

GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse
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Ephrata, WA 98823
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HEALTH DISTRICT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH

March 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
Troy Ritter – Electric City

Tony Gonzalez - Quincy
Cindy Carter – Commissioner
Carolann Swartz – Commissioner
Heidi Schultheis – Ephrata

STAFF

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

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Michael Wyman – HD Attorney

ABSENT - None

GUESTS

Shantra Hannibal - Columbia Basin Herald

Randy Bracht – Grant Co. Journal

A few items will be added to the agenda. Under the Administrator's Report, items e (Newspaper Bid), f (Server IT upgrade) and g (Strategic Plan Update) will be added.

Under the Community Public Health Report item d (staffing update) will also be added.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS – Mr. Ketchel read a letter that was written by the owners of Taco Del Mar, Brian and Pam Scott, requesting that their double fee for their food establishment permit be waived. They had inadvertently placed the renewal notice in their paid file and did not realize it had not been paid until receiving notice in February.

The licenses expire on December 31st of each year and are given a 30 day extension with no penalty assessed until February 1.

The Board was informed that the establishment had been called (along with other businesses that had not yet paid) in mid January to advise them that if not paid by January 31 a double fee would be imposed.

A motion was made to deny the request (M/S Stevens/Ritter – unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 9, 2011 were approved as written (M/S Carter/Curnel – unanimous). Ms. Schultheis abstained.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

Mr. Ketchel advised the Board that he would write a letter to the Scott's to inform them that their request for reimbursement was denied.

Implementing a Regional Healthcare Authority in Eastern Washington – A meeting was held in Spokane two weeks ago to discuss options for concerns that will arise with the Health Care reform. With the Health Care Reform more people will have access to healthcare and how to deal with the influx of patients is a concern. Mental Health was the first agency to bring up the issue. A copy of the report is in the book of minutes.

Drug Take Back Program in Ephrata – The Ephrata Police Department has implemented a Drug Take Back Program in which the public has the ability to dispose of unused prescription drugs into a box that is located on the side of the building. The drugs are then transported to Spokane to be incinerated. This alleviates citizens having unused drugs in their homes where they are accessible to others.

The District is interested in expanding this program to other areas of the county. Dr. Curnel stated that this was discussed at their City Council meeting last night. He also said that Pharmacies are not able to take back any drugs.

Legislative Update – Mr. Ketchel stated that a bill that supported the Drug Take Back Program statewide failed on Monday.

The bill regarding immunization exemptions however is still alive.

The third bill is the cottage food operations which would allow very small operations, who make no more than \$5,000 per year, to prepare certain food items such as jams or jellies, in their home and sell them such places as farmers markets.

Alternate Care Facility Exercise – In February an Emergency Preparedness tabletop exercise was conducted in Wenatchee. Each of the four jurisdictions owns 25 beds that are stored in a trailer.

An actual exercise will be conducted in April.

Newspaper Bid – The District received only one bid to be the newspaper of choice to run their legal ads. A motion was made to accept the Columbia Basin Herald offer (M/S Carter/Swartz – unanimous).

Server IT – The server crashed today and was fixed by the end of the day. The server needs to be upgraded and it is estimated that it will cost slightly over \$5,000 for the software, hardware and moving the documents from one server to another. The purchase will be made through the state Department of Information Services. A motion was made to approve the purchase, not to exceed \$6,000 (M/S Stevens/Curnel – unanimous).

Strategic Plan Update – The dates and locations have been secured to hold the community forums to gather input regarding priorities for the next 5 years. Mr. Ketchel will send the detailed information to the BOH members. The first meeting will be on March 29 in Warden, March 30 in Ephrata, April 12 in Mattawa, April 19 in Royal City, April 21 in North County and April 25 in Moses Lake.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Carol Schimke

2010 Annual Report – A brief review of the report was presented. A copy of the report is in the book of minutes.

Other Personal Health Updates – To be addressed later in the meeting.

2011 CD Statistic Report – A copy of the report was in the binders for the BOH.

Staffing Adjustments – The manager position is still open. To alleviate some of Carol's workload, Lois Swenson has taken on the position of Program Facilitator as well. Carol will be in charge of MCH and Immunizations and Lois will be in charge of the CD and Clinic. Mrs. Swenson will attend the meeting next month to present the new system for CD/Epi reporting that the District has implemented.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

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

Annual Report – Mr. Campbell reviewed the report. A copy of the report is in the book of minutes.

Ephrata Septic Systems – The Health District has been approached to play an advisory role regarding the existing septic systems with the Ephrata city limits. When these systems were installed, the codes were far less stringent. Mr. Ketchel has visited with the City Administrator and Mayor with regards to inspecting these septic systems.

Online Food Worker Cards – Tacoma-Pierce Health Department has developed an online food worker card training class. Clients would be able to go to the web and watch the video and take the test. They would need to present a driver's license, etc. and pay with a credit card. The cost is \$10.00 (state fee) and if the District enters into a contract with TPHD, they would keep \$3.00 and the Health District would get \$7.00.

There are concerns regarding fraud, would the District lose any revenue, etc. Mr. Ketchel will look further into this possibility.

Meth Labs – Mr. Ketchel has opened up the lines of communication with the Sheriff's Office regarding notification of meth labs. The District posts labs and does an evaluation. If the property is contaminated, the owner needs to hire a contractor, who will develop a plan, decontaminate if necessary, etc. A notice is also put on the title of the property.

We need to be sure that we are contacted regarding any meth labs. There has been a decrease of meth labs recently probably due to the fact that the ingredients are harder to come by. Meth labs have also been located in the trunks of vehicles.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Dr. Brzezny said there are currently four (4) outbreaks in the county; Pertussis, Influenza, Norovirus and teen pregnancy.

Pertussis Update – A new case was reported on March 4 which was lab confirmed. A total of 13 contacts were investigated.

Influenza Update – Influenza has peaked in some parts of the country. Different types of flu include B, H1N1 and H3N2 (seasonal flu). Dr. Brzezny believes that the flu may have peaked in Washington State the last week of February.

Norovirus – Norovirus is a gastrointestinal illness. Twenty four cases which included 9 staff and 15 residents at a long term care facility in Quincy were reported. One individual was hospitalized. Duration usually lasts up to 48 hours.

Teen Pregnancy – Teen pregnancy is very high in Grant County, especially in Royal City. Grant County has a higher rate than the state average. The Health District has applied for a CDC grant that would allow someone to work on this issue in our county.

Tuberculosis Update – The last active case has moved to Mexico. The Health District makes sure that they receive notification of the case.

Other Updates – Dr. Brzezny discussed the plague which is sometimes hard to detect since some of the symptoms appear to be other diseases.

VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending February 28, 2011 totaling \$121,323.46 (#1 - #6 totaling \$111,333.99 and #7 - #43 totaling \$9,989.47) were approved (M/S Stevens/Ritter – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS – The Board has been notified that Mr. Whitaker has retired. He has been the Health District attorney for approximately 25 years. The Board discussed how to show their appreciation to Mr. Whitaker and was determined to present him with a plaque.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a plaque with donations received the BOH members (M/S Stevens/Curnel – unanimous).

BOARD OF HEALTH
March 9, 2011

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

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer