BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 2, 2020

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Daggett, Don Dashiel, Johnna Exner, Howard Hambleton, Steve Kiss, Elbert Koontz, Steve Parker, John Ridlington, Karen Skoog

STAFF PRESENT: Sam Artzis, M.D., Judy Hutton, Kelly LeCaire, Jon Ness, Matt Schanz, Logan Worley

GUESTS: Nicky Aguilar, KCVL/KCRK; Karene Balcom, Northport Mayor; Don Baribault, Northport Schoo District; Kevin Borders; Bob Eugene; Erik Johansen, Stevens County Land Services; Nancy Lotze, Selkirk School District; Mike Manus, Pend Oreille County Commissioner; Kris Martin, Pend Oreille County Counseling Services; Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner; James McCroskey, Pend Oreille County Assessor; Marianne Nichols, Pend Oreille County Auditor; Mary Selecky, Empire Health Foundation and Providence Health and Services Board; Terra Sirevog, Pend Oreille County; Ashley Stetson; Adenea Thompson, Washington State University Extension; Jamie Wyrobek, Pend Oreille County Economic Development

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Johnna Exner called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances were pre-registered.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

COVID-19 COUNTY VARIANCE REQUESTS – PHASE 3 – RESOLUTION 06-2020: SUPPORTING COUNTY VARIANCE REQUEST FOR FERRY, PEND OREILLE, AND STEVENS COUNTIES: Johnna Exner said Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) has done an amazing job with the variance requests.

Steve Parker moved, and Pete Daggett seconded the motion to approve Resolution 06-2020: Supporting County Variance Request for Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties. Motion carried.

Matt Schanz noted that the effective date of the proposed Resolution 06-2020 was changed to June 3, 2020, as our eligibility date for all three counties is officially June 3rd. Notification of the revision was sent out to Board of Health (BOH) members this morning.
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Steve Parker reported that Stevens County has undertaken many steps in the courthouse to move into Phase 3 and more will likely be needed when the guidance documents are done. He was very pleased with the completeness and detail done by Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD). He is excited to move forward. Matt Schanz noted that Secretary Wiesman said the Department of Health (DOH) is seeking three weeks of implementation of Phase 2 and clarified the three-week time-period would be June 3, 2020. Most of the guidelines have been issued and three full weeks have taken place during that time. Johnna Exner said Ferry County is still working on safety measures, so the courthouse will remain closed until June 15, 2020. Matt noted that Secretary Wiesman indicated this morning that Governor Inslee’s office would have guidance documents available June 3rd or 4th. We have emphasized the importance of having those guidance documents available immediately at the time of advancement approval. Matt said we will submit the variance request on June 3rd, but it does not mean we will be granted approval. The state is very busy with some counties moving to Phase 2 but will make every effort to expedite that review. We are hoping to hear back this week or early next week. We are not going to advertise a date in case it takes longer for the DOH to grant approval to move to Phase 3.

Motion carried.

Johnna Exner talked about how the metrics keep changing with numbers of cases and population and asked if smaller areas will we be penalized due to small numbers. Matt said the second round of Phase 2 applications had the amount of cases set as less than 10 cases per 100,000; now with the phased reopening, that has been changed to less than 25 cases per 100,000. The state is starting to recognize that we will see additional sporadic cases.

Johnna talked about a couple of counties that had additional cases and one was not from their county. She asked how fast the statistics are updated/changed? Matt said we try to identify those situations as quick as possible to get that case reassigned if the individual’s residence is not within the county.

Matt noted that we were just informed of another positive case in north Stevens County that appears to be travel related with exposure from outside of the county of residency. We expected to have these sporadic cases. This demonstrates our readiness in how fast we can test from average time of symptom onset and time frame of testing, contact the individual, and contact close contacts. Matt is proud of our staff. The team approach has been very effective with a timeframe of sometimes less than an hour, or a few hours. This goes a long way in making sure we do not have any further community spread. Johnna thanked the NETCHD team for ‘having our back’. Matt said we are proud to do it.

Steve P. said in reading through NETCHD’s responses to the questions and the letter from Dr. Artzis, he is confident of our readiness to advance to Phase 3. He added that in discussions yesterday with mental health professionals, they are seeing an uptick in destructive behaviors with substance abuse and the suicide rate. It is good for us to encourage Governor Inslee and Secretary Wiesman to develop their plans, guidance documents, etc. in hopes of moving the state forward.

Johnna indicated that all documents need to be ready today to be sent off tomorrow (June 3rd). Matt asked that all documents be sent to him today to make sure we are ready first thing tomorrow morning.
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**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Johnna Exner adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 in Ferry County or by remote participation.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

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

By [Signature]  
Kelly D. LeCaire, Executive Secretary

[Signature]  
Johnna Exner, Chair