

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

February 9, 2011

7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Massa with the following members and staff present.

MEMBERS

Tony Massa - Warden
Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake
Richard Stevens – Commissioner
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek

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

STAFF

Jeff Ketchel – Administrator
Pattie Anderson – Admin. Services Mgr.
Jerry Campbell – EH Program Facilitator

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Jim Whitaker – HD Attorney

ABSENT

Heidi Schultheis – Ephrata

GUESTS

Randy Bracht - Grant Co. Journal
Shantra Hannibal - Columbia Basin Herald

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

Mr. Massa introduced Troy Ritter from Electric City who will be representing the north county including Grand Coulee, Electric City, Coulee City and Hartline.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 12, 2011 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Swartz – unanimous).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

Under item b. the Ryan White grant will be added to the agenda.

Personnel Update - A Public Health nurse has given her letter of resignation. Her last day will be this Friday. The District will use her wages to hire a Manager for the Moses Lake Office. This will provide a full time manager in the office as well as a third nurse. Advertising began a week ago with the first review of applicants to be held on February 23. Mr. Ketchel is recruiting around the state. There has not been a manager in the Moses Lake office and a Registered Nurse is one of the qualifications. The job posting is also on the website.

Healthy Communities Grant - A \$50,000 grant was received that will assist the District in working with communities within Grant County. One activity being considered is providing safe routes to school in the Ephrata School District. A couple of employees traveled to Grand Coulee to discuss possible projects in the north end of the county. This grant has involved a large amount of training and building capacity.

Ryan White Grant - The Ryan White grant is for HIV/AIDS Case Management. In the past this has been pass-through money, but this year we had to submit an application to receive the funds. The District did receive the money again this year which will amount to approximately \$25,000.

Dr. Curnel inquired as to how many cases the District has. Dr. Brzezny stated there are currently about 25 we case manage. Approximately the District receives 10 new patients per year, most of which have moved into our county.

Public Health Education Day in Olympia - Mr. Ketchel was able to meet with all six Legislators on February 19th. He provided the Board with a copy of the document that he shared with them. They were very receptive and Mr. Ketchel focused on the retaining of flexible funding.

A discussion was held regarding the high death rate from prescription pain medication overdoses. Tracking actual "overdoses" is not separated out between intentional and non-intentional.

Health District Performance Reports by Jurisdiction - The report was handed out to the Board. Community forums should begin in late March and the information will be shared at these forums.

Mrs. Swartz suggested having service clubs buy in to some of our projects. Dr. Brzezny and Mr. Ketchel stated that some organizations have contributed in the past such as, Ephrata Rotary has given money for child immunizations and the Moses Lake Lioness Club has donated towards the printing of the Resource and Referral books. The Safe Kids coalition also receives money from some service clubs.

Public Health Standards - The standards are connected with the flexible funding. These determine what a successful local and state Health Department would look like. The Health District is doing the Basic set which was geared toward smaller agencies with fewer employees. We are pretty much done and the information will be entered onto a disk and sent off.

The standards are also used as an assessment tool and a comparison to other agencies.

Epi Update - The second EPI update newsletter was distributed. These will be published quarterly. They will be mailed in the next couple of days to the medical community and is also available on the website. It is important that we keep the medical community informed and engaged with us and that our relationships are continuous.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – No report

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Monthly Report - The board received the monthly report for January food inspections.

Quarterly Report - The report will be included in the annual report to be presented next month.

Algae Grant - The District has received a freshwater algae grant. Mr. Campbell explained how toxins can be produced and dogs have died from these toxins in the past. For one year we will receive 3/4 of a \$35,200 grant from the DOE. Moses Lake and the Potholes will be the areas of testing of blooms. The grant runs from July 2011 through June 2012.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Pertussis Update - The District continues to receive weekly reports of suspect cases in which the patients are treated and isolated. There are still some pending results. There were no confirmed cases reported in January. There were a total of 19 confirmed and 9 probable cases total.

Influenza Update - There have been increased absenteeism rates in some of the schools. There have been no reported cases; however Dr. Curnel stated that he has personally treated some positive cases. Evidently, cases are not being reported. Cases of influenza should pick up soon. To date, there have been no deaths reported from influenza.

Mrs. Carter inquired about MRSA. Dr. Curnel reported on the high increase of MRSA cases within the last several years.

VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending January 31, 2011 totaling \$124,473.46 (#1 - #11 totaling \$117,442.07 and #12 - #36 totaling \$7,031.39) were approved (M/S Carter/Curnel – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS - None

Executive Session - A motion was made to adjourn to executive session at 7:50 p.m. for 5 minutes regarding union negotiations. The open meeting was re-opened at 7:55 p.m.

A motion was made to authorize the Health Officer to sign the union contract on the basis the union accepted the Board's offer on wages and benefits (M/S Carter/Curnel - unanimous).

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. (M/S Stevens/Curnel – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer

