BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Blankenship, Lou Janke, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Brad Miller, Steve Parker, Karen Skoog,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elbert Koontz, Kathleen Turpin

STAFF PRESENT: Samuel Artzis, M.D., Kelly LeCaire, Alison McGrane, Sandy Perkins, Kay Scamahorn, Dave Windom

GUESTS: Bob Eugene

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chairman Mike Manus called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: Executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (g) will be added to the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PER RCW 42.30.110 (g): The Board adjourned into executive session at 10:02 A.M. for ten (10) minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (g). An additional five (5) minutes was requested at 10:12 A.M. The executive session concluded at 10:17 A.M. Action will be taken later on in the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Brad Miller moved and Steve Parker seconded the motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2015, regular Board of Health meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: A thank you note to David Ennis was included in the Board packet. Mike Manus added that David was out delivering masks on weekends and has heard positive feedback. Mike M. feels that David is doing a great job and will be a great addition to Pend Oreille County. He went on to say that people relate to David very well, which is exactly what we wanted in that position.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances were pre-registered.

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY SURVEY: Dave Windom reported that he completed a survey for the National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems (NLSPHS): 2014 Comparative Report of Survey Results customized for Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) by the University of Kentucky, College of Public Health. The survey shows that NETCHD is pretty much on par in comparison to the rest of Washington State as well as the United States. Dave did note that not everyone completed the survey.
MARIJUANA AND TOBACCO FUNDS: Dave Windom presented an overview of the draft plan for the distribution of marijuana and tobacco funds that was pushed out on short notice from the Department of Health (DOH) with no input from local health jurisdictions. Dave followed up with other administrators as well as the Secretary of Health and apparently they have also received pushback from other groups. Dave testified in Spokane stating that people are needed out on the ground that know what they are doing in order to work with parents and kids. Dave just received an email from DOH stating that they will review comments and then make a decision. Steve Parker asked how many people in our current population are tobacco users. Dave said in the 20's percent range. There was discussion about tobacco use and marijuana use. Dave said according to a poll, tenth graders have a more positive thought on marijuana than tobacco. Wes McCut said it seems easier to deliver a message to kids than to adults. There was a brief discussion about trying to send a message about recreational marijuana without involving medical marijuana. Dave said in August the tax from marijuana was 44 million dollars. Mike Blankenship noted that not all medical marijuana is smoked and that we have to guard that carefully. Kay Scamahorn talked about a particular medicinal marijuana plant called Charlotte's Web that has low or no tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and does not give people a high. Mike Manus said Dave wrote a letter to Secretary of Health John Wiesman that outlined our view points. Wes said he spoke to Fran Besser on this issue. Fran is a former Stevens County Commissioner that serves on the State Board of Health representing consumers of health care. Dave said part of the issue is that we are being treated less and less like a partner and that relationship has been damaged. He said this has gone to the executive committee of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) and we are moving forward.

CURRENT FINANCIALS: Dave said the budget is looking better than he thought. Environmental health revenues have done well due to more activity in onsite, restaurants and the development at 49 Degrees North. Dave gave an overview of where we are currently with flexible funding and the undesignated fund balance.

1115 MEDICAID WAIVER: Dave reported that the 1115 Medicaid waiver has been accepted by the Federal Government and is currently in a sixty (60) day comment period. Dave spoke with Cathy McMorris Rodgers about a comparison to other states. Wes asked Dave to send all Board of Health members the comment link. Dave noted that the state wants to borrow three (3) billion dollars and spend it elsewhere. Wes said this is a long term commitment and it's the agency getting the waiver making the commitment. If they don't come through, you are on the hook for the three (3) billion dollars that you have already spent. Dave said the state obligation would be around one (1) billion dollars per year. If they are successful in keeping people out of the hospital, then how do you keep the hospital afloat? There was discussion about access to the health care system for long term healthcare and raising the standards may impact the elderly that may need that care. That is not saving money, but rather just denying access. Dave noted that some pieces of it are good. Karen Sooky said it's the multiple layers of bureaucracy that won't go away. Mike M. said employment is supposed to be part of this. He went on to say that we don't know what we are buying into, because the whole thing hasn't been defined yet. Wes said since this doesn't go through until the sixty (60) day comment period is over, he feels that all Board members should comment and stand up against this program. If the state had to come up with one (1) billion dollars in a year, it will come back to the counties.
RESOLUTION 03-2015: GRANTING AUTHORIZATION FOR SURPLUS OF NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT PERSONAL PROPERTY: The following equipment has reached full depreciation and should be surplused:

