BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Foll, Elbert Koontz, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Brad Miller, Steve Parker, Karen Skoog, Kathleen Turpin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Blankenship

STAFF PRESENT: Samuel Artzis, M.D., Judy Hutton, Kelly LeCaire, Alison McGrane, Sandy Owen, Matt Schanz, Dave Windom

GUESTS: Aaron Edwards, Washington State University Intern; Brenda Parnell, Chief Executive Officer, Ferry County Memorial Hospital

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.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Wes McCart said there is an extra word ‘health’ in the third paragraph on page 8. Wes noted that in that same paragraph it states that Steve Parker and Lou Janke had asked for some education materials on the Health District and that has not yet been received. Brad Miller moved and Wes McCart seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015, regular Board of Health meeting with the above change. Motion carried. Matt Schanz said we should follow up on getting the information to Steve. Wes reiterated that Lou also requested education material for the City of Colville and has likely not received it either. Kelly LeCaire said she provided Lou with the requested information directly following the last Board meeting. Dave Windom said he would get Steve the information he requested.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: There was no correspondence or information.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: Brenda Parnell, Chief Executive Officer of Ferry County Memorial Hospital (FCMH) stated that Ferry County ranked last in the State of Washington in overall health factor. As part of their strategic plan, FCMH is working with Quorum Health Resources (QHR) to improve the rankings. QHR is a healthcare consulting firm that helps improve hospital or health system’s performance with methods that are sustainable. Brenda also talked about the difficulty in finding ways to get providers to come to the area. They are beginning a Nursing Assistant Certified (NAC) program in the school in hopes of getting young people to consider the medical field as a career option. She indicated that Curlew Job Corps has a NAC program. There was a group discussion about outcome based health care and more about recruiting physicians to rural areas. Dr. Artzis said we need to get doctors to come to our area to see exactly what rural medicine is. He noted that residents are concerned about lifestyle.
Board of Health Minutes
July 15, 2015
Page 2

Brenda Parnell and Aaron Edwards left the meeting at 10:30 A.M.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Wes McCart presented budget information showing the current shortfall and the breakdown of additional funding that each county would have to come up with. Wes talked about a question that comes up in that single county health departments seem to operate at a different level and do we get less money because of the three (3) combined counties. Dave Windom said he will gather more information for future discussion. He said discussions need to take place with State Legislators. Brad Miller said Ferry County met with Jim Potts and started the conversation. Since the state budget just passed, we just learned that the $63,000 for communicable disease included in the budget document did not pass, which makes our position even worse. Wes noted that Dave is consistently keeping expenses under budget. There was more discussion about the Health District getting short-changed because of the three (3) counties and the way the Department of Health (DOH) is giving us the funding at the state level. Dave said the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officers (WSALPHO) wants a voice on how that money gets distributed to the local health jurisdictions (LHJs). There is essentially no funding for communicable disease investigation. Dave noted that inflation gets us each year by 3% and medical insurance increases. NETCHD staff have met the wellness incentive for the last two (2) years which gives us a 4% reduction in medical insurance premiums and we are hoping to meet that again this year. Dave continues to work with WSALPHO to come up with an appropriate way to distribute funding to LHJs. Dave said the middle size districts end up paying for smaller and larger districts. Wes said even if we were to say that the budget information presented is the solution and Stevens County had to come up with $58,000, the 1% property tax increase would not be enough to cover the amount needed. Wes added that we can’t buy or tax our way out of this situation and we can’t keep going this way.

Dave talked about Foundational Public Health Services that are a basic set of programs and capabilities that must be present in every community in order to effectively and efficiently protect all people in the state. Dave was part of the policy workgroup that determined that Foundational Public Health Services should be funded by the state. Dave stated that at the last WSALPHO meeting, Secretary of Health John Wiesman talked about possible changes in governance and said that maybe we don’t need local boards of health. Dave said Secretary Wiesman just threw that out there and didn’t go any further. Dave noted that public health isn’t going to look the same in the next two (2) years, especially if we can’t get funding. Brad agreed that Dave is doing a good job with holding the line on expenses. Mike Manus wanted to point out that Health District staff got a raise last year but hadn’t gotten one in quite some time, so we need to figure something else in the budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PER RCW 42.30.110 (g): The Board adjourned into executive session at 10:55 A.M. for fifteen (15) minutes per RCW 42.30.110(g). The executive session concluded at 11:10 A.M. No action was taken.
AMBULANCE SERVICE CONCERNS: Wes McCart talked about concerns with ambulance services because of the lack of adequate staffing and funding due to poor Medicaid reimbursement. Brad Miller said Ferry County is also struggling to find volunteers and to make ends meet. This is very serious and is reaching a critical point. Brad is going to talk with Ferry County Memorial Hospital to see if they would partner with Ferry County. The decision was made a long time ago that it will be with the Sheriff. Brad noted that Ferry County does have one stand-alone ambulance. He said fire departments don’t want anything to do with it. Dr. Artzi said you have to operate with volunteers and they have extra requirements. He went on to say that we may have to hire paramedics at some point because of the very poor outcomes in the far out rural areas. Mike Manus said we need to be involved in this and would like Dave to be our voice.

1115 MEDICAID WAIVER: Washington State will seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Section 1115 waiver authority to implement a demonstration project that involves and supports Medicaid clients, communities, and providers in attaining improved health, better care, and lower costs (the triple aim). Dave Windom said they are looking to take four (4) billion dollars out of Medicaid Services. Dave feels they didn’t completely clarify and said the concept is very vague. Dave went on to say that WSALPHO took the same position and did not support this as it is written. Wes had concerns about the statement...‘other investments in non-Medicaid reimbursable service by plans, providers, state and local government’. Wes said he wonders where and what local government would be paying for and how. Dave said the manner in which we are getting paid in the family planning program has changed to more self-insured payments and more Medicaid, rather than from the Take Charge program as in the past. The Department of Health is conducting a public meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. at the Spokane Regional Health District. Dave encouraged all Board members to attend. Steve Parker asked Dave what he is looking for from the Board. Steve went on to say that this concept is written at a cloud level and seems speculative and would be foolish to do. Nancy Foll said the vision is something that you are hearing about from every direction. Nancy talked about substance abuse and the need for a place that these people can go. Often times there are many other issues to deal with as well, and this document is trying to address those issues. She talked about the delivery system transformation including workforce development and the need to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). It was agreed that there needs to be better coordination. Dave is concerned that if 2% is taken out of Medicaid that we could lose critical care hospitals that operate in a 1% margin. Brad said if 70% - 80% of your business is dependent on Medicaid and Medicare and their reimbursement is 30%, this is not right. Mike M. indicated that employment is also a huge factor. Karen Skoog asked how effective this concept really is in getting people who are willing to cooperate. She went on to say that to think you are going to solve people’s problems is not realistic and she has seen it not work first-hand. Dave talked about our strategic plan and addressing how the Health District can adapt to change as this will be the most critical in the next two (2) years.
BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS REPORT: Elbert Kootz asked about the progress of the mental health beds going in at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital. Dave said it sounds like they are working through the process and hopefully the assessment and treatment beds will happen.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT: Dr. Artzis had no report.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT: Sandy Owen reported on a recent outbreak of acute nausea, vomiting and diarrhea at a Newport elementary school. The initial call came from the school nurse who reported that many staff members and students were absent with the same symptoms. Environmental health staff became involved and followed up with the school food services staff. It was determined that there were no high risk foods on the menu for the past few days and most of the ill staff do not eat the school food. Even though there had been no laboratory confirmation, the outbreak met the description of a high attack rate of Norwalk (noro) virus. Dr. Artzis contacted the school district superintendent and determined that the elementary school should be closed for one day to sanitize the school and buses. The infection control person at Newport Community Hospital was contacted for awareness purposes as well as to encourage the collection of stool specimens for anyone seen at the hospital or clinic. The Department of Health Epidemiology agreed that it was likely norovirus. Later that day, the school nurse reported another wave of illnesses resulting in 33% absentee in children and over 50% of the school staff. A stool specimen submitted by an ill adult tested positive for norovirus. Sandy said this was a great team effort. Dr. Artzis said this is why you need a health department. He said this process was pretty remarkable and also noted that everything we did was unfunded. Matt said there were 150 sick children.

Surveillance for additional measles cases resulting from the outbreak in Spokane continued until the second week of June, 2015. It was determined during an autopsy that a death in Clallam County was the result of measles in a person who was immunocompromised. This was the first death from measles in the United States since 2003.
A student in the Kettle Falls School District was diagnosed with chicken pox. This resulted in the exclusion of those children who were not immunized against chicken pox. The exclusion was for a period of up to twenty-one (21) days unless they received an immunization.

A case of pertussis (whooping cough) was diagnosed in the Chewelah School District and similar exclusion activities were carried out for unimmunized students.

Sandy Owen reported that Connie Jensen is the new dietician that will work in the WIC program in the Colville office one day per week. Sandy said we are pleased that Connie has worked in the WIC program in other states as well as Washington.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT:** Dave Windom reported that he has been busy with governmental and administrative contract renewals. The copy machine lease contracts are due for renewal and we are taking bids for that service.

Dave indicated that we received three (3) bids to replace one of our work vehicles. We accepted a bid from Country Chevrolet in Colville for a half-ton pickup. By getting state contract pricing and using funds from one of our state contracts, the cost to the District is $12,000. We will need to replace another vehicle this winter which should put us back into rotation for vehicle replacement.

Innovation Computing out of Spokane has been managing our computer servers and we just signed a contract with them to upgrade their service to relieve most of those duties from our in-house staff person. This will be an increased cost to the District but will allow staff to spend more time billing rather than dealing with IT issues.

Northeast Tri County Health District will be down to twenty-two (22) FTE employees by September, 2015. Aleece McGlothlen retired at the beginning of June, 2015 and Jim Sayre is retiring at the end of August, 2015. We have backfilled Jim’s position internally and are moving David Ennis from the Colville office to Newport. We will not backfill David’s position in the Colville office.

Dave added that the more we maximize revenue and keep costs contained, the less we will tap the reserves. We have been doing well in keeping costs consistently under budget projections.

The state auditor is currently in the Colville office and is available for questions.

Dave reported that the big issues for WSALPHO at the summer meeting consisted of workforce development and the Global Medicaid Transformation Waiver Concept Paper. Dave said there are portions of the concept that he can support but there is much to be concerned about as well. Workforce is becoming a huge issue across the health care delivery system in general and becoming critical for rural areas such as ours.
Board of Health Minutes
July 15, 2015
Page 6

Dave Windom will be leading a panel discussion at the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) meeting in October, 2015. Dave invited Barry Kling from Chelan-Douglas Health District, Brenda Parnell from Ferry County Memorial Hospital, and Alison Carl-White from Better Health Together as additional panel members to discuss health care and public health issues that are important to rural areas and how those issues significantly differ from more urban areas.

The state will be receiving around $15 million in funding from the federal government. Dave will be working with WSALPHO to try and ensure that the money goes to local public health and foundational programs rather than getting swallowed up at the state level. He reiterated that originally we thought that NETCHD would receive $62,000 for communicable disease and have just found out that the money won’t be coming. Dave talked more about the issues that we are facing with the current funding system in that we get a single allocation of funds instead like an individual county health department receives. We are penalized for having a three (3) county district. Discussions have been started with DOH about developing a different arrangement such as a base allotment per county and a per capita allotment beyond that. The issue is complex and will take some time to resolve.

