

GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse
P.O. Box 37
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-6060



HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 W. Ivy Avenue
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 766-7960

BOARD OF HEALTH

April 14, 2010
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mr. Massa with the following members, staff and guests present.

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden
David Curnel – Moses Lake
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek

Tony Gonzalez – Quincy
Cindy Carter – Commissioner
Carolann Swartz – Commissioner

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Jeff Ketchel – Administrator
Carol Schimke - P.H. Program Facilitator

Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Mgr
Jerry Campbell – EH Director
Jim Whitaker - Attorney

ABSENT

Heidi Schultheis – Ephrata
Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Gerald Sands – Electric City

GUESTS

Wendy Brzezny - Ephrata
David Ruud - Boulder Park, Inc.
Bill Lamphere - Lamphere Environmental Services

Randy Bracht – Grant County Journal
Lisa Vogel - King County

Mr. Massa announced that there will be a couple of changes/additions to the agenda. - Item b (Boulder-Park, Inc. Biosolids Land Application Proposal) under the Environmental Health Report will be moved to the Public Forum portion of the meeting. Under the Administrator/Personal Health Report an additional item of Nursing Services Update will be added to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the changes/additions of the agenda (M/S Carter/Curnel – unanimous).

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PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - Bill Lamphere from Lamphere Environmental Services along with Lisa Vogel from King County and David Ruud from Boulder-Park, Inc. presented a proposal which would establish a small demonstration project regarding biosolids in Grant County on both dry land and irrigated fields. The total plot area will be less than 40 acres. The biosolids used in this demonstration project will most likely come from treatment facilities nearby.

They are seeking the Board of Health's approval as the first requirement toward approval of a biosolids land application project. They will then be pursuing a Conditional Use Permit from the county along with approval from Department of Ecology for the biosolids application.

They have been working with Douglas County for the past 18 years building a successful biosolids soil improvement project and would like to diversify by expanding into Grant County.

Numerous handouts were presented to the Board to provide more information regarding this issue. Some questions had been raised from an earlier meeting with Mr. Ketchel and Mr. Campbell. Those questions along with the answers were also provided. A copy of all handouts will be included in the minute's book.

After a lengthy discussion no action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 10, 2010 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Gonzalez – unanimous).

PERSONAL HEALTH /ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –

Fee Schedule Clarification - Mr. Ketchel clarified to the Board that the expedited fee of \$10 was intended for Birth Certificate applications only - not death certificates.

Community Public Health Manager Proposal - The Board had been sent a proposal to hire a Community Public Health Manager from within the Health District. The additional cost to the District will be limited to \$200 - \$1250/mo. in salary increase. The range reflects the current variable salaries of potential candidates currently serving as public health nurses with the Health District.

The revised organizational chart showing the addition of the position was also presented.

There are no plans to fill the position of the PHN who will be taking over the new position. Mr. Ketchel hopes to fill the position as soon as possible and will be posting the job announcement this week. A motion was made to accept the proposal (M/S Carter/Curnel - unanimous).

National Children's Study - Mr. Ketchel gave an update on this study in which a contract was signed in September of 2008. It will involve women who plan on getting pregnant, and women who are pregnant and will follow their children through age 20. Testing such as blood and environmental sampling will provide a bank of data to determine health outcomes. This pilot program will begin in

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July of 2010 with 100 women being selected for the study. The Health District will receive approximately \$1,500/mo. for 9 months for staff time involved with the project.

The age of the women will be 18 - 39. Washington State University will be involved with recruiting the help which will total approximately 20. They will be presenting a program next month.

State Audit - The audit is almost complete. The federal program audited was Emergency Preparedness. It looks like we will receive a clean audit with only one recommendation. The Board of Health will be invited to the Exit conference.

The Health District will be submitting the annual report to the state as required.

New Vehicle Purchase - A letter has been sent to auto dealerships in Grant County requesting bids for a used minivan. A van is desired because of the cargo space available and the ability to transport several employees. No special equipment is needed, but there are some desired features, such as air conditioning, low miles, etc. that were requested.

Mr. Ketchel introduced Carol Schimke, Personal Health Program Facilitator who presented the nursing services update.

Norovirus - A facility reported 45 patients and 16 staff with symptoms of norovirus. There were no hospitalizations. The facility had received outbreak management recommendations and control measure documents. They followed the recommendations strictly, posting signs, limiting visitors, not accepting admissions, etc. They did a very good job in containing the outbreak. Norovirus is a gastrointestinal virus.

Chicken Pox - There were a couple of recently reported cases of chicken pox in the Ephrata School District. One was a high school student with no documentation of the vaccination or history of the disease. The other was an elementary student who had received one dose of the vaccine.

MRSA - Three cases of MRSA were investigated in March. Two of them were involved with the HIVE, a tattoo parlor. A visit was made to the establishment by a Public Health nurse and Mr. Campbell. They were given some MRSA booklets, WACs, and licenses were checked.

Immunizations - The Health District has received grant funding as part of the Reaching More Children project of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The goal is to develop a plan for outreach and education to all providers currently participating in the childhood vaccine program to support Washington State's Universal Vaccine Purchasing transition and to conduct specific quality improvement activities with specified providers to help improve health care practice-level immunization rates. This will be done in two phases.

The Washington Universal Childhood Vaccine Program was scheduled to end May 1, 2010 due to state funding budget cuts. On March 23, 2010 Governor Gregoire signed into law House Bill 2551 which allows the state to continue purchasing vaccines at bulk discount rates for children covered by private health insurance.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Monthly Report - The Board received the monthly report for March inspections, etc.

Cheese Recall - Mr. Campbell reported on a cheese recall involving Queso Fresco cheese. The Health District contacted establishments to ensure that the cheese had been removed from the premises.

Boil Water Advisory - The City of Ephrata issued a boil water advisory on Friday of last week for the entire city. The Health District staff visited the food establishments to provide them with handouts regarding the advisory and to answer any questions they might have. Schools and Healthcare facilities were also contacted.

In addition, information was posted on the Health District website, phone calls were handled and the District worked with the State Department of Health and the City of Ephrata regarding press releases. There were no known illnesses reported as a result of the water issue.

Posting Food Inspection Reports on Website - Dr. Curnel inquired if the food inspection reports were being posted on our website. Perhaps this would be an incentive to improve some scores for some establishments. Mr. Ketchel stated he would be looking into different possibilities of that being implemented and is included in his long range plans. Dr. Curnel strongly suggested that this occur.

Mosquito Control - Mr. Campbell gave an update regarding the Aquatic Mosquito Control General permit. The Department of Ecology is still in the process of reviewing comments on the draft permit and no final decisions have been made. They stated that it is clear that the final permit will have significant changes from the initial proposed permit.

A copy of the letter is included in the book of minutes.

Mr. Gonzalez inquired as to when Boulder-Park was looking for us to take action regarding their proposal. According to Grant County code, the importation of sewage sludge or septage from outside of the county is subject to approval by the Grant County Board of Health. The application of sewage sludge to land for disposal or for fertilization is also subject to BOH approval.

The Health District will not take any action until they see an actual conditional use permit proposal at which time a public hearing will then be held.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

TB Update – There was one suspect active TB case but was later proven to be latent tuberculosis.

H1N1 Update – H1N1 continues to be sporadic. There was a 2 year old hospitalized at a local healthcare facility with a positive Influenza A. The child had received both the seasonal and H1N1 vaccine and did fully recover. Tests for H1N1 was inconclusive.

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The District received notice that a 28 year old was hospitalized at the U of W Medical Center with a positive influenza A. Notification was received today that the patient also tested positive for H1N1. This patient also had prior H1N1 confirmation in October 2009. Vaccine status is unknown.

Giardia - One giardia investigation was completed last month. Probable exposure was in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever) - Two different investigations involving a 71 year old man and a 63 year old woman whose possible exposures occurred in Arizona were conducted.

Salmonella - A report was received today of a 4 year old who had been admitted to Children's Hospital for an eye injury and they discovered that he also had salmonella.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending March 31, 2010 totaling \$164,855.68 (#0 - #5 totaling \$130,074.82) and (#6 - #59 totaling \$34,780.86) were approved (M/S Curnel/Gonzalez – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS –

Public Health Partner Awards - An award was presented to Seth Carlile for going above and beyond while repairing a septic system on Highland Drive.

2010 Health Champions - Public Health Week - The Washington State Public Health Association, in honor of Public Health Week, recognized Health Champions of 2010. The Grant County Health District staff and Dr. Brzezny received an Exemplary Public Service Honorable Mention for GCHD's response to H1N1.

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. (M/S Carter/Curnel - unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer