

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, April 26, 2012 was called to order by Councilmember Amber Waldref, Chair, at 12:32 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Mark Richard
Councilmember Jon Snyder
Councilmember Amber Waldref, Chair
Mayor Tom Towey
Mayor Tom Trulove
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN

ABSENT

Commissioner Al French
Commissioner Todd Mielke
Councilmember Ben Stuckart
Councilmember Chuck Hafner
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH

CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Waldref

The 21st Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony was held last week at the agency. Chair Waldref recognized and thanked all the staff for their many years of service at the Health District.

Dr. Lutz and the BOH Education & Communications Committee are developing a portion of the BOH website to allow hosting of the Board agenda materials. The site would replace the email packets that are currently sent.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Joel McCullough, MD, MPH, MS (12:35)

State Budget Update

The State Legislative special session ended earlier this month with agreement on a supplemental budget and no reductions in state flexible funding that support local public health jurisdictions. The public health flexible funding levels are \$16 million, \$10 million for the blue ribbon commission funds, and \$48 million for the motor vehicle excise tax replacement funds. Funds were reduced at the Department of Health, Environmental Public Health (DOH EPH). More specifics about those cuts will be forthcoming.

Legislative Update

The legislature has kept \$1.7 million dollars in the budget to maintain the Tobacco Quit line to insure adults without insurance will be able to take advantage of the quit line.

The bill that would have allowed cigar bars was defeated. The bill would have allowed for indoor smoking in Washington State.

Earlier this year, the Board sent a letter to legislators asking that the volunteer providers insurance be reinstated. The legislature reinstated the insurance for volunteer providers.

The WSU/UW Medical School received the remaining \$37 million to complete the capital project ensuring a four year medical school will continue.

Maxillofacial Program Update

Additional funding for the Maxillofacial program was secured until the end of April. The program will transition to the Northwest Foundation for Maxillofacial Research and Education. The local foundation is led by Dr. Paxton, a leading oral surgeon in the area, and provides grants to organizations and causes. It has provided funding to support the agency program for the last several months.

Drug Take-Back Program

A flyer provided in the agenda packet announces a drug take-back event on April 28th from 10am until 2pm in the Spokane Valley Police building parking lot. The event is sponsored by the Spokane Valley Police and the Spokane County Sheriff's Departments. The Health District assisted in the development of the flyer and publication of the event.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Update

Pertussis has reached epidemic levels in Washington State with most of the cases on the eastside of the state. DOH reported over 1000 cases in the state with cases possibly reaching 3000 by the end of the year—the highest level in 6 decades. Seventy-one infants have been diagnosed with pertussis and 18 have been hospitalized. In Spokane County, 16 possible cases are being investigated with 7 already confirmed. SRHD efforts include: sending provider alerts informing of proper diagnosis and treatment, communicating with schools, and providing media interviews.

Stickman Knows Emphasis Patrols

The Stickman Knows Campaign has provided funds for police officer overtime on pedestrian emphasis patrols in smaller communities in Spokane County. Three jurisdictions have successfully completed their patrols. A total of 156 infractions were issued to motorists for failing to yield to pedestrians. Articles were written in the Spokesman and Cheney Free Press on the campaign.

School-Based Health Care Center Opening

A flyer is included in the agenda packet announcing the opening of a school-based health care center at Sunset Elementary School in Airway Heights. Board Members are invited to attend.

Coal Transportation through Spokane County

Coal will be mined from Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming and transported by train along the BNSF rail lines through Sandpoint, Idaho and Spokane to the coast. The concerns to public health are diesel particulates from the trains, coal dust, noise with increased rail traffic, and delayed emergency response vehicles because of long trains at rail crossings.

The Army Corp of Engineers, the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) and Whatcom County have been identified as co-lead agencies for the project. The project being reviewed is from Pacific International and BSNF. The lead agencies have agreed to work under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to determine the environmental impact. Whatcom County will be responsible for reviewing the project for compliance with the SEPA and will be the administrative lead. DOE will be reviewing the regional and statewide effects associated with the project and the Army Corp will be responsible for NEPA compliance. There is a 60 to 90 day comment period for the project scoping process that begins this summer for any stakeholder, citizen, or local agencies to provide input on the environmental impact statement.

Councilmember Snyder requested the Board draft a letter or resolution asking to be included in the environmental impact study area (EIS).

Mayor Trulove requested the City of Cheney be given consideration in any EIS because of emergency vehicles and access across rail lines, since BNSF rail runs through main portions of the City of Cheney. Dr. McCullough stated the issue has been brought up by several jurisdictions across the state.

Dr. McCullough will keep the Board informed and notified when it can take action as the project process moves forward.

Councilmember Snyder requested an update of the SEPA and NEPA timeline when it is available.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consists of items considered routine which are approved as a group. Any member of the Board may request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately.

Meeting Minutes: March 22, 2012

2012 Vouchers paid March 1-31, 2012

Voucher Numbers: #220350 - #B&OFEB12			\$ 464,451.90
Payroll Warrants: #751176 - #751202	Advice Numbers: #DD15597 - #DD15798		631,945.59
Payroll Warrants: #753023 - #753051	Advice Numbers: #DD15799 - #DD15996		610,884.29
	TOTAL		\$1,707,281.78

Motion: To approve the consent agenda including meeting minutes and vouchers as presented.

Motion/Second: Snyder/Richard

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

Health Equity Report – Adrian Dominguez (1:09)

Adrian Dominguez, Epidemiologist in the Disease Prevention and Response Division, gave the third of four presentations to the Board on Health Equity. Kim Papich, Public Information Officer, reported on an interview with a family regarding race, ethnicity and its impacts. Race and ethnicity is included in the health equity report because episodes of racism and discrimination cause high levels of chronic stress which creates long term health conditions.

Councilmember Snyder thanked the agency for the recent Pacific NW Inlander article about Health Equity and asked how policy and resources could be targeted to address the issue. Mr. Dominguez stated it may 10 to 20 years to correct health inequity issues and it will require a long-term commitment from agencies to correct the issue. Developing policy, involving community partners, and engaging affected population are all ways to address change.

Councilmember Waldref recognized that Mr. Dominguez's work has influenced Priority Spokane's effort to affect graduation rates in Spokane County and is being used by the Spokane public schools to address the issue.

At the June BOH meeting, the Board will be presented with recommendations for affecting change and will discuss next steps.

Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Report – Kyle Unland (1:34)

Kyle Unland, Health Promotion Division Director, reported on the Community Transformation Grant and provided a fact sheet to Board members. The grant focuses on healthy eating, active living, preventative health care services and tobacco free living. DOH applied for the grant during the summer of 2011. As part of the application, 11 counties were selected to participate in the process with Spokane being a part of those 11. DOH was awarded a grant in the fall of 2011 with \$3.2 million allocated in the first year. One million dollars has been allocated to each of the 11 counties. Other funds are to support statewide efforts and partnerships. Spokane has received \$250,000 dollars to date to begin the planning, training and implementation of the grant. SRHD is researching ways to determine and implement

activities which will address the 4 priority areas with a portion of that research provided by the Health Inequities report.

2011 End-of-Year Report – Mike Riley (1:43)

Mike Riley, SRHD Comptroller, presented the 2011 end-of-year budget report explaining 2011 budget results, budget comparison to previous years, and the status of the fund balance. The district expended 96% of budgeted expenditures and 96% of budgeted revenues. Administration expenses exceeded expected budget due to unfilled agency staff positions, which decreased the indirects to the division. Savings in other divisions resulted in only \$103,607 of the budgeted \$500,000 in reserves to be used in 2011. The actual undesignated reserve fund balance at the end of 2011 was \$4,150,921, which is 19% of the annual budget. Despite reductions in revenue, the agency has remained a \$21 to \$23 million agency from 2006 to 2011 with 220-230 FTEs. For 2012, the agency is expected to use \$304,775 of its reserves bringing the total to \$3,845,146 million. In 2011, the auditors praised the agency for being financially sound.

Councilmember Snyder asked if the agency has a policy that determines reserve balance limits. Mr. Riley stated there is no policy at the moment, but the Budget and Financial Committee has discussed having one.

Commissioner Richard requested information, which highlights trends for revenue and expenditures, including the reserves, back to 2000. The document will be emailed to Board members.

Councilmember Waldref will inform Councilmember Stuckart of the Board conversation regarding a reserve policy and will ask that he discuss it at an upcoming BOH Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN (1:57)

Spokane Regional Transportation Commission (SRTC) – Councilmember Jon Snyder

Councilmember Snyder proposed the possibility of a Board of Health representative serving on the SRTC Technical Committee. In order for the SRTC to move forward on the position, it will need a formal request from the BOH. Dr. McCullough and Kyle Unland met with the SRTC Director to express the agency's interest in participating on the committee and were informed the SRTC Board would need to approve the possible position first. Commissioner Richard, who serves on the board, will bring the matter forward to the SRTC Board.

Transforming Washington Communities - Mayor Trulove

Mayor Trulove reported on the Transforming Washington Communities effort in Cheney and stated the strategic plan has just been completed. Cheney has pioneered projects and now has grants to help fund work.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on May 24, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

APPROVED: Chen Waldref, Chair Date: 5/24/12
Board Member Name and Title

Ann Fitzgibbon
Recording Secretary