GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

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BOARD OF HEALTH
September 8, 2010
7:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek
Gerald Sands - Electric City
Tony Gonzalez – Quincy
Cindy Carter - Commissioner
Richard Stevens – Commissioner

STAFF

Jeff Ketchel – Administrator
Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Carol Schimke - Program Facilitator
Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Mgr
Jim Whitaker - Attorney
Jerry Campbell – EH Director

ABSENT

Heidi Schultheis – Ephrata
David Curnel – Moses Lake
Carolann Swartz – Commissioner

GUESTS

Vicky Rutherford - Grant Co. Health District

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 11, 2010 were approved as written (M/S Gonzalez/Stevens – unanimous).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

2011 Budget - Work has begun on developing the 2011 budget. A draft will be brought to the October meeting, a second draft to be presented in November and the final budget to be adopted in December. With changes happening at the state level, they will most likely affect our local health jurisdiction as well.

The planned income for 2010 was down by $132,000 which depleted our reserves to the minimum level of acceptance by the state auditor's office. On a good note, the expenses have been somewhat less than anticipated. In 2011 the $132,000 deficit will be greater. Some expected cuts are in the HIV Prevention program, the federal budget for Emergency Preparedness will be reduced by 30%, the tobacco settlement funds will be depleted in June and possible cuts in the HCCW program.

Some of Mr. Ketchel's colleagues have informed him that the Legislators are asking for suggestions as to which programs to cut rather than programs to continue funding. The state is facing a $3 billion dollar deficit for the next biennium.

There are 3 divisions of funding which are: (1) non-categorical which has the most flexibility, (2) block grants which have some flexibility and (3) categorical which usually has to be spent on specific programs.

Mr. Gonzalez asked if Mr. Ketchel had any ideas yet on what he was going to do. Mr. Ketchel said he was working on it and looking at the priorities, which programs are mandated by Public Health, etc. He inquired as to whether fee increases would be considered. Mr. Ketchel said yes, but it was mentioned that fees have recently been increased. Our fees are comparable with other local health jurisdictions.

Strategic Plan Update - With the Pertussis outbreak, no update is available.

National Children's Study Update - The Health District has signed on as a sub-contractor and will be receiving $14,000 in reimbursable activities.

Visit from Mary Selecky - Secretary of State - Ms. Selecky visited the Health District on August 23, 2010. Mr. Ketchel and Dr. Brzezny visited with her in the morning.

Mr. Ketchel, along with Dr. Brzezny, Commissioners Carter and Swartz were able to have lunch with her. In the afternoon, she met with some staff in the Moses Lake office.

She was able to share some insight as to what is happening at the state level.

Public Health Standards Report - There will be some training in September. The Standards happens every 2 years. The District has started to meet to begin working on the report. In the future the results may factor in towards national accreditation. It may also affect funding in the future.

Proposed Legislative Agenda- Due to the Pertussis outbreak, no report is available.

Flu Season Update - On Saturday, September 11 the Health District will be conducting a flu clinic at the Emergency Preparedness Fair. We are also promoting the QVMC flu clinic being held during Farmer-Consumer Awareness Days in Quincy as well as a Senior Expo event on September 18.

One role of Public Health is connecting people with health care. We are also offering flu shots at our immunization clinics in Ephrata and Moses Lake.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Washington State Hospital Association have approved a motion to have hospitals mandate flu shots for their Healthcare Workers.

Discussion was held on whether or not the Health District wanted to adopt a similar motion. After discussion, a motion was made to recommend that Healthcare Workers be required to get flu shots (M/S Carter/Sands - unanimous).

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT - Carol Schimke

Personal Health Updates - Back to school immunization clinics have been held in Ephrata and Moses Lake.

Ms. Schimke handed out a report on DOH Notifiable Communicable Diseases. It covered the time frame from January through August 2010. In the near future, a quarterly newsletter including notifiable conditions data will be sent to Healthcare Providers.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Monthly Report - The Board received the monthly report for August inspections which is normally a busy month with the Grant County Fair. The staff also completed 90 other inspections during the month.

Perkins Restaurant Update - Mr. Campbell reviewed the last inspection held at Perkins Restaurant. Mr. Ketchel accompanied Ms. McCoy to the re-inspection visit. The main issue is the refrigeration units which have not been working properly. The restaurant has contacted another refrigeration mechanic and parts are on order. If it is not able to be fixed properly, new units may need to be purchased.

Presentation on Food Inspection Reports on Website - Mr. Ketchel and Ms. Rutherford demonstrated how to look up food inspections on the Health District's website. They were reminded that only inspections which have occurred since August 1, 2010 will be available.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Pertussis - There have been four (4) cases to date. This disease has an attack rate of 90% and is quite infectious. There is a low mortality rate in adults but a high mortality rate in infants, particularly under one month old. There has been one death so far in a 22 day old infant. He was diagnosed on August 24 and passed away 2 days later at Children's Hospital in Seattle.

Since 2005 there has been a steady increase in Pertussis cases due in part to declining immunization rates. As the child gets older, the immunity goes down. At least 1 time in your life, you need a booster immunization.

There are four (4) cases currently being evaluated. There have been no confirmed links at this time so it is technically not considered an outbreak. We have been promoting the vaccine to healthcare workers, schools, etc.

The ICS (Incident Command System) has been activated. Daily morning meetings are being held in the Moses Lake Office. Alerts and press releases have been sent as well as communication with the jail, schools and media.

Hepatitis A - There has been a food worker who has contracted Hepatitis A. They have been excluded from their position until they are no longer contagious.

Giardia, Campylobacter, Salmonella Report - These are common food borne illnesses which have also been reported to the District and have been investigated.

TB Update - There have been nine (9) cases. In August, there was a confirmed diagnosis of active TB and the patient is currently on proper therapy.

Isolation Order - An isolation order was delivered on Saturday to a Pertussis case. If they do not comply, a petition to the court will be made.

West Nile Virus - There have been no human cases in Washington State this year. No reports in mammals or birds have been made as well. Out of 102 mosquito pools, 96 have tested positive.

VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending August 31, 2010 totaling $139,008.88 (#1 - #7 totaling $122,296.13 and (#8 - #45 totaling $16,712.75) were approved (M/S Stevens/Carter – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS – None

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. (M/S Stevens/Carter - unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

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Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

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Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer