

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
AUGUST 26, 2009, 9:00 A.M.

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members Mielke, Stuart, and Boldt, Chair, present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None. Commissioner Boldt mentioned Senator Kennedy passing and stated he was a passionate man for Public Health.

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment, moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** Consent Agenda items 1 and 2. Commissioners Boldt and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

POLICY BRIEFING: UPDATE ON NOVEL H1N2 FLU: PREPARATIONS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL AND VACCINATIONS:

Staff Contact: John Wiesman, Jennifer Vines, Nathan Weed

Staff Summary:

Wiesman reported the Board of Commissioners passed a Delegation of Authority agreement for Region IV emergency preparedness activities for H1N1 planning, policy support, and response and is currently working with the counties for additional planning. He went into further details on implementation of the response efforts to families, businesses, and schools and getting people prepared. *Weed* reported on the current status of the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Pandemic. He stated while the media has paid less attention to the H1N1 (Swine Flu) over the summer, the virus has not gone away. In the United States, most states and territories including Washington and Oregon have continued to identify cases of H1N1 since the pandemic began in April 2009. He stated as of August 21, 2009, 7,983 people have been hospitalized with H1N1 in the U.S. and 522 people have died. In Washington State, 148 people have been hospitalized with H1N1 and 12 people have died of H1N1, one of those was in Southwest Washington. He stated the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus is the predominant influenza virus in circulation worldwide (each year there are usually multiple influenza strains circulating). He said the epidemiology of the disease caused by the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus in the Southern Hemisphere is very similar to that described in the United States this past spring. He stated there have been no significant changes detected in the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus isolated from persons in the Southern Hemisphere as compared to viruses isolated from persons in the Northern Hemisphere.

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Vines explained the difference between seasonal flu and the H1N1 Virus. She reported on what we can expect this fall. As schools re-open for the new school year, they will see an increase in the number of cases of H1N1 in our communities. They are expecting a vaccine for H1N1 will most likely be available beginning in mid-October or so and that vaccine supplies will initially be limited with additional vaccine being shipped each week. They also anticipate that at least two doses of H1N1 vaccine will need to be given about three weeks apart for one to develop protection against H1N1. They expect to see significant numbers of ill persons before a vaccine is available and we would anticipate businesses as well as school seeing large numbers of absenteeism. She provided some insight on the "Report to the President on U.S. Preparations for 2009-H1N1"

Weed reported on what they are doing locally and that they are focusing on four high priority areas. They include issues related to schools, businesses, the general public, and vaccination. *Wiesman* reported on the triage process. *Vines* reported the symptoms of H1N1 and the different spectrums of the different viruses out there.

She stated with the goal of keeping schools and child care centers open, Public Health is coordinating with schools and child care centers to implement strategies for minimizing the spread of disease by screening children and staff for fevers and excluding ill children and staff from schools and child care centers. Public Health is continuing to reinforce the messages that the best things that anyone can do to reduce the spread of H1N1 and to keep from becoming ill are to wash their hands regularly with soap and water, cover their coughs and sneezes, stay home when their ill, and only go to a doctor if they would normally go to a doctor, for their illness. Public health is also implement strategies with the teachers and the school nurses. *Wiesman* reported the schools are actively involved already and there is a state wide conference on Monday with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction with all the local schools. *Wiesman* stated this is everyone's responsibility. *Weed* stated they are focusing on reducing the spread of the disease (prevention), business continuity, communicating with the public, and vaccination. Discussion ensued regarding offering hand sanitizers to the schools and adding those type of items to the school supply list. *Wiesman* stated they are working with every group in the community to assist with prevention. *Weed* discussed further details about their growing interaction with the churches and their daycare center.

Vines stated in terms of the H1N1 vaccine, the following groups will be prioritized to receive the vaccine as supplies first become available.

- Pregnant women
- Health care workers and emergency medical responders
- People caring for infants under 6 months of age children and young adults from 6 months to 24 years
- People aged 25 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes)

Vines stated the vaccine is a federal asset. She stated the seasonal vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine is similar and is presumed safe to co-administer at the same time.

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Wiesman stated they are mandating all of our public health staff to get the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine when it is available. *Weed* stated Public Health is coordinating with healthcare providers to distribute both the seasonal influenza vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine as it becomes available. He stated they will be reaching out to all of the communities. *Wiesman* referenced our website www.clark.wa.gov , and to click on the department, Public Health.

Discussion:

Commissioner Boldt confirmed they were working with the local hospitals in their planning efforts

Commissioner Mielke inquired about the H1N1 symptoms versus the flu symptoms.

Commissioner Steve inquired how they were preparing the schools and offered some suggestions on getting the schools involved through the teachers.

Commissioner Boldt confirmed they were working with restaurants and churches.

Commissioner Mielke also agreed with pursuing prevention in the churches.

Commissioner Boldt inquired on who would be paying for the vaccine.

Commissioner Stuart inquired if there were any interactions between the two vaccines.

Commissioner Boldt thanked the staff for facts they provided at the fair.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 1 - STRENGTHENING PH INFRASTRUCTURE

Staff Contact: John Wiesman, Marni Storey

Staff Summary:

Storey provided a program transition update about the following programs: WIC, Early Family Support Services / Early Intervention Program, Work First, Family Planning CSO, Foster Care Public Health Program, and the HIV Program. **(See master file for detailed notes)** *Storey* stated the contract with Sea Mar is directly through the State Department of Health and they have asked that they would like to be involved in the monitoring of their services. *Wiesman* stated they are working with Sea Mar on getting one of their Clark County positions filled on the Board of Directors with the Public Health Staff. *Wiesman* stated he will draft a letter. *Wiesman* stated he has been ensured by the Department of Health that we can participate on site review panels and fully engage our participation. *Wiesman* touched base on our relationships with the Department of Health and DSHS in relation to these contracts.

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Continued Staff Summary:

Storey provided more information about the Family Planning CSO Program. *Storey* stated the program connects women to family planning services but does not pay for abortions or abortion services. *Storey* stated they have met with the Executive Director of YWCA and they are interested in some of the programs. *Storey* asked for direction from the Board when the contract ends. *Wiesman* confirmed they had funding for the passport program through the end of December. *Storey* provided information about the HIV Program. *Wiesman* stated the funding is for HIV awareness then they broaden the awareness of other subjects. *Storey* stated the funding is primarily for HIV awareness. *Storey* said they don't have any specific funding for prevention for sexual transmitted diseases but they try to integrate it in to all of their other programs. *Wiesman* stated they also use some of the flexible funding.

Discussion:

Commissioner Stuart stated he agrees they need to continue the Peer Breastfeeding support program in house to ensure the services continue and expressed his concerns with the issues that Sea Mar is having in regards to the transition. He inquired how long their contract is with them and what accountability measures do we have in place to make sure they are providing the services they agreed upon.

Commissioner Boldt stated he would like to write a letter from the Board of Health to their Board of Directors to encourage them to go with the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Mielke stated his concern of us being a major part with Sea Mar but lacks a lot of control and follow up from Sea Mar.

Commissioner Mielke stated he would like to know more about the Family Planning CSO Program and has concerns with contributing to abortions and a relationship with Planned Parenthood.

Commissioner Stuart stated he is on board if they can cover their costs and if they are not able to cover their costs he asked how could they adjust the service level to be able to cover costs.

Commissioner Stuart inquired about other avenues like YWCA, CASA that could assist them with the Foster Care Public Health (Passport) program.

Commissioner Mielke stated DSHS is suppose to have the records and suggests keeping it with the State.

Commissioner Boldt stated we need to convey to DSHS how important these records are to our community. He stated we need to continue the passport program.

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Commissioner Mielke said we need to apply more pressure back on the State to play a bigger role.

Commissioner Stuart asked if they have funding through the end of year for the passport program.

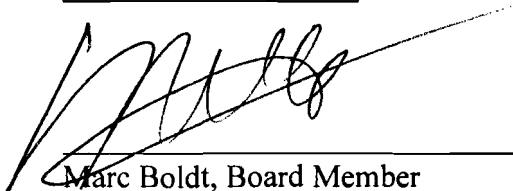
Commissioner Stuart asked about the overview of the HIV Program and stated the importance of overall awareness.

Commissioner Mielke agreed about the overall awareness.

Commissioner Mielke inquired about funding for other sexual transmitted diseases.

Hearing adjourned

BOARD OF HEALTH



Marc Boldt, Board Member

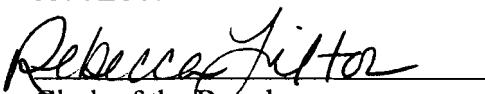


Steve Stuart, Board Member



Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



Deputy Clerk of the Board

Jc

Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. Digital recordings can be provided upon request. In addition, the Commissioners' hearings are broadcast live on CTVTV, cable channels 21 and 23, and are also videotaped and repeated several times (www.cvtv.org)