

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 October 10, 2007 7:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS

Troy Ritter – Electric City
James Liebrecht – Moses Lake
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek
Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Cindy Carter – Commissioner
Mark Wanke – Ephrata
LeRoy Allison – Commissioner

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Peggy Grigg – Administrator/PH Director
Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Manager

Jerry Campbell – EH Director
Michael Wyman - Attorney

ABSENT

Clay Richmond - George

Tony Gonzalez – Quincy

GUESTS

Mary Selecky – State Secretary of Healthy
Marie Flake – Local Public Health Liaison
Randy Bracht – Grant Co. Journal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 12, 2007 were approved as written (M/S Liebrecht/Stevens – unanimous).

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PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

Mr. Wanke introduced Mary Selecky, State Secretary of Health. Board of Health members and staff introduced themselves.

Ms. Selecky gave a synopsis of her background in Public Health; she started in 1975 at the Northeast Tri County Health District. Governor Locke appointed her State Secretary of Health in 1999 and Governor Christine Gregoire re-appointed.

Marie Flake is the currently acting Director of the Office of Public Health Systems, Planning and Development; she has agreed to fill the position permanently.

Ms. Selecky stated that even though public health is the responsibility of the county, it is important for a good partnership between the local and state public health entities. The local health jurisdictions are not funded well and recently a bill was passed where they will receive a total of \$20 million over a 2 year period. With the new money, there are expectations. Performance measures need to be met showing what the LHJ's have done to improve their counties.

Communicable Disease seems to be the most prevalent issue facing the LHJ's. Physical activity and nutrition is another priority area. Ms. Selecky also explained that the new money being received in 2008 and 2009 is for communicable disease and chronic disease prevention. This is not to be used to supplant current budget sources, new and increased activities must be addressed, meeting new performance measures.

Ms. Selecky reiterated that local responsibilities need to be shared with the state and local health jurisdictions. Grant County has shown substantial growth which provides even more challenges.

Mr. Wanke thanked Ms. Selecky for taking the time to visit us.

PERSONAL HEALTH REPORT – Peggy Grigg

Board of Health Alternates – Mrs. Grigg requested that each Board member have a definite alternate for pandemic flu or other public health emergencies to fill in for them if need be. We would like this formally documented and on file. The Commissioners should also have an alternate representative assigned for such instances. This increases capacity for all-hazards planning and emergency preparedness in Grant County.

MOU for Schools – The Board had been sent a Memorandum of Understanding for Achieving Healthcare Emergency Preparedness in Grant County with regards to schools. The schools would be used as possible triage or alternate care site due to a major public health emergency, such as a pandemic flu. Mrs. Grigg pointed out one small change since the mailing. Mr. Whitaker and Dr. Brzezny have reviewed the document. A motion was made to accept the MOU for signature (M/S Stevens/Allison – unanimous).

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Ms. Selecky stated that she was impressed at how far along we were with this process and was not aware of any others that had this measure in place at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Existing System Water Availability Evaluation Request Form – This form had been presented at the last Board meeting for the members to review. This form makes it clear that the Health District is not to evaluate the quality of the water, only the quantity based on the information that is provided on the application form.

Mr. Liebrecht inquired about the sewage portion of the form. He also asked about the status of the Fairgrounds situation with regards to the updating of buildings, etc.

Ms. Selecky informed the Board that systems with more than 3500 gal/day are now handled by the State, not Department of Ecology.

A motion was made to approve the form as presented (M/S Liebrecht/Carter - discussion). Mr. Allison asked about one item that was not included on the new form to ensure that it had not been omitted in error. The item was not actually a concern of the Health District, but a matter that was to be handled by the applicant. The vote was unanimous.

A second form with suggested revisions had also been shared at the last Board meeting; it actually originates with the County Planning Department. Mr. Campbell has not received any feedback yet from the Planning Department

Food Inspections – The food inspection reports for September had been distributed to the board. The E.H. staff conducted over 100 food inspections in September. The Subway food worker card situation has been taken care of. The colored copies (which had been shrunk) have been made for the additional stores.

Mrs. Grigg stated that she has recently been to a meeting where it had been indicated that a high number of food illnesses are related to food worker practices.

