

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **May 25, 2017** was called to order by Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair, at 12:32 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair  
Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Josh Kerns (arrived 12:37pm)  
Councilmember Lori Kinnear  
Councilmember Breean Beggs  
Councilmember Mike Munch  
Board Member Chuck Hafner  
Board Member Susan Boysen, EdD, RN

#### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Al French  
Councilmember Karen Stratton  
Councilmember Sam Wood

#### **CITIZEN INPUT**

- Kayloni Bonner, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke about immunizations and research that led her not to immunize her children any longer. She asked the Board to consider the perspective of those who don't vaccinate their children. She also asked for the medical community to understand that non-vaccinators care about their health and to listen to their perspective.
- Kebby Johnson, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke on immunizations and asked the Board to consider the perspective of non-vaccinators and to do their own research.
- Jacklyn Gallion, Spokane Valley, WA – Spoke on exclusions at other schools and another suicide at a school affected by exclusions. She stated that Central Valley School District reported it had never been ordered to exclude students during outbreaks before. If either student suicide was related to the exclusion policy, then the Spokane Regional Health District policy has resulted in more deaths in four months than mumps have caused in 40 years. She stated she has submitted an emergency petition to the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) to suspend the policy. She requested the Executive Committee of the BOH (ECBOH) or the Board to offer and pass a motion to add the Spokane parents as an agenda item and provide a reasonable time to present their case, ask, and answer questions. In addition, she requested an additional citizen input time be added to the end of each meeting so citizens can comment without having to wait until the next meeting. She stated she opposes the motion to change the SRHD bylaws permitting the non-elected citizens at-large to serve as officials. The public has no redress if they disagree with the opinion and votes. She stated it is questionable whether they should be voting members. She requested a working group to consider changing the citizen at-large appointments to elected positions to allow a broader range of perspectives on the BOH. Per the bylaws article IV, paragraph IX, she requested that the board pass a non-binding recommendation in support of Spokane parents to suspend the exclusion policy and direct schools to return the proven safe and effective infectious notification letter system. She also stated the mumps page of the SRHD website had not been update since May 4.
- Jennifer Burrows, Spokane City, WA – Spoke about her concerns related to the school exclusions and the impacts to her three nephews. The exclusions have a scholastic and emotional impact on the students. The students were fully active members of the community and only excluded from school.

The policies place an importance on childhood diseases when there are more dangerous diseases that have no vaccines and do not require school exclusions. She asked that the BOH reevaluate its policy.

- Rose Marie Waldrem-Larsen, Greenacres, WA – Spoke on the attempts to fluoridate the region’s water supplies. Fluoridation may be considered again and is why she is speaking to BOH. She noted some fluorides are used in vaccines.
- Danielle Loft, Spokane County, WA –Spoke on the hardships that families endure with children who suffer from asthma, which she believes is a known side effect of vaccines. She encouraged the BOH to conduct research by reaching out to parents who have children affected by the side effects of vaccinations. She asked the BOH to allow parents to make their own medical choices for their families.
- Dena Tucker, Spokane County, WA – Spoke on the choice to not immunize her children and the effect that the exclusion order has had on her children. She questioned why the school superintendent was not in communication with the health officer about the exclusion policy rollout. She stated she did not believe the state had the right to force immunization by holding a child’s education hostage. She questioned how the policy is not discriminatory since the vaccinated population is contracting the disease and is still known to be at risk for the disease. She requested the Board create a forum to have questions answered.

#### **CHAIR REPORT – Mayor Kevin Freeman**

The Administrator Evaluation Plan has been tabled until a new BOH Vice Chair has been selected and has become acquainted with their role.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

##### Mumps Update – Malia Nogle, Disease Prevention and Response

There have been 327 confirmed and probable cases of mumps in Spokane County. There have been 845 cases statewide with 2,400 people investigated during the outbreak. North Pines and North Central schools remain on exclusion. North Pines will end exclusion today and North Central on June 5. There is a lag in reporting complications statewide. As of today, there has been one case of meningitis, 22 cases of orchitis, three cases of mastitis, nine cases of hearing loss, one case of pancreatitis and two hospitalizations statewide.

