

**MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
JUNE 24, 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 and Boldt, Chair, present. Board Member Stuart absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment, moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** Consent Agenda items 2 and 3. Commissioners Boldt and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

Consent #1 pulled, John Wiesman and Jonnie Hyde provided further information about consent item #1 and discussed it with the Board.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item Description: Strategic Initiative 1 - Strengthening PH Infrastructure – Staff Funding

Staff Contact: John Wiesman

Staff Summary:

They had funding impacts in about nine areas of their program from the state budget. These were the flexible funds the 2007 legislature appropriated to local public health in the amount of \$20 million of the biennium, which resulted to about 20% to Clark County and / or an annual reduction of \$100,000. These dollars help fund their immunization work with health care providers and the community, the investigation of communicable disease reports, and addressing food systems issues to promote healthy eating and the reduction of obesity. This funding cut will impact them beginning in 2010. They are now working to identify how they will take these reductions. The remaining \$16 million was funded by moving tobacco prevention funds into this account. Those funds run out at the end of the next biennium and so they stand to lose the remainder of this funding (about \$400,000 per year) the following biennium. He stated tobacco funds were cut to fund the flexible funding. For Clark County this is a cut of about \$55,000 per year which will start July 1. To make these reductions they had to eliminate a 0.5 FTE health educator but they were able to transfer that employee to a vacant position in HIV prevention and a 0.25 FTE OA II but they were able to have that person take on WIC support. He stated the position has been working with drug and alcohol treatment providers to help them integrate tobacco cessation into their treatment programs.

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Discussion:

Boldt mentioned new marketing techniques being used by organizations. Wiesman stated they are getting a handle on new marketing techniques on a national level to assist with the state level concerns. Boldt inquired if the Board of Health could regulate tobacco commerce. Wiesman stated he would look into that further. Bill Barron mentioned that FDA oversees tobacco as of 6/23/09.

Continued Staff Summary:

Wiesman stated funding for HIV / AIDS program took a 7 % cut over the biennium but is essential a 14% cut due to the budget timeline and is being shared across the 11 county regions. He stated further discussion will take place in August with the counties. He stated Group B Drinking Water funding (systems that serve 2 to 14 connections) has been discontinued. He stated for Clark County that is a \$37,000 cut per year and there are over 500 Group B water systems in Clark County, including residential, churches, child care centers who will have no oversight of their water systems, potentially putting citizens at risk. He stated they have a work session scheduled with the board in August to discuss water code. He said not related to the state budget but rather the economy, service demand in on-site septic systems and drinking water is way down, further than they projected it being down, as such, they are laying off three environmental health specialists to cover both this revenue shortfall and the group B drinking water cuts. He stated the maternity support services are taking a 20% reduction statewide. The state is redesigning the program based on low, medium, and high risk. He stated the state staff for Passport (health records for foster children), and two early intervention programs for CPS referrals are exploring options to reduce costs and meet Medicaid match requirements. He stated as they learn more about that, they will identify their next steps but all of these programs are scheduled to be transitioned to other community partners.

Discussion:

Boldt asked if Sea Mar was interested in any of those programs. Wiesman mentioned they expressed interest in Maternity Support Services. Boldt / Wiesman discussed the Passport program.

Item Description: Strategic Initiative 3 – Promoting healthy environments

Staff Contact: Jonnie Hyde

Staff Summary:

She referenced a copy of their semi-annual food program newsletter, called "On the Menu." Last year they began producing this and distributing it to restaurant owners and posting it on their website. It provides information about food program services and food handler trainings, food safety, and focuses on local or national news of interest. The Washington State Drug and Alcohol Administration has informed its contractors that all treatment programs must be tobacco free by July 1, 2010. Efforts to make the CFCH tobacco-free have been held up in the past because providers wanted to wait until 2011, so this will speed up the process. More significantly, this new policy will address a significant health disparity: the rate of smoking among persons with mental illness or chemical dependency or both is approximately 60-80%, compared to 17% in all adults in Washington.

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They are thrilled that treatment programs will now address smoking as an addiction, and the CFCH needs to become tobacco free by July 1, 2010 so these providers can be in compliance.

Discussion:

Mielke inquired about the allocation of tobacco taxes. Wiesman stated some of the money comes back to tobacco prevention programs but said he could get him more details. Further discussion ensued regarding the legality of smoking and tobacco prevention. Boldt inquired about the food handler card and the upcoming fair.

Continued Staff Summary:

The Mosquito Control District (MCD) has had to aerial spray larvacide 4 times over the lowlands. This is the most number of times this has had to be sprayed. The MCD staff believes this is due to Bonneville doing a lot of water releases and to Fish and Wildlife pumping water into Vancouver Lake to kill a particular weed. Both of these flood lowlands where mosquitoes can breed. Staff offered some suggestions in preventing getting bit.

Discussion:

Mielke inquired about staff's involvement in retention ponds. He also discussed building facilities contributing to standing water. Wiesman discussed sustainability building options to achieve multiple goals.

Continued Staff Summary:

They have been working with the GIS staff to expand the environmental public health data available to the public via maps on line. So far, people can go to the public health site to look up restaurant inspections and on-site inspection data, and can go to maps on line to view septic site plans and permits. In the near future, they will be able to use Maps on Line to identify: parcels with wells and the location of the well head, hazardous waste sites (with a warning to the viewer that proximity does not mean exposure), solid waste sites, and the location of food establishments and complexity level (this will be used to automate staff assignments by geographic area). The interface with PACS also allows them to update property owner names and mailing addresses monthly, which will save costs by reducing the amount of returned mail they receive.

Item Description: Strategic Initiative 5 – Good Health at Every Age

Staff Contact: Jonnie Hyde

Staff Summary:

They have been approached by the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (CHEF) to complete a survey of health issues at the 150 unit VHA Skyline Crest complex, where income of the residents is on average a little over \$11,000 a year. Their goal will be to provide CHEF with data on how the residents view Skyline Crest in terms of its impact on their health, specifically any barriers to good health. This will provide CHEF with the data needed to apply for future funding to address these issues.

Discussion:

Wiesman discussed the septic work session memorialization and the waivers they are working on.

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Hearing adjourned

BOARD OF HEALTH



Marc Boldt, Board Member

Steve Stuart, Board Member



Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board

jc

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