- 2008 Toyota RAV4 VIN # JTMBD33V185202401
- 2008 Toyota RAV4 VIN # JTMBD33V986082888
- Computer Server # 00150-089-115-853

Wes McCart moved and Steve Parker seconded the motion to approve Resolution 03-2015: Granting Authorization for Surplus of Northeast Tri County Health District Personal Property as described above. Lou Janke asked about the guide used in the depreciating of vehicles. Dave Windom said if a vehicle has high miles or may need an expensive repair, etc. Dave did note that this doesn’t necessarily mean that the item will be surplused. It was discussed to possibly change the wording in the resolution in the future from ‘should be surplused’ to ‘may be surplused’. Motion carried.

Wes McCart left the meeting at 10:49 A.M.

2016 BUDGET FIRST LOOK: Dave presented a brief overview of the preliminary budget information for 2016.

Dr. Artzis arrived at the meeting at 10:53 A.M.

Dave sent a letter to Leo Robinson, owner of the NETCHD Newport building asking him to consider lowering the building rent. Leo has agreed to negotiate the monthly rental amount in order to keep us in the building.

The census count in family planning is down. People are accessing services in other ways. Dave said he is afraid that Title X will completely go away next year.

Dave noted that a salary increase of 3 ½ % for staff would be $35,000.

There was discussion from the executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (g) regarding offering Dave Windom a salary increase to remain at NETCHD. Mike Blankenship moved and Brad Miller seconded the motion to allow the Budget Committee members to meet and offer a salary increase for Dave. Since Wes is on the Budget Committee and had to leave the meeting, Steve Parker will represent Stevens County. Lou Janke asked if the offer would be brought to the next meeting. Brad suggested a phone conference. Mike Manus said it needed to be done today. Lou said he would empower the Budget Committee to make an offer and recommends moving forward. Mike Blankenship moved and Brad Miller seconded the motion to allow the Budget Committee (Mike Manus, Brad Miller, Steve Parker for Wes McCart) to come up with a salary increase for Dave Windom and approval from the rest of the Board of Health members to make that offer. Motion carried.
FAMILY PLANNING: Deve Windom said several years ago the Board stated that the following programs would need to fiscally 'stand on their own': family planning, immunizations and WIC. The WIC program has been doing that, but family planning will not stand alone. Dave also talked about the difficulty in finding a provider. The Health District has been contracting with Newport Community Hospital, Ferry County Memorial Hospital and the N.E. Washington Health Programs for providers. Dave said N.E. Washington Health Programs has pulled their provider. Sandy Perkins said providers work in the Newport and Republic offices once a month and one day a week in Colville. We have advertised previously with no success. Public health nurses can only do so much with a standing order, but not things such as diagnosis and examinations. There was discussion about workforce shortages and Dr. Artzis said Providence Northeast Washington Medical Group (PNEWMG) is also dealing with those shortages.

Lou Janke left the meeting at 11:25 A.M.

