack of a capital budget, while it may be minor in comparison to the overall conversation, at least we can let them know what those impacts are. Don asked Matt if there was one priority from the list that is the most important to NETCHD. Elbert Koontz said if it is impacting us, it is impacting everybody with solid waste and by giving them a hint, you may find that the problem is bigger than you think. Steve Parker said they've got the hint. He said this is a new concept and supports wholeheartedly the idea of moving in the direction to have cohesive input on legislative topics. One of the things that is very important, especially in rural counties, is the ability to support certain things. Steve P. said it is even more crucial to be able to resist certain actions of the legislature. He feels that if we are going to give input to our legislators from a health perspective from the considerations that we face in the health field, we also need to be able to give input on things that we will not support at some degree or another oppose that that have the potential to negatively impact the health of rural counties. Matt fully agrees which was one of the reasons why he talked about advocating for or against priority legislation and with that acknowledgement, while there may be some things that are good for other counties, they may not necessarily be good for our rural counties. Steve P. said also there has been a history with the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) trying to insert issues into the health domain that lie completely out of their jurisdiction, and he doesn't know what those issues are this year. Matt said it has not just been the past, it's also been the very recent as well. WSALPHO, a subset of the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), both stake-out positions on certain legislation on public health related matters and the two (2) do not always coincide perfectly. This last year we saw an occurrence with solid waste dollars that came from the Department of Ecology (DOE) with WSAC and WSALPHO not necessarily in agreement and there needed to be more conversations and understandings of what the impacts would be for local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and counties. That situation was one of the reasons for this idea. Matt said if there is opposition to even establishing legislative priorities, it would be nice if the NETCHD management team understood where they can all agree upon supporting legislation, advocating or educating against. Shirley Sands said these are things that she would discuss with Senator Short, Representative Kretz and Maycumber at the upcoming Association of Washington Cities (AWC) conference. Understanding what their positions are with these points gets them engaged in our rural cities and counties and finding out where a topic is with the legislation. Shirley said the more input that we as leaders and the BOH can give feedback and information, the more our legislators can understand where we are coming from. Though Shirley doesn't agree with everything on the list, she thinks it is good information. She went on to say that decisions will be made regarding the budget, but this BOH has had discussions about the rest of these topics and have put together things that moved the needle forward, and if we can make them aware of that and can support that, she is confused as to where the BOH sits. Johnna Exner agrees with both Shirley and Steve P. Johnna said the BOH has had these conversations, and it seems to her that when we go to Olympia and meet with our legislators, and she doesn't want to sound mean, but she feels like we seem to be “one more voice crying in the wilderness” and there are so many voices that they are already listening to, she is not sure how productive that is going to be.
Steve Parker said obviously the BOH are strong supporters for adequate funding of FPHS and we would all like to see the successful passage of the capital budget, but that will be worked out at a totally different level than from our input. Steve P. thinks they need to hear from us, and he personally would feel totally justified in asking support for Matt to speak about the following three (3) topics:

- Support Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Funding and Oppose Reductions in Funding for Existing Local Public Health Jurisdiction Services
- Encourage the Passage of Capital Budget
- Continued State Funds for Group B Drinking Water Program

Steve P. said the other topics have to do with funding and programs and are worth considering, but this is another tax payer issue because there are costs attached that we would want to discuss. He is interested in giving Matt direction and support on those three (3) issues only and with the further support to continue to develop this protocol for this BOH so that when the next session comes up, we have time to get organized so that we can be that “one more voice in the wilderness”. As a Board we do have a place to speak on certain issues, but he would be somewhat controversial about it especially considering some of the past WSALPHO moves, including a big one for him on 2nd amendment issues, calling gun control a public health risk and trying to weave that in. Steve P. added that until we get that subject removed from a health discussion and anything else that doesn’t belong there, he would be in opposition on those kinds of things. Don Dashiell said we don’t want Matt to go to the legislative day and have nothing to drive on.