Dave indicated that the legislative season that just ended did not have a great deal of public health related issues beyond a taxation proposal for e-cigarettes and vaping products that was voted down. The initial tax proposed was at 95% of retail and was reduced to 45%. 40% of the taxes proposed were earmarked for public health. Dave said he took a more skeptical view in that public health was once funded from cigarette taxes which were swept into the general fund in 2009 and no funding for tobacco programs came to local public health.

In the next three (3) months, the Budget Committee will continue to meet and work towards a stable budget that will not require further drawdowns of the reserve.

This past Thursday, NETCHD was attacked by a very serious virus that hit all of our computers. Dave said he was very glad that we had Innovation Computing to work on this. They had to take our entire system down and pull us back up from a recent backup.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Matt Schanz indicated that Ecology initially requested $29.6 million to fund solid waste activities at the county and local health jurisdiction (LHJ) level during the next biennium. Both the Senate and House budgets reduced the request to $15 million and this carried through in the adoption of the state budget. Within the provisions of how these dollars are allocated statewide, solid waste departments receive 80% and LHJs receive the remaining 20%. LHJs use these dollars to respond to solid waste complaints; take action to resolve illegal solid waste disposal sites through education and compliance efforts; provide technical assistance actions that assisted county solid waste departments and members of the public in proper solid waste handling; and complete inspections of solid waste facilities. There have been extensive conversations recently on how best to fairly distribute 50% less funds for solid waste enforcement statewide. A consensus has been established by LHJs around a plan that establishes a $50,000 base amount plus additional funds based on population with a cap applied to the five (5) largest counties. Under this plan, NETCHD will receive a maximum of $75,908. Prior to the reduction in funding, the maximum amount allowed for NETCHD was $235,000 and we originally applied for $88,500.
Matt Schanz reported that Tracy Ferrell has been hired as the environmental health executive secretary replacing Aleece McGlothern. On July 1, 2015 David Ennis transferred from the Colville office to the Newport office as the environmental health specialist III.

In May, 2015 we received a laboratory confirmed case of hantavirus, our first case in over a decade. A south Stevens County resident had the onset of acute respiratory distress and was admitted to Providence Holy Family Hospital where he needed intubation and was on a ventilator for three (3) days. He eventually recovered from the illness. During the exposure period, he had risk factors that included exposure to deer mice. Since the virus was first recognized in 1993, this case represents the 46th case in Washington State. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a rare illness that carries a 35% mortality rate. It is associated with viruses found in the urine, droppings and saliva of infected deer mice (the only carrier of the virus in Washington). Considering the low prevalence of the disease combined with the fact that deer mice are one of the most common mammals in Washington and humans very often come in contact with the deer mice, it takes a unique set of circumstances to result in a hantavirus caused illness.

Matt informed the Board that 49 Degrees North is investing $25 million in resort improvements over five (5) years and has recently submitted their master planned resort application to Stevens County. The initial phase of development will be for the Alpine Glades Subdivision that will consist of 190 lots on fifty (50) acres. The initial phases will be served by on-site sewage systems permitted by NETCHD.

The Curlew community sewer system is going through the final stages. Several minor modifications are still needed by design approval with expected finalized plans that should be approved in the next few days. The big push is that the project money must be spent by June, 2016. The hope is that construction can begin this fall with completion prior to June, 2016. There is an allowance that will give a one year extension with the funds. With the cost per connection, there is concern that people in the community may not be able to afford the sewer rates. There may be a grant available through the Department of Agriculture. Matt would like NETCHD to submit a letter stating that if the sewer system doesn’t happen, there are health implications and public health hazards. We have to be careful with the wording of the letter so we don’t extend ourselves out there too far if the sewer doesn’t go through.

NETCHD has taken the highest number of phone calls ever received concerning bat mortality. Extreme temperatures and fewer insects may be the cause of the high mortality. Media reports about rabid bats has likely added to it. NETCHD sent off three (3) bats for testing this week. One person is beginning prophylaxis treatment for rabies. Matt said 10% of the bats that we test carry rabies.

An individual in Stevens County had elevated levels of mercury in their blood. The individual talked about eating tuna and fish four (4) times a week, which was enough to cause the elevation.

Steve Parker asked about a septic system issue in a Stevens County trailer park. Matt said the forty-one (41) unit trailer park in Addy is experiencing problems. This failing system is under DOH jurisdiction. The onsite manager is cooperating but the owner is not. An excessive amount of water is being used and they have been instructed to look for a water leak. DOH is being careful because of the low income individuals that reside there that would have nowhere to go. Matt said we are trying to work as diligently as we can when the owner isn’t cooperative.
Board of Health Minutes
July 15, 2015
Page 8

Steve Parker asked for an update on Lane Mountain Silica. Matt Schanz indicated that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) had chosen to delay their site visit until later this year until they had the opportunity to review the data from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries analysis of particulate filters.

Matt talked about adding uranium water testing for Ferry County as a recommendation only. He indicated that 10% of wells in Ferry County wells had elevated levels of uranium and 13%-14% in Stevens County.

Mike Manus reported that there had been an explosion in Newport the previous night at an aerospace plant causing some injuries. A hazmat team from Spokane had to be called.

**PAYROLL & VOUCHERS:** Attached to these minutes are benefits and payroll amounts from February 5, 2015 through July 2, 2015; and voucher amounts from January 14, 2015 through July 8, 2015.

**RECESS:** There was a break for lunch at 12:15 P.M.

**RECONVENE:** The meeting reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 1:00 P.M.**
**RESOLUTION 02-2015: ADOPTING REGULATION NO. 01-2015 ESTABLISHING SOLID WASTE HANDLING STANDARDS FOR THE REGULATION OF SOLID WASTE AND THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT:** There were no citizens attending the public hearing. The Regulation in its entirety was read aloud. Matt Schanz said a draft document was sent for legal review. Alison McGrane stated that the Solid Waste Regulation was pretty standard in that it adopts the WACs. Steve Parker asked if the Solid Waste Advisory Committee had reviewed the document. Matt said the Regulation has been reviewed by all three (3) counties. Matt spoke about the provision that there are WACs where we are required to adopt a local ordinance. This is a Regulation by title but the Resolution adopts the Regulation. Steve asked about the penalty provision. Matt stated that what is included within the proposed Regulation is verbatim from our existing Regulations. It was a carryover from what we have currently. Steve wanted to know if it had been reviewed by law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys in each county. Matt said no, this Regulation had not but prior ones perhaps. Dave Windom said each county approaches the penalties differently. Brad Miller asked how often this had to be enforced. Matt said we use this as incentive to gain compliance. Mike Manus said that basically this puts some teeth with it and we haven’t had to administer penalties. Matt said yes, that is correct. Alison said typically this is just used for compliance but it does allow you to file with the court if need be. She went on to say that even if it got to that point, a judge would give them remecial measures. Brad said as a practical matter we would consult with Alison, and the way that Matt would write up a report and the prosecutor would determine whether this would be brought to court. Dave said there is a process that is followed, including at least three (3) contacts, followed by a health officer order before it ever went to the prosecutor.

**RECESS:** There was a recess for an Appeal Hearing at 1:18 P.M.
Board of Health Minutes
July 15, 2015
Page 9

RECONVENE: The meeting/public hearing reconvened at 2:04 P.M.

Wes McCart moved and Steve Parker seconded the motion to approve Resolution 02-2015: Adopting Regulation No. 01-2015 Establishing Solid Waste Handling Standards for the Regulation of Solid Waste and the Protection of Public Health in Northeast Tri County Health District. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Mike Manus adjourned the meeting at 2:05 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 in Stevens County.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kelly D. LeClaire, Executive Secretary

Mike Manus, Chairman