

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

July 13, 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

Manuel Guerrero - Quincy
Troy Ritter – Electric City
Cindy Carter – Commissioner

STAFF

Jeff Ketchel – Administrator
Pattie Anderson – Admin. Services Mgr.

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Anna Franz – HD Attorney

ABSENT

Carolann Swartz – Commissioner
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek

Heidi Schultheis – Ephrata

GUESTS

Lauren McLaughlin - Gant Co. Journal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 8, 2011 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Carter – unanimous).

VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending June 30, 2011 totaling \$128,394.45 (#1 - #13 totaling \$111,990.28 and #14 - #62 totaling \$16,404.17) were approved (M/S Carter/Curnel – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS – None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT - Jeff Ketchel

Algae Grant Update - The grant started on July 1, 2011. Routine sampling for phosphates will occur. We will also be looking for algae blooms in the Potholes and Moses Lake areas. If blooms are spotted or a complaint is received, the Sanitarian will sample the bloom. It is a one year grant for \$23,000 which will also cover the cost for signage.

West Nile Virus - Last year, the first positive mosquito pool was discovered on June 21. To date, there have been no positive pools located in Washington state. However, we do not know how aggressive the sampling has been. Two birds have been tested and they were negative.

Temporary Food Inspections - A total of 804 temporary food inspections were done last year. As of June 30, 403 have been inspected with summer being the busiest time of the year. The July 4th weekend more than 50 permits were issued. There is one and sometimes two staff inspecting each weekend which means they need to flex their time during the week. A copy of the food inspections for June was provided to the Board and are also posted on the website.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

Child Care Health - For the past 20 years, the Health District has provided technical assistance to childcares within the county. We have been receiving \$25,000 per year in funding. About a year ago, the Department of Early Learning, which regulates childcares, decided to review the program and the Health District has participated in this process for the past several months. Funding ended at the end of the year and the District has needed to pull out of the planning meetings. It appears that the Health District was not in their long range plans to receive funds. There are more than 200 licensed childcares in Grant County.

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Update - This program is funded through the Washington Dental Foundation and helps provide dentistry to infants after they receive their first tooth. We just received notice that the grant was expanded by \$30,000 a year for two years.

Tobacco Quit Line - In 2009, 329 Grant County residents called the Quit Line. This program has been cut from the state budget which means there is no program available which provided help with accessing alternative methods to smoking, such as Nicorettes, etc.

Housing Authority of Grant County Smoking Policy - The results of a survey that was recently conducted showed that most residents (80%) supported a no smoking policy. The survey was a collaboration between the Grant County Health District, Housing Authority of Grant County and Central Washington University.

Forty two percent of the residents responded and they received a Wal-Mart gift card for their participation.

The Housing Authority will develop a no smoking policy and the Health District will assist. The District wrote a letter of support to the Housing Authority for policy development which is actually what the Health District is moving towards, policy and system changes.

ASSESSMENT REPORT - Jeff Ketchel

Public Health Standards - Every two years the Health District provides a standards assessment to the Washington State Department of Health. This year there were three sets; a regular set, an enhanced set and a basic set. The Health District did the basic set. The results showed that we demonstrated 85% of the standards, 12% were partially demonstrated and 3% was not demonstrated. Some flexible funding is tied to this assessment, which the District receives \$118,000 in LCDF funds. In order to receive the funds, we had to pick a standard that was not met and develop a quality improvement plan for it.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

Community Transformation Grant - This grant is actually an expansion of the Healthy Communities grant. The state applied for this grant and picked 11 local health jurisdictions to receive funding, for which Grant Co. Health District was one of the eleven. There will be 5 hubs (Grant Co. is to be the hub for Central Washington) and will partner with Yakima. We will receive between \$325,000 - \$370,000 with half of the money going to Yakima County and the other half used to administer the program and some to community partners. This is a very competitive grant and due at the federal level by Friday. A full time person will be needed to administer the grant.

Medicaid Administrative Match - This program helps to fund agencies who provide assistance to those in need of accessing medical coverage, etc. Currently we receive approximately \$25,000 per year and the state is looking at making some drastic changes. Most affected will be those who provide direct services. Since the Health District provides very little direct services, we shouldn't be affected as much as other agencies.

Dr. Brzezny stated that the funds might possibly be offset with other programs.

National Children's Study - The contract has been extended through September and there is a good chance it will be extended again.

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HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Influenza - Influenza is still around. The vaccine for this year does not contain any elements that prevents those allergic to eggs to receive the vaccination.

Salmonella - The most recent outbreak was linked to sprouts which have been recalled. One case was linked to a Grant County resident.

Campylobacter - This is the most common non viral gastrointestinal infection. There are approximately two to three cases reported each month. The Health District is looking for a link among those currently infected, but it is very difficult to investigate. Cases of campylobacter are increasing nationwide.

Q Fever - Q Fever is still ongoing. Grant County has six individuals who are being followed. Four cases have symptoms and 2 have no symptoms. There is some linkage to goats. The CDC visited Grant County a few weeks ago. They are now in Montana and are working with the Department of Agriculture.

Other Updates - Pertussis has dwindled. There have been no new cases since April.

Dr. Curnel inquired about the Post Exposure Prophylaxis regarding rabies that was reported on the Communicable Disease report. Dr. Brzezny also explained that the reporting requirements have changed this year. Only high risk exposures are to be reported.

OTHER BUSINESS – A certificate of appreciation was prepared for Ms. Schultheis which will be mailed to her.

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. (M/S Curnel/Carter – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Pattie A. Anderson, Clerk of the Board