Dr. Artzis said he finds it interesting that the previous NETCHD administrator, Dave Windom, was directed by the BOH to be more legislatively active and without a plan, and without us knowing specifically what he was going to do, though maybe the BOH knew. Dr. Artzis said it was never very clear to him what Dave was doing. Dr. Artzis said here we have a clear plan and he doesn’t even care about the elements of it, we have asked for better communication from our administrator, and what he would be doing if he was legislatively active, and here we have that list. He feels that it is “damned if we do and damned if we don’t” as far as empowering our Board to have a voice. It’s been handled two different ways. Steve P. said he would not want to look at it like “sour grapes”. Dr. Artzis said it is a little bit, because if you look at it, Dave was told to go do what he wanted and didn’t really have an agenda for why he was going. He reiterated that maybe the BOH knew what he was doing, but Dr. Artzis said he did not, and maybe that was it. Steve P. said maybe, he would have to go back and look. Dr. Artzis asked Steve P. if he remembers the conversation, we specifically said this is exactly what we want, and now he is hearing that is not what we want. Steve P. thinks that what he heard, at least from his perspective, is there are some elements in the list that he doesn’t support and/or advocate for, and there are some that he does advocate for. Dr. Artzis said he is also hearing that we are a “voice in the wilderness” and it’s not worth it and he wants to make sure we have a clear direction at least at the end of this meeting and he does have some “sour grapes”.

Don Dashiell noted that any comments made by Matt regarding Group B are because that’s what he has been doing and he will probably be heard a little better than some support to pass a capital budget and its funding Group B.
Alison McGrane asked if the Board would support the three (3) items listed above (1, 2, 5) on the list and at least Matt Schanz would have direction for just those specific things and potentially he could work on this for the next session. Steve Parker said he would give complete support for those three (3) topics.

Don Dashiell moved and Steve Kiss seconded the motion to give direction to Matt Schanz to concentrate on the following three (3) priority items with some input from BOH members as they see fit prior to the trip to Olympia:

- Support Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Funding and Oppose Reductions in Funding for Existing Local Public Health Jurisdiction Services
- Encourage the Passage of Capital Budget
- Continued State Funds for Group B Drinking Water Program

Steve Kiss said in moving forward with this process, he thinks it’s a good process to have a list of priorities, but thinks the focus should be, in most cases, watching for legislation that is going to impact our mission negatively, versus advocating for something that we may or may not deem necessary. Elbert Koontz said in response to raising the tobacco age, the soldier in the military is still going to get tobacco, but if you pass this, you may save some lives. The focus seems to be on the Group B drinking water program. He sees a lot of personal feelings come in to play. Elbert reiterated that all six (6) items are important and viable. Don still thinks it is better to reduce the list and we are not asking for a new program with totally new funding. He noted that Matt is only there for one (1) day and would be difficult to have more than a couple of our most important things. Matt said the legislative education day is an opportunity to visit, educate, and connect and as Shirley Sands mentioned, it’s not necessarily about what the issues are, it’s us coming together focusing on public health, and having those conversations. Matt understands that it can be difficult to separate a county commissioner perspective to a public health perspective. He said BOH members have a lot of influence and can do that outreach and education about issues that are important to us. Don said the motion will at least get us some direction on what not to do and as Dr. Artzis mentioned, giving someone a free rein to go testify on legislative stuff and find out later that it was probably not the best approach. Matt said he doesn’t want to find himself in that position. Don appreciates the outline Matt brought forward and asked if the six (6) items were ranked by priority. Matt said no they were not. Dr. Artzis asked why supporting a statewide safe medicine return program to reduce access to opioids was not included. Elbert said we are the BOH and are supposed to be dealing with that issue. Steve P. said when he looks at proposed legislation, after looking at the concept, the underlying principles, and whether it truly addresses the root of the problem or can be a potential part of a solution, and has someone provided a fiscal note on it. Steve P. said without having all that information, he needs to look at it from a BOH member perspective and county commissioner perspective and hesitates to approve of this being something that he wants implemented in his county jurisdictions.
Dr. Artzis asked what negative impact the safe medicine return would have and if the concern is a financial one that we would be responsible to pay for. Steve Parker asked what the financial impact would be. Dr. Artzis said based off what Matt Schanz said, it would be the pharmacy companies that would fund the takeback program. Steve P. said pharmacy companies don’t fund anything, they incur costs to do business and they recoup those costs through their pricing structures. Steve P. said another part of that is a complete discussion on consequences to programs, a lot of which we have learned over the years, maybe unintended consequences and without having a firm discussion, he doesn’t have a comfort level to give approval for something that we should really advocate for. Steve P. added that we are having a hard-enough time getting comfortable with the vaping issue after a year’s worth of discussion, information, public input, etc. and that type of robust discussion is what is needed.