Toxic Algae – Mr. Campbell informed the Board that toxic algae has been discovered in the Potholes area of the county. We were informed that after drinking the water, some dogs had died. The District staff has been in contact with the State Department of Health and has recently posted some warning signs regarding the presence of toxic algae.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Dr. Brzezny said that as the weather cools, there will be less algae.

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Tuberculosis – Last month Dr. Brzezny reported that there were 4 suspect cases. Two of those cases remain active and are being treated. One of the positive cases is suspected to be MDRTB (multi-drug resistant tuberculosis). Consequently, the two most commonly used drugs may not be effective in treating the patient. He is currently on additional medications.

In June, July and August the average cost in the tuberculosis program was \$8700, and by the end of August had reached 52% of originally anticipated expenses. For September the expenditures were nearly triple the expected monthly cost. We are hoping the patient will receive some type of medical assistance so that we are able to re-coup some of the expenses.

If the preliminary tests are positive for the resistance, there is a slim chance that the patient will be OK on sputum tests which takes 8 weeks to confirm. Since we have good indication that he is probably multi-drug resistant, we will be treating him as a MDR-TB.

Mrs. Carter asked if he was quarantined. He is confined to his home residing with children and other adults. Mr. Allison inquired if the other family members have been tested. They have been tested; for contacts testing positive, we are unable to determine if the exposure was a result of this patient or elsewhere. The District will be monitoring the family members and will take appropriate action if necessary.

Mr. Liebrecht asked what happens if we expend our TB budget? Do we stop treating the patient? We do not stop the treatment. One option is use fund balance or go to the county to request more funding.

West Nile Virus – Dr. Brzezny provided a handout regarding different aspects of West Nile Virus. There have been no human cases in the state of Washington this year. It is believed that the spraying of mosquitoes has been a factor in the control of this disease. There are only 16 Mosquito Control Districts in the state.

Salmonella – A final report is available at the Health District office. Grant County is the nation-wide "leader" of Salmonella Seftenberg cases with 17 reportable cases.

Letter to Cities and Towns – Board members had received the letter that Dr. Brzezny had sent to the cities and towns requesting a \$2/person contribution. Mr. Wanke stated they had discussed the issue at their city council meeting and wondered if there was an alternative solution for obtaining funds that would prevent asking each year for a contribution. Discussion was held regarding possible solutions to the funding of public health. Ms Selecky reiterated that the responsibility is at the local level.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending September 30, 2007 totaling \$156,908.49 (#1-#5 totaling \$135,742.99) and (#6-#72 totaling \$21,165.50) were approved (M/S Ritter/Liebrecht – unanimous).

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OTHER BUSINESS –

Our site was not selected for the National Children’s Study that the University of Washington had applied for.

A meeting has been scheduled for October 16, 2007 with Mr. Esparza, State Auditor regarding our billing. It has been requested that a member of our Board be present, and Mr. Wanke will be able to participate

Public Health Partner Awards were presented to the following:

Salmonella Outbreak

Jackie Dawson, Region 7 Epidemiologist

Janet Anderberg, DOH

Dena Harris, Arby’s

Joe Cosgrove, Arby’s

Mr. Ritter asked Mr. Campbell to give an update regarding the letter sent to Mr. Gerard in Electric City regarding a housing development. Mr. Ritter, Mr. Gerard, and Mr. Campbell met this past Monday. They came up with a solution which met the requirements of the Health District, which are also supported by the Department of Health and the Department of Ecology. The Health District will assist Mr. Gerard when the need arises.

Mr. Liebrecht commended Mr. Ritter for the help and work he has done to assist Mr. Gerard regarding this situation.

Mr. Allison was pleased that the letter contained the in-kind contribution that the District receives from the county. Mr. Allison would like to begin talking about rent and cost of services so that these “in-kind” contributions can be tracked and counted. Dr. Brzezny again stressed that the county contribution must not drop or we lose the additional monies that the state has provided for the next 2 years.

Ms. Selecky thanked the Board and the staff for their dedicated work, and expressed how valuable she feels that our structure as a health district is, as it makes it possible to bring multiple governments together, recognizing that public health is about everybody in the county.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. (M/S Stevens/Ritter – unanimous).

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The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

Mark Wanke, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer