

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, July 28, 2011 was called to order by Councilmember Dave Crump, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Councilmember Steve Corker
Councilmember Amber Waldref (arrived at 12:31 p.m.)
Councilmember Bill Gothmann
Councilmember David Crump, Chair
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC (arrived at 12:42 p.m.)
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN

ABSENT

Commissioner Al French
Commissioner Todd Mielke
Commissioner Mark Richard
Mayor Mary Verner, Vice Chair
Mayor Tom Towey

CITIZEN INPUT

- Tim Steiner, 116 N 6th Cheney, WA spoke on the Stork Program that SRHD started 14 years ago, which later became the Safe Kids Coalition/Spokane County Child Passenger Safety Team. He shared concerns about discussions of another agency taking the program over. He invited Board Members to attend the next community check on August 15th at the Spokane Valley Kmart.
- Caroline Pickett, Spokane, WA spoke on the dangers of CFL bulbs and the NACCHO/NALBOH accreditation program.
- Rose Marie Waldrem, Greenacres, WA spoke on fluoridation experiments, water fluoridation, immunizations and CFL light bulb mercury dangers and last month's Health Officer Report on drug disposal.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Crump, Chair

There will be an Executive Session in Room 350 for 30 minutes to discuss upcoming and ongoing union negotiations. Board action is not expected from that discussion.

Board Members were reminded to visit a SRHD division or agency meeting this year.

Board Member Norwood was wished a safe journey to Africa on Saturday.

Spokane County Commissioners are on vacation. Dr. McCullough has kept commissioners apprised of today's agenda items.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Joel McCullough, MD, MPH, MS

Drug Take-Back Program

At the last meeting, the Health District was asked to seek models for a drug take-back program such as the Snohomish County model. Staff researched Snohomish County and other programs. In Snohomish County, the Drug Take-Back Program is a cooperative effort between the Snohomish County Regional Drug Taskforce, the solid waste agency, and the county public health agency, which formed a Snohomish County partnership in 2009 for secure medicine disposal. It currently has 27 law enforcement sites where medications are dropped off. The project is funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology through the Coordinated Prevention Grant Program.

Spokane has only 4 sites and none accept controlled substances. There is a significant need in the county, but there is a challenge identifying resources to fund and coordinate the program. A state legislative effort to have the pharmaceutical industry partly fund drug take-back programs was defeated. It is hoped it will be reintroduced in the next legislative session.

Board discussion:

- Councilmember Crump expressed law enforcement involvement made sense because of controlled substances, but questioned whether emergency preparedness plans were in place to meet the needs of those who require medications. Answer) Such emergency preparedness plans have been established with the WSU School of Pharmacy several years ago.
- Board Member Fisk asked how drugs were received by the Snohomish Drug Take-Back program and is it possible to request such a disposal method from law enforcement in the county. Answer) At 27 locations, there were built-in containers where medicines could be dropped off. The thought is that law enforcement in the county would be receptive to having containers for disposal. There would need to be additional resources to purchase and transport containers of the waste to the incinerator.
- Board Member Fisk requested the agency approach law enforcement to determine if they are receptive to a program and then consider the costs.

CDC Investigation

The CDC will be investigating a bowel disease found in premature infants called Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) which involves a thickening agent called SimplyThick® pulled from shelves 2 months ago. SRHD is working on the investigation logistics.

Board Discussion:

- Councilmember Gothmann asked if there were any concerns the public should have relative to the investigation. Answer) The product was pulled from shelves by the FDA; therefore, there are no longer any potential exposures and no action needed by the public.

Community Transformation Grant

The Health District has applied for a Community Transformation Grant. Healthcare legislation passed last year provided for funding prevention in public health. Because of the nature of the requirements, the Health District applied with the State of Washington. The grant specifically

addresses issues like tobacco, nutrition, physical activity and clinical preventive services. If successful, the district will receive approximately \$500,000. Notifications of the award will be given by September 1st.

Board discussion:

- Councilmember Crump asked who the fiscal agent was for the grant. Answer) The grant is awarded by the CDC with funding coming through the state to the agency.

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 June 23, 2011

Vouchers 2009 A/P paid June 1-30, 2011

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the June 23, 2011 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Gothmann/Corker

Approved: Unanimously

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, payroll warrants, and those other claims as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board. Time frame of claims: June 1 through June 30, 2011. The Board, in a vote as moved by Councilmember Gothmann and seconded by Councilmember Corker, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following list and further described in the total amount of \$2,066,116.73.

Voucher Numbers:	#210867	-	#B&OMay11	\$ 772,783.10
Payroll Warrants:	#715366	-	#715410	665,693.66
Advice Numbers	#DD11894	-	#DD12100	
Payroll Warrants:	#718078	-	#718119	627,639.97
Advice Numbers:	#DD12101	-	#DD12308	
			TOTAL	\$2,066,116.73

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described in the total amount of \$2,066,116.73.

Motion/Second: Gothmann/Corker

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #11-04 – Adopting the 2012 Health District Fee Schedule – Mike Riley

Mike Riley, Comptroller, presented the 2012 fee schedule. All agency divisions reviewed the fee policy approved last month and fees costs for next year to determine recommendations for 2012 fees. Executive Leadership Team approved the fees and sent it for review by the Executive Committee of the Board of Health last week.

Board discussion:

- Councilmember Crump asked if any fee increases are a potential severe impact to vulnerable populations. Answer) There were no concerns by the Executive Leadership Team or the Executive Committee of the Board of Health.
- Councilmember Crump stated the goal of the fees is to recover as close as possible to 100% of costs.
- Board Member Fisk asked for the overall fee increase percentage for the agency. Answer) Mr. Riley stated an overall agency percentage number has not been determined and he will calculate the percentage and report the results to the Board.
- Councilmember Waldref stated there was discussion earlier this year regarding the temporary food establishment permit fees and she has heard concerns from several members of the public about those permits. Next year, she would like the agency to review the cost for issuing those permits.
- Councilmember Crump shared that when he met with Cheney representatives, agency staff and other Board Members, there was dialogue on the different costs and how staff was trying to reduce costs for establishments. It would be beneficial to have a presentation to educate Board Members.
- Councilmember Waldref offered to bring forward concerns from the community regarding food permits. She will also educate herself on the fee process and bring the information to the Board for discussion in the spring of next year before the summer season starts.

Motion: To approve Resolution #11-04 adopting the 2012 Health District Fee Schedule.

Motion/Second: Corker/Gothmann

Approved: Unanimously

PHAB Accreditation Efforts - Torney Smith

Torney Smith, Spokane Regional Health District Administrator, updated the Board on efforts to obtain Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation. The agency has performed exceptionally well in the Washington State Standards. Those same standards were used for a PHAB BETA test. Since then, PHAB has updated the Standards and is in the process of establishing timelines for accreditation of agencies across the country.

A handout of the accreditation fee schedule is included in the packets. Fees were established by jurisdictional population determined by the cost for reviewers, training, and travel for visits. Those costs were divided among the total cost and number of times PHAB would be able to

review during the year. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is assisting those agencies willing to review for accreditation first. There will be a subsidy to all categories listed.

The fee for SRHD is listed in category 4 at \$44,000. The RWJF subsidy would lower the amount to approximately \$31,802. The fee can be paid through 5 installments or in advance, which will result in a cost reduction that has not yet been determined. There are dollars in the budget to cover those expenses. The recommendation would be for the agency to pay the amount in advance and save additional costs.

Board discussion:

- Councilmember Crump asked if the agency had approached PHAB about additional fee savings for being a BETA site. Answer) There is no cost benefit for any BETA site agency. PHAB did indicate BETA sites would be offered reviews first. SRHD submitted to be a BETA site, but was not selected. The Department of Health (DOH) was selected. At that time, PHAB indicated it would not adversely affect the priority of those being reviewed for Standards. Last week, Kaye Bender, PHAB CEO, stated those selected for review first will not necessarily be accredited first.
- Councilmember Gothmann stated an advantage to accreditation despite the cost is better opportunities for grants. Mr. Smith added the intent for accreditation is to provide quality improvement in public health across the nation. As that is being accomplished, CDC, HRSA, HHS and RWJF are all noticing the benefits of providing monies to accredited agencies.
- Councilmember Gothmann stated his experience while working for Eastern Washington University (EWU) and Spokane Community College (SCC), which both underwent accreditation, showed that self-study and outside agency reviews helped greatly and gave a perspective not seen inside the agency.
- Board Member Norwood questioned how long the accreditation cycle was. Answer) Agencies are required to provide an annual report of the outcomes of accreditation assessment and the identified improvement plans. The next accreditation cycle would be in 5 years.
- Board Member Fisk expressed his support and thought it was wise for the agency to prepare for the future especially for the possibility of receiving additional grant money.
- Council Member Corker stated that over the 5 year period the cost is small considering the benefits of a process that allows this agency to review itself and improve.

Motion: To move forward with PHAB accreditation efforts.

Motion/Second: Waldref/Fisk

Approved: Unanimously

Councilmember Crump asked the Board to consider the 2 options for accreditation payment that includes payment upfront pending the discount, or a 5-year payment.

Motion: To authorize the Spokane Regional Health District to pursue payment of PHAB accreditation at the lowest possible cost taking account the present value of money.

Motion/Second: Gothmann/Fisk

Approved: Unanimously

Councilmember Crump requested Administration staff report back the payment decision and account paid from. Torney stated information will be shared as soon as PHAB has publicized all the pending materials and the agency has submitted a letter of intent and discussed fees. This may not occur before the next Board meeting, but is expected in the near future.

REPORTS

Health of Spokane River – Mike LaScuola

Mike LaScuola, Technical Advisor, Environmental Public Health Division, presented an update on the Spokane River as it relates to contaminants and health risks included the attached PowerPoint printout. The referenced investigative document by the Washington State Department of Health entitled, “The Cumulative Effects of Contaminants in the Spokane River, August 2010” is available from Mr. LaScuola upon request.

Contaminant control efforts

- Spokane Regional Health District’s Local Source Control Program works with small businesses reviewing hazardous waste processes and encourages the substitution of chemicals. It is accompanied by a small business incentive program called “EnviroStars” which encourages the safe use and disposal of products.
- The City of Spokane is working to overhaul its combined sewer outfalls (CSO). The wastewater treatment plant monitors CSOs and notifies agencies of risks on the river.
- The Spokane River Forum partners with local agencies for the enhancement and protection of the Spokane River.

River restoration

- The Department of Ecology (DOE) has cleaned up high use areas identified by SRHD at Starr Road, Murray Road, Harvard Road and Flora Road. Pending sites are Barker Road, Myrtle Point and Island Lagoons. Funding has been earmarked through 2012 and cleanup will consist of capping.

Outreach efforts

- SRHD manages health information kiosks on the upper river at Stateline, Harvard Road, Starr Road and Planters Ferry Park. These advisories have been maintained since 1995. Local ethnic populations addressed are Slavic, Hispanic, Hmong and Vietnamese.

Board Discussion:

- Board Member Fisk asked where the most common PCB contaminations originate from. Answer) There are locations in Spokane County such as Kaiser-Trentwood that have very large contaminated soil and groundwater areas. Kaiser used dielectric fluids for their electrical capacity and hydraulic fluid for its rolling mill. That location is where the aquifer exchanges into the river and there is potential that the actual aquifer contaminated water on the site is making its way into the river. Another area of concern was the old industrial park. After the war, the Department of Defense (DOD) brought transformers and equipment to the site for recycling. At one time, this site had its own discharge into the river.

- Board Member Fisk questioned whether PCBs are still being produced. Answer) There are products currently being used that contain PCBs; such as, window caulking, ballasts, old electrical transformers, imported inks and magazine materials. Inland Empire Paper never had a PCB problem until the company started recycling paper. It appears that imported inks, flyers and publications are responsible. PCBs were banned in 1978, but there are still PCBs going through the recycle process and being used in imported materials.
- Board Member Fisk asked about Spokane County having the largest discharge of PBDEs in the state. Answer) Spokane is very active in testing for contaminants. It is possible that with more testing throughout the state, more contaminants would be found. There is an inordinate amount found in Spokane, though, that may have many root causes. Industry in the area has been researched, but there has not been one that distinguishes itself as having a high PBDE output.
- Councilmember Waldref commented that she worked with the Lands Council and since 2004 there has been a partnership whereby organizations could apply for DOE grant dollars for river outreach and education. The Lands Council has been the contractor for many years hiring translation services to speak with appropriate populations. It has been a good partnership with the non-profit communities and the DOH.
- Board Member Fisk questioned why mercury was not listed. Answer) Mercury is addressed, but it is not listed as a persistent contaminant because its values haven't been found in fish except in a statewide advisory for spiny ray species, specifically large and smallmouth bass. There are smallmouth bass in the river, but contaminants are not at the level of others addressed.
- Board Member Lutz asked for more information about the storm water runoff, biological contaminants and the efforts the City of Spokane has made to address the issue. Answer) The wastewater treatment plant monitors the water by occasional testing for coliform bacteria and fecal coliforms. As the Spokane River becomes more recreational, there may become a need to start additional monitoring. Currently, it doesn't seem to be warranted.
- Board Member Lutz commented that as with the incidences of food poisoning and its under reporting, it may be possible that some who recreate on the river may sometimes suffer GI distress and not report it to their providers. Answer) It may be possible that biological issues are under reported. Occasionally, there are reports of skin rashes, but these types of issues are difficult to track and are unfunded.
- Board Member Lutz commented on recent spills on waterways in the nation and asked if there were emergency preparedness plans in place within the county to address such issues. Answer) A local emergency planning committee (LEPC) is required by law under the Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act (SARA). Once a month, the LEPC meets to assure that the SARA requirements are met and emergency support functions are implemented. SRHD is involved with emergency support functions 8 and 10 with that effort. If any Board Member would like to attend a LEPC meeting, please contact Mr. LaScuola.

PhotoVoice Project Update – Rowena Pineda

Rowena Pineda, Neighborhoods Matter Program Manager, presented an update on the PhotoVoice Project for Peggy Slider, Public Health Nurse, who was ill. At the May Board of Health meeting, Sheridan School students gave a presentation identifying environmental safety concerns in the neighborhood. The crosswalks mentioned on 5th and Freya Streets, which were not clearly marked, have since been painted. The dented trash can near the bus stop on the same street was also replaced. The burned and boarded house, which the students wrote Code Enforcement about, has been demolished and removed. The Board of Health members were thanked for being responsive and for validating that students can make a difference.

Board of Health Website – Board Member Lutz

Board Member Lutz presented the Board of Health website that is still under construction. The site is public, but is password protected. Board Members were requested to send Board Member Lutz or Tony DeStefano, Programmer Analyst at the Health District, contact information, a biography, and a statement why public health is important. Once the information is received, the site and login will be available to members.

Recommendations & Guidelines Governance – Board Member Lutz

Board Member Lutz spoke about the level of recommendations that Seattle King County Board of Health enacted entitled, “Guidelines and Recommendations.” Seattle is able to pass ordinances because of its structure. Michelle Wolkey, SRHD Attorney, commented that the Health District’s Board does not generally pass ordinances because it operates under by-laws. Seattle-King County Board of Health, because they are a Health Department instead of a Health District, has operating rules which define their actions differently. Board Member Lutz stated Seattle-King County has setup the guidelines and recommendations to have more weight than a resolution and less than an ordinance. Board Member Lutz encouraged the Board Members to look at the guidelines and recommendations framework and consider possibly modifying the bylaws.

Dr. McCullough reported that he is supportive of efforts that would allow the Board of Health to have greater influence in terms of recommendations sent to municipalities. There are no additional work burdens for SRHD that would be created by the guidelines and recommendations.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK-IN

Guidelines & Recommendations & Relevant Materials – Councilmember Waldref

The STA Board hosted a consultant who helps boards in improving work and governance. That presentation information is relevant to the Guidelines and Recommendations presentation by Board Member Lutz and will be shared with him and the Board. Councilmember Waldref felt information presented on structural ideas for boards and effectiveness of committees was very helpful and would be useful for the Board of Health.

Bicycle Helmets - Board Member Lutz

Pertaining to the upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting regarding the bicycle helmet ordinance, Board Member Lutz shared his experience while in Victoria, BC where 6% of the population uses bicycles as a means of transportation. Of the over 100 bicyclists seen, only 2 people didn't wear helmets.

PhotoVoice Project/SRHD Reserve Funds – Board Member Fisk

Board Member Fisk recommended a thank you letter from the Board to the students who presented the PhotoVoice project. Councilmember Gothmann added his appreciation for Mayor Verner because of her involvement in assuring the issues were resolved. Councilmember Crump requested that Ann Pitsnogle, Recording Secretary, follow up on letters to both the students and Mayor Verner.

Board Member Fisk asked Torney Smith, Administrator, what direction the Board gave to the agency regarding reserve account balance ranges. Answer) A specific percentage hasn't been identified. The ranges held have been from 9 to 12 percent. There are multiple reserves and the undesignated reserve is the one that the agency is able to use without permission from the Board. The dedicated reserve is primarily for emergency response needs and one that the agency must bring before the Board. Undesignated reserve is at \$4 million and for the last 3 years money has gone into reserves. In 2008, reserves were at \$3 million. It is anticipated that reserves will go back down to \$3 million within the next year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Crump announced that the Board would adjourn to Executive Session in Room 350 for 30 minutes to discuss union negotiations. Councilmember Crump requested Torney Smith, SRHD Administrator, Michelle Wolkey, SRHD Attorney, Mike Riley, Comptroller, and Dr. McCullough, Health Officer attend the session. The Board adjourned at 2:19 p.m. At 2:49 p.m., Councilmember Crump returned to request 20 additional minutes for the Executive Session.

MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 3:06 p.m. with no resulting action taken.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on September 22, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Board of Health Chair

Date: Sept. 22, 2011


Recording Secretary