Steve P. asked Mary Selecky if we are suffering from too little legislative activity in Olympia or are we experiencing an overabundance of legislative activity. Mary said a law enforcement office in certain towns will participate in the safe takeback program once a year and that doesn’t help us. People with unused pharmaceuticals have no safe place to dispose of them, so that is what this legislation helps with. Mary said if it takes legislation to say that according to the Washington State law, it is appropriate for local jurisdictions to participate and there is funding to do it, then she would say that we need that legislation. Mary added that Steve P. is right by saying there are pieces of legislation that you want to work against. When Mary was the NETCHD administrator in 1979, Dr. Gray basically told her to go to Olympia and make sure that our voice is heard and make sure they don’t do things to us that will hurt us. Mary said that was the guidance she received from the BOH in 1979 that she used for twenty (20) years at NETCHD. She said it is important that there were times we voiced our opposition to things that might take away our ability to write our own rules. Mary thinks the list is reasonable and gives Matt some guidance, but that doesn’t mean that he will be the only one who will ever testify. She noted that there is never a “voice in the wilderness”, every voice needs to count. All BOH members are elected officials and you all know that because without those voices, you have no authority. Steve P. said for the record, he heard Mary say that yes, there is an overabundance of legislative activity. Mary said yes, and sometimes not enough activity. Steve P. asked if another way to say that would be that much of legislation is misguided. Mary said that depends on where you stand on the issue, and she does understand what he is saying. Don Dashiell asked Matt if there is any legislation yet to support the safe medicine return program. Matt said it will be presented as a statewide program this session. Steve P. said he thinks Don was asking if there is a bill and if there isn’t one, he thinks there will be. Steve P. noted that if there isn’t a bill now, it won’t make it on this session. Mary said she knows it is on the list for the Washington State Hospital Association also. Elbert Koontz said the Republic Drug Store has a drug takeback program where a company comes and picks up and transports the drugs. There is a machine located inside the drug store for disposal of unwanted medications. Prior to that, the program was at the Republic Police Department and didn’t work because of lack of funding and staffing. The drugs had to be transported to Spokane once a month and accompanied by two (2) law enforcement officers. Elbert isn’t exactly sure about the funding source, but a representative from the Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD) helped setup the funding. Elbert said if anyone has questions, they can contact the Republic Drug Store for information. Dr. Artzis provided information on House Bill (HB) 1047 – 2017-18: Protecting the public’s health by creating a system for safe and secure collection and disposal of unwanted medications.
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Shirley Sands said we are now as a group having these discussions about each of the topics, how we support or don’t support, and what type of legislation, etc., and isn’t this the type of thing that we want Matt Schanz to represent in going and talking to legislators. Shirley is taking the entire list when she speaks to her constituents at AWC to find out where they stand on each topic. She reiterated that the people making those decisions need to know where we stand individually or as a BOH, we can get their feedback and then we would know conceptually what is going on or what is conspiring. She added that whether you are for or against something, she feels that direction given to Matt should be to open the dialogue and conversation about what the BOH as a group might think. County commissioners should be talking to their constituents as well. In the last ten (10) minutes, everyone has voiced their opinion for or against a subject and again, she asks why all of this is not being sent to Matt to move forward with.

Shirley is calling question on the motion. Steve Parker called for a vote on the motion made by Don Dashiel and seconded by Steve Kiss to give direction to Matt to concentrate on the following three (3) priority items with some input from BOH members as they see fit prior to the trip to Olympia:

- Support Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Funding and Oppose Reductions in Funding for Existing Local Public Health Jurisdiction Services
- Encourage the Passage of Capital Budget
- Continued State Funds for Group B Drinking Water Program

Don Dashiel, Johnna Exner, Steve Kiss, Steve Parker and Shirley Sands voted in favor of the motion. Elbert Koontz opposed the motion. Karen Lyons abstained. Motion carried.

Matt said in the future, these discussions can begin at the November BOH meeting. He will have some direction and identify priorities, and provide more background and education, so when we get to the January meeting, there is a better knowledge base on an issue. Steve P. said he knows there is a lot to cover at any BOH meeting, and some of that legislation is kind of sheltered and not everyone is forthcoming in November, but we can certainly have some firm understandings of where we want to direct our energies as a group, and that is a good start. Steve P. agrees with the point made by Dr. Artzis and appreciates Matt providing the list and asking for BOH support and where we stand.