##### Vax Expo – Malia Nogle, Disease Prevention and Response

On May 17, 2017, the Inaugural Vax Expo was held at the Lincoln Center. Over 140 attendees and exhibitors attended the event. Two panels and two sessions featured eight local subject matter experts and one renowned Centers for Disease Control (CDC) physician addressing areas such as vaccine hesitancy, vaccine storage and handling, vaccine administration, and implementing best practices. Commissioner O’Quinn opened the event. All feedback received from attendees was positive.

##### Emergency Response Exercise – Malia Nogle, Disease Prevention and Response

On May 17, 2017, a full-scale emergency response exercise was held at Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC). The purpose was to test capabilities of the new pathogens unit and the emergency operations capabilities of many regional partners to respond to the transport of a patient with highly infectious disease. Participants included: American Medical Response (AMR), Greater Spokane Emergency Management, Providence SHMC, Spokane Police Department, Spokane Fire Department, the State Department of Health, Spokane International Airport, Life Flight, the City of Spokane, National Ebola Training and Education Center, the Department of Health and Human Services, and SRHD.

SRHD Health Officer – Torney Smith, Administrator

The Health Officer Selection Committee has selected Dr. Bob Lutz as the new SRHD Health Officer. He has resigned from the BOH and will begin officially with the district on June 16. He is currently on an intermittent basis with the district until then. Dr. Artzis was thanked for his assistance as the interim health officer.

Computer Security – Torney Smith, Administrator

The agency has kept current with computer upgrades and has not been affected by the Wanna Cry virus that has infected 300,000 computers worldwide. The agency had a security assessment completed recently which included a phishing exercise that 42% of staff failed. Staff will continue to improve on computer security within the agency.

Emerging Leaders in Public Health Grant Award – Torney Smith, Administrator

The agency has received a grant from the Kresge Foundation, which provides 18 months training and focus on health equity. The award totals \$125,000.

Mumps After Action Review – Torney Smith, Administrator

SRHD will hold a mumps after action review this summer, which will include meeting with school superintendents. BOH members are welcomed to participate.

Airway Heights Drinking Water Issue – Torney Smith, Administrator

SRHD was requested by former Spokane County Commissioner Todd Mielke to act as the educational sponsor for the water issue in Airway Heights. SRHD staff have met with Airway Heights and Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB) officials and provided consultation with the community. SRHD will continue providing education to the community on the matter.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist**

Latest bills currently being monitored by SRHD were included in the BOH agenda packet. The legislature has gone into its second special session. Active bills are related to the state budget. Public health will continue to ask for support for foundational public health services.

**COMPROLLER REPORT – Mike Riley, Comptroller**

Auditors are expected to finish the audit next week and a report is expected by next month’s meeting. The BOH Budget and Finance Committee met last week to review the SRHD Fee Policy.

**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: April 27, 2017

2017 Vouchers paid: April 1 -30, 2017

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Voucher Numbers:	#242591 - #242863 and EFT B&OAMar2017	\$ 1,038,142.02
Payroll Warrants:	#962980 - #962996	
	Advice Numbers: #DD39135 - #DD339349	\$738,446.94
Payroll Warrants:	#964692 - #964699 #965577 - #965586	
	Advice Numbers: #DD339350 - #DD39567	\$708,560.72
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,485,149.68</b>

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

***Motion/Second: Hafner/O'Quinn***

***Approved: Unanimously***

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The BOH adjourned at 1:14pm for 15 minutes for an executive session pursuant to RCW §42.30.110(1)(i) and RCW §42.30.110(1)(g). The Chair requested Michelle Fossum, Torney Smith, and Sue Winters remain for the session.

#### **MEETING RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened at 1:34pm. No action was taken.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### Spokane Regional Health District Health Officer Employment and Compensation

Dr. Bob Lutz has been selected as the SRHD health officer. The administrator requested confirmation of his appointment and salary. The chair thanked the administrator, executive leadership team, and Councilmember Beggs for their work on the selection panel.

Mayor Freeman made a motion to confirm Dr. Bob Lutz as the SRHD health officer at a Step 4 salary of \$83.48 an hour. Commissioner O'Quinn seconded the motion.

***Motion: To approve Dr. Bob Lutz as the SRHD health officer at a Step 4 salary of \$83.48 an hour.***

***Motion/Second: Freeman/O'Quinn***

***Approved: Unanimously***

##### Resolution #17-05 Amending the SRHD Board of Health Bylaws to Allow Non-Elected Board Members to Serve in the Chair and Vice Chair Positions – Councilmember Beggs

The request was brought forward due to the upcoming vice chair vacancy. Members with the most experience on the Board are non-elected members. Vice chair positions typically succeed the chair and devote a minimum of ten hours a month working at the district.

Councilmember Kinnear made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner O'Quinn seconded the motion.

Councilmember Munch noted public concern over lack of recourse if the public or businesses are unhappy with the chair. He stated it was important to maintain public oversight of the Board.

Commissioner O'Quinn spoke in favor of the motion noting the amount of boards and commissions elected officials are required to serve on. Other members who have the time and expertise are not allowed to lead; even though, no decision can be made without the vote of the Board, which the majority of positions on the BOH are elected officials. She noted that even if the three non-elected members voted as a block, the elected officials still outnumber the non-elected members. The non-elected members bring an expertise when elected officials have general experience.

***Motion: To approve Resolution #17-05 Amending the SRHD Board of Health Bylaws to Allow Non-Elected Board Members to Serve in the Chair and Vice Chair Positions***

***Motion/Second: Kinnear/O'Quinn***

***Approved: 6 yea/1 nay (Munch)***

#### Election of BOH Vice Chair

Councilmember Kinnear nominated Board Member Hafner as BOH Vice Chair. Board Member Boysen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Kerns nominated Councilmember Munch. Councilmember Beggs seconded the motion.

There were no other nominations. Two members were in favor of Councilmember Munch (Kerns/Munch). Six members were in favor of Board Member Hafner (Beggs, Hafner, O'Quinn, Freeman, Kinnear, Boysen)

***Motion: To approve Board Member Hafner as the BOH Vice Chair.***

***Motion/Second: Kinnear/Boysen***

***Approved: Six members were in favor of Board Member Hafner (Beggs, Hafner, O'Quinn, Freeman, Kinnear, Boysen). Two members were in favor of Councilmember Munch (Kerns/Munch).***

#### Recognition of Outgoing Board of Health Members– Mayor Freeman

Mayor Freeman recognized outgoing BOH Vice Chair, Commissioner O'Quinn, who is leaving the Board to become the CEO of the Inland Northwest Community Foundation.

Mayor Freeman recognized former BOH member Dr. Bob Lutz who left the Board to become the SRHD Health Officer.

#### **REPORTS**

##### Status of 24/7 Shelter – Councilmember Beggs

The City of Spokane's guaranteed beds for the homeless ended in April. There are currently other shelters, but not enough for the entire area. The City of Spokane, Spokane Valley and Spokane County are in discussions about meeting the needs for the area's homeless. The community spends over \$7 million a year housing unsheltered people. A spreadsheet is being developed that shows the cost breakdown for services in the community. The City of Spokane is eager for funds from other local jurisdictions. The City of Spokane has the most shelters, but shelters people from all the jurisdictions.

There are plans to build permanent shelters by 2021. Depending upon the services being sought, the funding gap is approximately \$500,000 a year. There is space for the unsheltered population, but no funding for staffing. Most Spokane County's 1/10<sup>th</sup> mental health funding goes to housing resources for individuals with mental health struggles. The City of Spokane and Spokane County have been working closely on regional initiatives and hope to continue the effort.

#### **BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN**

##### Red Cross Emergency Management Work – Councilmember Munch

Councilmember Munch is collaborating on emergency management work with the Red Cross, which will be brought forward to the BOH with it has been completed.

##### City of Spokane Fire Chief – Councilmember Kinnear

Councilmember Kinnear announced that Mayor Condon appointed Brad Schaeffer as the new fire chief who will be confirmed by Spokane City Council on June 5.

##### Alert Spokane – Commissioner O'Quinn

Spokane County held a press conference to announce the new Alert Spokane. The program switched vendors, which will provide greater ability to connect to those in the community. For nationwide notice of emergencies, download the Code Red app. Those without an iPhone can register on AlertSpokane.org to register a primary phone number or email. The public is encouraged to sign up.

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on June 29, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

APPROVED:  Chair Date: June 29, 2017  
Board Member Name and Title

  
Recording Secretary