Steve Parker asked about traffic volume. Sandy said our family planning numbers have declined. People have insurance and go to their providers for services. Mike Manus asked if the Colville office needed a provider for one day a week. Sandy said it could even be less than one day a week. Dave said he is not willing to give up just yet. We are running ads in the Colville and Spokane newspapers looking for providers. Steve asked what will happen if we fail to make adequate arrangements. Dave said if we drop the program, there would be $70,000 less that we would have in the budget. He talked about the cost that would be incurred if people did not have birth control. Steve asked Dave if he is assuming that by us not handing out birth control that there would be an increase in pregnancies. Steve noted that this is not a foundational piece of public health. There was discussion about the sexually transmitted disease (STD) numbers. Kay Scamahorn said our STD numbers are very small. Sandy noted that if Title X funds are reduced or stop altogether, then this will be out of our control. Brad Miller said if that happens, then we have to take a hard look at it. Sandy said we are billing for services but we can’t recoup enough without the funds from Title X. The Board asked if this needs action today as stated on the agenda. Dave said no, this is just for information today. Dave said there are religious issues in dealing with Providence Health and Services providers. Dr. Artzis said you would have to get a waiver. Mike M. said Newport Hospital is going to a hospitalist model and there could possibly be three (3) or four (4) mid-levels available. Dave said he tried to work that out already. Sandy said that would require physician oversight. Dr. Artzis said he would do that if need be.

CHAIRMAN REPORT: Mike M. said he and Dave attended the State of Reform Health Policy Conference yesterday. Pend Oreille County was well represented. Mike M. said it’s moving forward whether we like it or not. Better Health Together has been more actively involved in the tri-county area than they have seen in other areas due to the true commitment to rural areas from Alison Carl White.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS: Karen Skoog talked about the Inland Northwest Fuller Center that primarily serves homeless families with a focus on building tiny houses in the Deer Park area. The program involves specific rules and steps that must be completed before they can get ownership. Karen encouraged everyone to look into it.

Dr. Artzis left the meeting at 11:43 A.M.
Board of Health Minutes
September 16, 2015
Page 5

Brad Miller said he appreciated Dr. Artzis and Matt Schanz coming to Republic during the fires to attend meetings and distribute masks.

Steve Parker asked about the status of Lane Mountain Silica. Dave Windom has had conversations with Ecology who are able to get quality air monitors.

Steve noted that the PM10 monitor has been removed from the roof of the Stevens County Courthouse. The monitor was originally supposed to be on the roof for a period of five (5) years. Work is ongoing to keep the Stevens County Courthouse in its original state.

Steve asked if there were any health impacts that took place due to the smoke from the recent fires. Sandy Perkins said we asked clinics and hospitals to keep track of those types of visits and they indicated that only 3-4 people were seen. Steve noted that in our area, people take care of themselves and each other.

Steve said there will be another meeting scheduled regarding the contaminated soils in the Northport area. There will be advance work with affected areas in residential soil cleanup. Area residents are going to ask if there is interest in the Marble area. Steve noted that he would like to push for soil enhancement and dilution rather than removal.

Brad said one of the air monitors in Republic quit working. He is interested in creating a database going forward, not just for people going to the hospital for smoke related issues. Mike Blankenship talked about inhaling the ash as well as smoke and if there are any long term effects. He feels that a lot of this could have been prevented, mostly from the lack of management and compounding it by not managing our forests. Dave Windom said the United States Forest Service was looking at that as well.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT: Dr. Artzis had no report.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT: Sandy reported that Lisa Ranger, R.N. has participated in trainings in order to provide an intervention to families referred by the Children’s Administration (Child Protective Services – CPS). Promoting First Relationships (PFR) is an evidence-based, home-based intervention to work with parents and their young children (birth to 3 years of age) to maximize the quality of the relationship between a parent and child which is critical for optimal growth and development as well as safety of the child.

Sandy reminded everyone to get their flu shots.

Sandy reiterated what Brad had said earlier about Matt working really hard during the fires.

Kirstin Jackson is the new peer counselor for the WIC breastfeeding program in Ferry County.
Sandy Perkins also reported that staff have been working in conjunction with the Washington chapter of the American Association of Pediatrics to bring a seminar to the tri-county area to encourage medical providers to perform developmental screenings on all infants and children to improve the early identification of and intervention for developmental delays. The program is called Great MINDS – Medical Homes Include Developmental Screening and will be delivered in person at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital and available to hospitals and clinics in Ferry, Pend Oreille and Lincoln Counties.

It is back to school time and we are encouraging parents to make sure their children are current on immunizations required for school attendance. Schools are becoming more interested in assuring that their students and staff are up to date on immunizations as they have experienced the requirement to exclude non-immunized children when a vaccine-preventable disease is occurring at their school.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Dave Windom informed the Board that the Northeast Washington Fire Recovery Group (3 Tribes, 3 Counties) is an informal gathering of representatives from Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties as well the Colville Confederated, Kalispel and Spokane Tribes. The group includes representatives from government agencies, non-profits, private businesses, landowners, farmers, loggers and government officials. The goal is to work together to improve recovery from the wildfires of 2015 and to prevent, or assist with, future emergencies.

Dave said Matt Schanz is in Alabama as part of his work in emergency response and is learning about incident command. There is no cost to the District.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: A report submitted by Matt included detailed information regarding wildfire response. With wildfires occurring throughout the tri-county area, staff worked to respond to address public health issues and concerns. Those response activities included:

- Staff attended and participated in multiple community meetings and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordinator meetings.
- Distribution of particulate masks and educational information about proper use. Approximately 14,000 masks were distributed to thirty-five (35) locations.
- Assisted with air monitoring for particulates. During the initial days of impaired air quality, staff were out within communities making visual observations and estimating particulate counts. Working through the Incident Command System (ICS), the Health District requested the assistance of an “Air Resource Advisor”. The position was filled through the United States Forest Service (USFS) and immediately began deployment of mobile particulate meters and development of daily air quality advisories for areas throughout the three (3) counties.
- Worked to communicate health risks and precautions from wildfire smoke. Staff worked closely with public information officers, through media releases, and daily updates to the NETCHD website. This included working with the Department of Health (DOH) when fires were anticipated to impact the Midnight Mine, a closed uranium mine that is currently a cleanup site.
- With school athletic activities commencing, staff worked closely with school district contacts to provide updates on air quality and recommendations for school activities.
- Tracked trends in the number of individuals seeking medical assistance due to wildfire smoke related illness.
Board of Health Minutes  
September 16, 2015  
Page 7

- Based on evacuation levels, temporarily removed critical files and supplies from the Republic Health District Office.
- Through the Ferry County EOC, we sought out and secured orders for air scrubbers to assist with creating a clear air shelter in conjunction with the shelter located in the Republic High School.
- Worked with the American Red Cross on shelter needs and operational requirements.
- Conducted some monitoring of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide levels in Republic during the heaviest days of smoke impact.
- Assisted Republic High School staff in evaluation of shelter requirements, and discussed options for concurrent operation of both school and shelter at the facility.
- Through the efforts of the Health Officer, coordinated with Ferry County Memorial Hospital on transport needs and contingencies for evacuation, if needed.
- Assisted in responding to illnesses associated with a firefighting crew. Initial concerns were expressed about a potential environmental exposure. From signs and symptomology, it appears the illnesses were likely related to a viral illness.
- Developed information regarding protecting health after wildfire events. This information is posted on the NETCHD website.
- Participating in the “3 Tribes, 3 Counties” northeast Washington wildfire recovery group.

The implications of this year’s drought conditions are being felt locally. Both private and public water systems are experiencing lower water yields. In areas most heavily impacted, NETCHD developed a list of public water supplies that can be utilized to supply water to the public whose wells are dry. Additionally, we have participated in conversations with several public water systems about funding opportunities through the Department of Ecology (DOE) or DOH grant/loan programs with the aim of improving sources or extending services from existing water supplies.

PAYROLL & VOUCHERS: Attached to these minutes are benefits and payroll amounts from August 5, 2015 through September 4, 2015; and voucher amounts from July 22, 2015 through September 9, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Mike Manus adjourned the meeting at 12:02 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Thursday, November 12, 2015 in Stevens County.

Respectfully submitted,

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

By_____________________________________
Kelly D. LeCaire, Executive Secretary

By_____________________________________
Mike Manus, Chairman
Northeast Tri County Health District

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

2015

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Payroll $100,279.55 8/5/2015

Payroll $99,015.81 9/4/2015 BOH on 9/16/2015