NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Board of Health

Present
Dorothy Bergin
John Hankey
Bob Heath
Leo Jenkins
Brad Miller
Shirley Sands

Absent
Bill Beatty
Malcolm Friedman
Larry Guenther
Diane Wear

Staff
Joanie Christian
E. W. Gray, M.D.
Kelly LeCaire
Dave Windom
Judy Hutton

Guest
DiAnne Lundgren

CALL MEETING TO ORDER  Chairman Brad Miller called the meeting to order at 10:13 A.M.  A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS  Introductions were made by all.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES  Bob Heath moved and John Hankey seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2012, Regular Board of Health meeting. Motion carried.

Bob Heath moved and John Hankey seconded the motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2012, Special Board of Health meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION  Thank you note to Susan Wellhausen and Health District staff for participating in a Health and Safety Fair; thank you to Susan Wellhausen for presenting information on Get Fit Colville and Healthy Newport at the Eastern Washington Health Communities meeting.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES  DiAnne Lundgren informed the Board of plans to improve the health rankings for Ferry County including education in schools. Dave Windom talked about improving immunization rates. Brad would like the Health District to partner on this. DiAnne said the Ferry County Public Hospital District administrator is very much in favor of this. Joanie Christian said the new Health District website will have a tab for schools to utilize. She said we have not gotten a lot of support from Ferry County schools so far. Bob Heath said the ratings will not change until those doing the ratings realize what the honest appraisal of the health of the county is. Leo Jenkins agreed that it seems inaccurate especially considering that Ferry County has no fast food restaurants and most activities are done outdoors.
ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA

DIAnne Lundgren was added to the agenda.

BUDGET UPDATE

Dave Windom gave a brief overview of the revenue and expenses for 2011 and 2012; undesignated funds; and compared revenues in 2010, 2011 and so far for 2012. Environmental Health is down a bit on septic permits compared to last year and up slightly in food and restaurant permits. Brad Miller said some granges have complained about the cost of food vendor permits.

Dorothy Bergin arrived at the meeting at 10:35 A.M.

Dave talked about the decrease in revenue from last year. He said the budget is on track.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MOVE

After some minor remodeling upstairs and downstairs, the environmental health staff have moved to the lower level of the Dominion building. All community health staff are now located upstairs.

PRE-EMPTION

Dave reported that at the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) meeting in June, 2012 Seattle King County presented a concept of state preemption. Washington is a leader in tobacco prevention and control. Preemption is a provision in state law which eliminates the power of local governments to regulate tobacco. Seattle King County wants to eliminate preemption. He noted the many health organizations in support of defeating preemption in tobacco control. Dave gave a historical overview beginning in 1993 including previous proposed laws. He talked about the benefits of local control and what community leaders would do if preemption is repealed. Leo Jenkins said he is in favor of promoting health but does not approve of taking away civil liberties. Dave discussed the proposed non-binding resolution stating that our Board of Health does not support the position adopted by WSALPHO and does not support the repeal of preemption. The position of WSALPHO on preemption was adopted without adequate discussion, research or presentation to local Boards of Health. Repeal of preemption for tobacco opens the doors for coercive regulations on other industries such as food and firearms. Brad said it is shifting the burden from the state to the local health jurisdictions. Bob Heath added that this would create a financial burden on counties to make it impossible to enforce.

Bob Heath moved and Leo Jenkins seconded the motion to approve the non-binding resolution stating that the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District does not support the position adopted by the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials and does not support the repeal of preemption. Motion carried.
MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE MATCH

Dave Windom discussed the Medicaid Administrative Match program that brings the Health District approximately $100,000 annually in revenue. The Federal Government asked that the program undergo some changes or they will discontinue funding. The new random moment survey was changed but the Health Care Authority but did not notify the Federal Government of the changes, and as a result they have stopped funding as of July 1, 2012. We have been told that as of October 1, 2012 we should be allowed to begin the new program and we are supposed to be reimbursed for July, August and September, 2012. Dave noted that if for some reason the new program doesn’t happen, it may mean that they end the program in Washington. If that were to happen, we may see a reduction of $25,000 to $50,000 this year. Joanie Christian noted that Health District staff have continued to complete their random moment survey as usual.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board adjourned into executive session at 11:25 A.M. per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) (i).

The executive session concluded at 11:47 A.M. Chairman Brad Miller stated that no action was taken. However, the Board has given Dave Windom direction to use his discretion regarding a personnel issue that needs to be dealt with by the District.

Bob Heath moved and Shirley Sands seconded the motion to give Dave Windom direction to use his discretion up to and including termination regarding the discussed personnel matter. Motion carried.

RECESS

Bob Heath left the meeting at 11:50 A.M.

There was a break for lunch at 11:50 A.M.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 12:15 P.M.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Chairman Brad Miller had no report.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS REPORT

John Hankey reported that some Pend Oreille County citizens at Diamond and Bead Lake are unhappy about a no-wake policy due to an algae bloom.

Shirley Sands was happy to report that the City of Newport received funding for a splash/spray water park. The Veterans Memorial Park will honor Fred Anderson, a past mayor and veteran. The City of Newport received a Community Development Block Grant to complete the third phase of the Calispel Street Project. Construction will begin in the summer of 2013.
Dr. Gray reported that seven (7) youth wrestlers attending a camp at a Lakeside School in Nine Mile Falls had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance. Two (2) of the children suffered from dehydration and five (5) were treated for concussion. One (1) child had excessive dehydration and was close to kidney failure. The temperatures were close to 100 degrees. Dr. Gray noted that many years ago, Health District public health nurses served as school nurses. He was surprised that this type of incident would occur in this day and age and in this hot weather. Dave Windom said he spoke with the wife of the camp organizer but did not speak directly to the organizer. An ambulance had to be available on-site. The private event leased the school for the martial arts type wrestling camp that included sleeping in the heat, weight lifting, training throughout the day and tournaments at night. Dave said he would like the Health District to provide education prior to events and cover a variety of topics. Dorothy Bergin said schools may not always be aware of what is taking place. She said recreation departments may be a good source of knowing about upcoming events. Dorothy suggested putting educational articles in sports section of newspapers before summer events begin.

Dave reported for Matt Schanz that thirteen (13) cases of salmonella have been investigated in the past few months, compared to a total of two (2) cases in 2011. Five (5) cases from the lone area are associated with an extended family. It appears the initial exposure was from butchering animals and subsequent cases were from person to person. As least four (4) cases are associated with a multi-state outbreak with the common source of exposure is to live poultry distributed from a major supplier.

The Health District received notification on June 23, 2012 of a sewage spill from the Trail, B.C. wastewater treatment plant. Because of heavy precipitation, the sewage treatment plant became overwhelmed and resulted in the discharge. During the spill, flows at the international boundary were approximately 2.1 million gallons per second. We provided a number of joint press releases with the Department of Ecology (DOE) advising the public of the spill and to use necessary precautions when in contact with water while the spill continued. DOE sampled water near the Northport Bridge on June 26, 2012 which had thirty-nine (39) fecal coliforms/100 ml. The limit for this stretch of the river is 100 fecal coliforms/100 ml. The incident received quite a bit of media attention and resulted in public inquiries asking about water safety. After the spill, some dried mats of algae along the river banks dislodged and were mistaken by the public as paper products.
On June 15, 2012 the Health District became aware of a suspicious package received by staff at the Colville office for Cathy McMorris Rodgers. There were three (3) letters from the same sender. The initial letter was opened and said "If you are reading this, it is already too late to wash your hands..." Local law enforcement were notified as well as the District of Columbia Police Department that is assigned to congressional staff. The Health District assisted with notifying public health testing labs that are able to test for biological substances in the threat is deemed to be credible. We also initiate an epidemiological investigation of who had contact with the material, who was in the building, ventilation system of the building and if it went to other buildings, and occupants of those other buildings. In this case, law enforcement deemed the threat not to be credible.

Over the past several months, Matt Schanz has developed a risk and emergency communication plan and updated our public health emergency response plan. Matt developed a comprehensive draft of a mass treatment plan that outlines the process of how we request, receive, manage, distribute, and dispense pharmaceuticals, vaccinations or other medical materials to people affected by a man-made or natural public health emergency event. One of the main planning elements is how we would provide treatment to our entire population in forty-eight (48) hours. Previously we identified seventeen (17) local schools for sites of mass treatment. In further review and looking at staff needs, we are likely to re-tool this concept and intend to centralize facilities offering mass vaccination at area fair grounds and use schools as secondary sites if need be. Health District staff will be contacting County Commissioners and fair ground managers to discuss this option. Joanie Christian noted that fair grounds are more centrally located and schools can be used as auxiliary.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT

Joanie reported that community health staff recently attended an in-house meeting and training on updated BARS codes and Medicaid Administrative Match.

The new and improved Health District website is nearly complete and will include sections for health care providers and schools.
Joanie Christian reported that Judy Hutton has been working collaboratively with Indian Health Services on a cluster of pertussis cases in Inchelium including two (2) infants. Exposures have taken place at multiple area businesses, organizations, sports teams, churches, health care facilities, cross country and international, and on airlines. Investigation and notification of exposed individuals has been quite complex. Multiple letters issued regarding exposures have led to a significant increase in activity in Health District offices and area health care providers. We currently have 30+ cases, but those numbers sometimes change daily. The average case rate across the state is 44:100,000 and average tri-county case rate is 50-60:100,000. It is currently 100:100,000 in the tri-county area and 500:100,000 in Ferry County. Four (4) cases in our jurisdiction are babies including two (2) children that required hospitalization. Joanie noted that many of the people that are becoming ill have been immunized. Tdap/Dtap immunizations are not as effective as once thought, but are still the best protection we have. Every individual develops immunity differently. Multiple challenges at the health care provider level have led to unnecessary exposures. We have had a sharp increase in Stevens County in the past week including eight (8) Colville cases that were from one health care provider, raising concerns that pertussis is much more widespread and other providers may not be testing. The Health District is working very closely with clinics as issues arise to prevent further occurrences. Releases have gone out to area media as well as information sent to schools. This has been a tremendous challenge with current staffing levels, particularly in Stevens County.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Dave Windom said he would like to have septic permits and food inspection reports available on the new website by January, 2013.

Christy Huling resigned from her position in the Newport office. Pauline Mallory has accepted the position and comes from Lynnwood where she worked for the Snohomish Health Department. Pauline and Melanie Vaagen will be attending the WIC training in Tumwater next week.

Dave talked about the current audit. The auditor that we have has not worked in public health for a really long time. He asked that the Board look at all of the vouchers and payroll before it is submitted which is not possible since we only meet quarterly. They also have questions about how time is spread in BARS codes for payroll.

We are discontinuing the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program. The program consists of $74,000 per year that benefits approximately thirty (30) kids. When the program went from the Department of Health to the Department of Early Learning, the paperwork grew immensely. There are only two (2) health departments remaining that are still doing ESIT. Joanie noted that it is an entitlement program, so services will be provided by someone else.
Dave Windom talked about the Agenda for Change. Local health jurisdictions will be looking at the things that public health should be doing and how public health is funded. Larger counties would like it based on per capita only while smaller jurisdictions want a base and per capita. They want to do this by health district, not by separate counties which would result in lost funding for us. Dave said only small rural members are on the committee. The goal is to have something ready to give to the Legislature for this coming year.

Dave is registering for a University of Washington online public health course in accounting and management using local capacity funds. Brad Miller asked how the training would benefit the Health District directly. Dave said the training is for updating financial systems.

Dave said he will be contacting the Budget Committee members to set up a meeting soon.

Dave will be in India from August 26 through September 9, 2012 for the Cleft, Lip and Palate Project with Rotary.

**PAYROLL & VOUCHERS**

Attached to these minutes are voucher amounts through May, 2012 and payroll, benefit and revenue amounts through June, 2012.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Brad Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:15 P.M. The next Regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 in Stevens County.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Gray, M.D., Health Officer

By

Kelly D. LeCaire

Brad Miller, Chairman
# NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

## 2012

Report of:

Payroll, Benefits, Vouchers, & Revenue

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Payroll</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Vouchers</th>
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<td>672,040.00</td>
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<td>1/12th of the budget</td>
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<td>34,458.33</td>
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<td>January</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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<td>over/(under) budget</td>
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*Beginning Fund Balance (01/01/12): 954,307.77

**Ending Fund Balance of Undesignated Funds**

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*Unaudited, subject to change*