

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

2009 Grant County Health District Report Grant County Board of Health (February 2010)

Grant County Board of Health (Governing Body):

- 6 Elected local city/town representatives
- 3 County Commissioners

Health District Management:

Health Officer/Agency Director: Alexander L. Brzezny, MD, MPH
 Administrator (also Director of Personal Health Services): Peggy Grigg, RN, BSN
 Director of Environmental Health Services: Gerald Campbell, RS
 Administrative Services Manager: Pattie Anderson

Health District Staffing:

- 6 Public Health Associates (support staff) – 3 bilingual
- 5 Public Health Nurses (4.4 FTE) plus 2 temporary nurses for H1N1 vaccination season
- 2 Bilingual Personal Health Staff (1 Social Worker, 1 Outreach Worker)
- 2 Other Personal Health staff (1 Health Educator, 1 Assessment and Response Coordinator)
- 4 Environmental Health Specialists (3.6 FTE) – 1 bilingual
- 3 Exempt staff: Accounting Clerk, Moses Lake Office Supervisor, Vital Records/IT.

	2010 Projection	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
FTE	23 current	24	24.6	25	27.2	23.8
EMPLOYEES	26 current	27	28	28	30	25
BUDGET (\$ in millions)	2.008	2.003	2.011	1.962	1.865	1.727
REVENUES						
Federal	20%	20%	18%	23%	23%	27%
State	24%	24%	26%	17%	20%	19%
County and City	11%	10%	12%	11%	11%	10%
Other Government	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%
Permits	25%	26%	24%	27%	28%	23%
Fees	12%	12%	12%	14%	11%	13%
EXPENDITURES						
Salaries/Benefits	86%	86%	84%	84%	84%	78%
All Others	14%	14%	16%	15%	16%	22%

2009 HIGHLIGHTS More specific program information is available in Environmental Health and Personal Health Division reports.

Community Health Assessment:

- Biennial assessment report was completed and presented to Grant County Board of Health. It can be viewed at: <http://www.granthealth.org/content/PH/2008AssessmentReportpublic.pdf>
- National Children’s Study is set to include Grant County in 2011.
- Assessment Coordinator responds to community-based data requests as well as internal needs for program evaluation support.

Communication with Public and Stakeholders:

- Over 50 releases and alerts have been sent to schools, healthcare, public media, and others.
- Plans to train staff on the agency’s communications plan in early 2010.
- Plans to train back-up staff to provide updates via GCHD website.
- A workshop was held for Group B water system operators to discuss program changes.
- A workshop was held for septic system designer and installers to discuss current issues.

Community Involvement:

- Oral health coalition involving multiple agencies within the community is facilitated by GCHD.
- Most recent varicella response protocol was developed in conjunction with school nurses.
- GCHD has collaborated with hospital districts in assuring immunization access.
- Community agencies and Grant County Hospital District #7 (Royal City) have collaborated to facilitate additional printings of the Health District’s *Resources for Families* booklets.
- GCHD participates in Big Bend Community College’s Nursing Advisory Committee.

Monitoring and Reporting Threats to the Public’s Health:

- Extensive community-wide surveillance was implemented during the H1N1 influenza season.

Planning for and Responding to Public Health Emergencies:

- Plans for all staff training by Grant County Emergency Management Operations Center in early 2010, in conjunction with Emergency Response Plan review for staff.
- Changes to GCHD Emergency Response Plan include: all calls are processed according to established protocol, use of (automated) SECURES system for contacting staff, use of GCHD intranet for staff communications, and “Survey Monkey” can be used to assist in evaluating responses, both internally and with external partners.
- Incident Command procedures have been used during H1N1 activities.
- GCHD Response Team will resume meetings in February, after suspending its “every other month” meetings during the H1N1 vaccination activities.
- Grant County Healthcare Emergencies Alliance meetings have been led by the Health Officer, 4 phone meetings and 1 in-person meeting.
- Emergency was officially declared during H1N1 to allow enhanced use of community resources, specifically paramedics as vaccinators.
- Moses Lake office has closed part-time to allow staff to participate in H1N1 vaccination program; the current plan is to re-open full-time as of March 1.

Prevention and Education:

- GCHD continues oral health prevention education, injury prevention, nutrition education, food handler education programs.

- Food handler education has been expanded to include the Grant County juvenile center.

Helping Communities Address Gaps in Critical Health Services:

- GCHD assures distribution of *Resources for Families* booklets to appropriate venues.
- Staff participate in community-level groups including Community Resource Forum, Head Start Health and Safety Advisory Committee, Interagency Coordinating Council, addressing service needs for specific populations.
- Staff provide referrals for services through HIV case management and Children with Special Health Care Needs care coordination programs.
- HIV case manager was instrumental in bringing trainings to Grant County for healthcare providers to enhance ability of care providers to address specific HIV-related issues.
- ABCD program addresses referrals for children to oral care providers.
- GCHD conducted immunization project in Royal City through funding provided by Grant County Hospital District #7.
- Cities are offered the opportunity to fund community-based prevention activities.

Program Planning and Evaluation:

- Health care providers have been surveyed regarding H1N1 response. Feedback received has been used to guide future processes.
- GCHD staff has been surveyed regarding internal H1N1 response. Feedback received has been used to guide processes.
- A customer evaluation survey is in process.
- Immunization Quality Improvement project has successfully improved immunization rates among 6th graders.

Financial and Management Systems:

- The Washington State Auditor's office conducted the 2007-2008 audit for *Accountability for Public Resources and Legal Compliance*, and evaluated payroll, permits and licensing, contracts and agreement, and had no findings or management letter items. There were 3 exit items related to permitting processes, which have been remediated (recording permit numbers on receipts, pre-numbering temporary permits, and justifying the accuracy of the permit database at least annually).
- A contracts inventory / monitoring tool has been developed.

Human Resource Systems:

- New Employee orientation protocol continues to be modified as appropriate.
- All-Staff meetings have included trainings on social determinants of health (*Unnatural Consequences* videos: one session remains).
- Payroll has changed from once to twice monthly.

Information Systems:

- Training on Access database for identified staff has taken place for use in specified programs.
- Staff have used a locally tailored intranet application to communicate between offices.

Leadership and Governance:

- Orientation process developed for new Board of Health members.
- Strategic decisions based on agency priorities included continuance of nutrition education and immunization programs.

- In the area of Quality Improvement, the food handler education program was evaluated and appropriate modifications were made, to assure that the course and the testing process are made available in communities while reducing the opportunities for people to cheat on the test.

Jefferson (“Jeff”) Ketchel has been hired as administrator of the Health District. He will be starting in Mid-February. I feel assured that Jeff is well-equipped for this job and will bring many assets to this job, based on his Master’s level educational preparation and 15 years of varied public health experiences in Washington (Public Health Seattle-King County). Options for supervisory structure within the Personal Health division are currently being evaluated.

Thank you for the opportunity I have had in working with the Board of Health, our community and especially with staff who are passionate about keeping Grant County safer and healthier.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Grigg, BSN, RN
Administrator, Grant County Health District