WASHINGTON STATE AUDITOR’S OFFICE AUDIT REPORT: Matt reported that the State Auditor’s office rescheduled the exit interview for NETCHD. As soon as a date is set, BOH members will receive an invitation to attend, if you so choose. A full audit report will be provided at the next BOH meeting. To his knowledge there is no finding, but rather some input provided on Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 68 pension.
COLLABORATION WITH N.E. WASHINGTON HEALTH PROGRAMS ON WIC SATELLITE SITE IN CHEWELAH: Judy Hutton reported that we were able to secure funding to open a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinic in Chewelah. Judy added that NEWHP has been great to work with as we have been collaborating with them for some time for the use of their Springdale clinic for our WIC clinic and will now be using their Chewelah clinic. This allows us to do outreach for WIC clients in the Chewelah and Loon Lake area that don’t come to Colville for WIC services. As part of the grant, we will be doing outreach by going to schools, preschools, grocery stores, city council meetings, distributing flyers, news media, and as much as we can with the funding provided. According to the number of people that are on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible that are not receiving WIC benefits, there is a large underserved population in the Chewelah, Colville and Newport area as well as a large population in Ferry County, which is why we will concentrate outreach efforts in those areas. Our goal is for those eligible people to receive WIC services because of the nutrition education component. Judy said we are excited about this movement and will look at possibly adding other locations also. Matt Schanz said one of the benefits to that strong partnership with NEWHP is that if we are in Chewelah for our WIC clinic, it saves those clients the expense of traveling to Colville for those benefits. Another benefit is collaborating with those medical providers that are in the clinic to coordinate and schedule the doctor visit for a pregnant woman at the same time as their WIC appointment with us. Judy noted that years ago, NETCHD used to set up clinics at grange halls, civic halls, churches, etc., which is no longer allowed by WIC because of the lack of security of the equipment, which is why we must go to an established medical clinic to ensure that the equipment will be secure.

DECEMBER 2017 NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK REPORT: Molly Corvino reported that the Norovirus outbreak began at the end of November 2017 with the peak between December 4 and December 17, 2017. There haven’t been any additional confirmed cases in the past week, and no reports of new cases from hospitals, long-term care, schools or other medical facilities. Community-wide outreach began December 9, 2017 with outbreak information through social media, contacting groups at the highest risk for exposure and door-to-door contact at local businesses. During testing, a positive clostridium difficile, two (2) cases of campylobacteriosis and giardiasis were diagnosed. There were just under 200 total reported cases during the outbreak. Matt extended his appreciation to staff that worked on the outbreak. Molly, NETCHD food inspector Grant Couch and Dr. Artzis were all communicating and knocking on doors on a Saturday to talk to food establishments about precautions. Matt said it was definitely a very good team approach and feels that we really made a difference. If we had not been so engaged and able to get ahead as much as possible, there would have been a lot more cases than 200. Information was posted on our NETCHD website and social media accounts resulting in 41,000 views of information about Norovirus, which made a big difference. Steve Parker agrees and is very pleased to see how quickly it tapered off and appreciated how quickly the word got out. Molly noted that the 200 were only cases that were reported.

Matt noted that Northeast Washington Alliance Counseling Services (NEWACS) were the first to recognize that something was going on with sickness, etc. They were very proactive by deciding not to accept new patients until they had forty-eight (48) hours with no new onset of symptoms. That decision came at a financial cost, but was the right decision to make.
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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: APPEAL, BUDGET, PERSONNEL: Matt Schanz indicated that Board Chair Karen Skoog made the 2018 committee appointments as follows:

- Appeal Committee: Don Dashiell, Johnna Exner, Steve Kiss, Elbert Koontz
- Budget Committee: Johnna Exner, Steve Parker, Shirley Sands, Karen Skoog
- Personnel Committee: Mike Blankenship, Steve Kiss, Karen Lyons, Steve Parker

Matt indicated that in 2016, the BOH formed a task force to work on various things. Members include: Mike Blankenship, Lou Janke, Wes McCart, Mary Selecky, Karen Skoog and NETCHD Management Team. Technically it is still a formed subcommittee. Matt asked if the BOH still wanted to continue to have that as a standing committee at the ready or consider it inactive and as needed be can be reactivated and membership reassigned. Matt indicated that Lou Janke and Wes McCart are no longer on the BOH. The BOH wanted one citizen to serve on the task force, and chose Mary Selecky. Steve Parker said the task force did a lot of much appreciated work, made many changes and a lot of action was taken based on their recommendation. Steve P. agreed that the task force moves to inactive status until needed and the two (2) members will be replaced at that time.

REVIEW OF 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE: Steve P. said the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District 2018 meeting schedule was reviewed and approved as follows:

- Wednesday, January 17, 2018 – Annual Meeting, Stevens County
- Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Regular Meeting, Stevens County
- Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – Regular Meeting, Pend Oreille County
- Wednesday, July 18, 2018 – Regular Meeting, Ferry County
- Wednesday, September 19, 2018 – Regular Meeting, Stevens County
- Wednesday, November 21, 2018 – Regular Meeting, Stevens County

CHAIR REPORT: Vice Chair Steve Parker had no report.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS REPORTS: Steve Kiss followed up with discussion at the last BOH meeting about the Pend Oreille County health risk assessment for HiTest Sand Inc. Currently the company has not applied for any permit. Steve P. said the biggest involvement to date has been the public meeting that was attended by NETCHD staff. He asked if any additional feedback was received from anyone that attended the meeting on the health side of concerns with HiTest Sand. Steve K. said nothing other than the same things they had been hearing, silicosis, lung cancer etc. Steve P. asked if there were other plants like this located in high population areas. Steve K. said one near Niagara Falls, one in Mississippi, and others around world. Matt said this is the second plant in the last forty (40) years in the United States to go through a permitting process, as most of those plants predate some of the more responsible permitting processes. Steve K. thinks a lot of people that have health concerns see data from some of those very old plants with very old technology. Steve K. said he can't help but think that with today's laws, rules and standards etc., the company will be held to a lot higher standard than those old plants were.
Matt Schanz asked Elbert Koontz how long the drug takeback program has been going on at the Republic Drug Store. Elbert said a couple of weeks. He said the store owner Rob Slagle set up the program up.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:** Dr. Arzis said that aside from outbreaks, he has not seen this many different types of infectious diseases at one time that has impacted our tri-county area. Molly Corvino has gone above and beyond, and she and Judy Hutton have done an amazing job.

Recently Dr. Arzis met with Matt to discuss the opioid crisis and how we are going to deal with it locally. Matt said attendees are a sub-group from a Stevens County Roundtable discussion, but is relevant for each of our other counties as well. There is an effort to transform the health delivery system to Medicaid and Medicare patients and through Better Health Together (BHT) within our region, there are accountable communities of health (ACH). Matt indicated that we are currently in a process right now to select important activities that will be funded through available dollars and opioid prevention and treatment to avoid abuses being one of those things. BHT is reaching out to each county health coalition to let them know there is funding available, though the actual amount of that funding hasn’t been firmly identified to address the opioid epidemic. Each coalition will implement the outline of strategies provided including safe medicine returns, agreement by all providers on prescribing practices and sharing of patient information, regardless of the entity they work, so a patient can’t go from one provider to another. The Stevens County group are talking about who needs to be involved to develop the plan for Stevens County. Similar conversations will take place in Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties as well. Dr. Arzis said no plan has been developed, but the right people were there to make sure everyone agreed, and at the end of the discussion we realized that we all weren’t in agreement, not because of the general idea but how it will be implemented and the lack of resources. He noted that we can talk about it all we want, but you must have full agreement from counselors, doctors and staff etc. to implement the plan. He said they are meeting in the middle and we will see what happens. Steve P. asked who was there representing a pharmacy. Dr. Arzis said the NEWHP pharmacist that operates the NEWHP pharmacy in Chewelah and Colville was at the meeting. Dr. Arzis spoke with law enforcement who said they used to have a narcotics officer, but don’t have anybody to offer right now, unless they were able to get the Sheriff. Matt said they talked about having law enforcement representation to see about an effective strategy for Narcan use, which becomes more important when fentanyl, the synthetic form of heroin, and has immediate impact and consequential outcomes if they don’t receive treatment right away.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT:** Matt submitted the administration report as follows:

Since the November 2017 BOH meeting, the Records Management and Retention Policy and Procedures and Website and Social Media Policy have been finalized and shared with staff.
The Records Management and Retention Policy and Procedure ensures records maintained by the District:

- Meet the mandated statutory requirements for the minimum retention and final disposition of records;
- Adequately protect records from damage or loss;
- Protect confidential staff and client information;
- Ensure that all employees know about the proper protection and retention of District related records that they create, send, or receive; and
- Allow for effective accessibility for public records requests.

The purpose of the Website and Social Media Policy is to address the roles, responsibilities, and best practices for the District’s use of the official web and social media sites.

Foundational Public Health Services Assessment: Public health partners around Washington are actively engaged in an effort to transform the public health system through Foundational Public Health Services. Statutorily directed revenues are needed to ensure that mandated and critical public health services are sufficient now and going into the future. Public health entities (including local health jurisdictions, Department of Health, Washington State Board of Health, and Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials) have agreed upon a set of core services that the State should support financially so each Washingtonian has equal access to programs and services, regardless if you are in Seattle or Metaline Falls. The next step in this process is each LHJ is completing a very comprehensive (and time consuming) assessment of programs and services to identify such issues as:

- Understanding what is currently being done to meet these core services
- Identification of the cost to fully implement core services
- Identification of where sharing of services can be utilized to be more cost effective

This assessment process was due January 16, 2018.

Matt Schanz would like to provide new BOH members with an orientation.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT: Judy Hutton submitted the community health report as follows:

Tammy Maine joined the staff on December 18, 2017 as Health Educator for the marijuana, tobacco and vaping program. We welcome Tammy to the agency.

NETCHD received some funding from the WIC Program to establish a clinic in Chewelah. This will be covered in the meeting as part of the agenda. Part of the funding is to conduct community outreach activities regarding education about the WIC Program. WIC is a supplemental food program that also has a big nutrition education component. We will be partnering within the tri-counties with food banks, school food programs, summer food programs, chamber of commerce, and other agencies to provide this information and setting up outreach to clients at WIC approved grocery stores and farmers markets as well as putting articles in local newspapers and radio announcements to reach potential clients.
Judy Hutton reported that the contract has been signed for the vasectomy program and should be up and running in the next few weeks.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT:** Alyssa Spradley submitted the environmental health report as follows:

**Federal Drug Administration (FDA) Grant:** Our applications for funding from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) grant have been approved. A grant for $3,000 was requested to allow for attendance to trainings that will provide out inspectors with valuable information critical to maintaining conformance with FDA standards. We applied for a second grant for $17,500 for upgrades to our database and reports. These would increase compliance with the FDA standards and provide better customer service to our public by making food records searchable online. There is also the potential to decrease the number of violations in establishments and reduce occurrences of foodborne illness.

**HiTest Silicon:** The silicon smelter operation that is proposed to develop in Newport recently had a public meeting. Representatives from the company, Department of Ecology and Department of Health (DOH) were present for questioning along with Pend Oreille County Commissioners. NETCHD was present to observe the meeting. With the support of this Board, along with Commissioner Skoog, a letter was sent to DOH requesting that a health impact assessment be completed with DOH oversight.

**Onsite Sewage Systems Loan Program:** From the September 20, 2017 BOH meeting discussion, the program application was submitted by NETCHD to join the Ecology/Craft 3 loan program for failing septic systems. Decisions for program participation are expected by January 19, 2018. After which, if we are accepted, more details of the program will be available.

**Secretary Position:** Kelly Houle was hired to fill our environmental health secretary 1 position for the Colville office. Kelly recently moved to Colville with her husband who works for Avista. Kelly comes to us with many years of experience working with the Department of Labor and Industries and the Department of Justice, Child Support Division. She started January 8, 2018 and will be a great addition to our team.

**PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS:** Attached to these minutes are benefits and payroll amounts from December 5, 2017 through January 5, 2018; and voucher amounts from November 22, 2017 through January 10, 2018.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Board Vice Chair Steve Parker adjourned the meeting at 11:55 A.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 in Stevens County.
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Respectfully submitted,

Samuel A. Arizie, M.D., Health Officer

By
Kelly D. LeCaire, Executive Secretary

Steve Parker, Vice Chair
Northeast Tri County Health District

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

2017

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Payroll November $ 84,445.52 12/5/2017 BOH 1/17/2018
Payroll December $ 81,704.17 1/5/2018 BOH 1/17/2018