



BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of October 2, 2006

1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Macleod called the meeting to order.

Attendance: Chairman Macleod, Commissioner Wolfe, Chief Administrative Officer Donald Krupp, Department Director Sherri McDonald, Health Officer Dr. Diana Yu, Environmental Health Director Art Starry, and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

- a) Approval of Agenda - Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Macleod seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2006 as submitted. Commissioner Macleod seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) **UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES** – none, items are current.

3) **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Tom Howdeshell expressed questions and concerns regarding HIV counseling, referral and testing at the Accountability & Restitution Center. He wants to make sure inmate's privacy is safe guarded and counseling is done in private. Mr. Howdeshell also wants to make sure inmates aren't bullied and/or beaten up by other inmates because of HIV status and hopes that attitude has changed. He also wanted to make sure proper health care is kept up with, i.e. medications, hospitalization if needed; doctors who take care of patients at the jail or hospital do not discriminate due to their HIV status; and jail staff does not discriminate against those inmates. Sherri McDonald stated the Agenda Item 5 discussion should address each of his concerns.

4) **CONSENT ITEMS** - none

5) **HIV COUNSELING, REFERRAL AND TESTING AT THE ACCOUNTABILITY & RESTITUTION CENTER**

Sherri McDonald gave an overview of the update. Linda Stewart explained the HIV testing process used at the Accountability & Restitution Center (ARC). Ms. Stewart explained standard protocol, maintaining inmate privacy, is used for testing and results notification regardless of where the inmate is after 2 weeks. She further explained test results are given directly to the individual tested, not jail staff; therefore jail staff would never know the results

of the test. Sherri McDonald stated she feels very confident that jail staff does not discriminate because of HIV status. Deborah Ahern, Personal Health Division Director, clarified that current recommendation is everyone should be HIV tested. Ms. Ahern explained the Central for Disease Control put out a recommendation that everyone should know their HIV status. Dr. Yu verified there has never been a positive HIV result at the jail

Linda Stewart commended Pawnee Brown for his outstanding work and dedication in communicating HIV prevention. Since March 2006, Mr. Brown conducts services at the jail every Monday afternoon. In addition, Ms. Stewart commended all Public Health & Social Services staff that work in the HIV program. The Board also gave a statement of gratitude to Mr. Brown and staff.

6) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Sherri McDonald discussed a letter drafted to the "Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance", in support of increased state funding for public health protection as proposed by the committee, which she had emailed to Board Members last week. Ms. McDonald will provide copies of the draft recommendations for the Board to look at when reviewing and editing the draft letter. Ms. McDonald requested if at all possible to finalize the letter before the October 12th meeting of the Joint Select Committee.

Ms. McDonald reminded the Board there is a meeting of the Project Access group this Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 5:30 P.M. at their office on Lacey Blvd. to review the sustainability of the program. Ms. McDonald will be in attendance. Dr. Yu will be at the meeting representing the Medical Society in support of Project Access continuing as a safety net in the community.

7) **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Dr. Yu discussed her concerns regarding the increase in legally prescribed prescription drug misuse and abuse by the young and old. She considers it a very large public health issue. She stated she had recently attended a Drug Enforcement Administration Briefing on the topic of prescription drug diversion as well as a conference held by the Thurston County Chemical Dependency program on aging and drug abuse. Dr. Yu feels in order to tackle this problem, we need to approach it from a public health point of view; it is not just a law enforcement issue; there is a variety of roles for doctors, awareness in parents and children, hospitals, etc. Dr. Yu has talked with John Tennis regarding the possible involvement of the Meth Coalition. Discussion around Dr. Yu's concerns ensued. Dr. Yu stated in December the Board will be presented with the findings, compiled with the Coroner's office, on deaths related to prescription drug overdose this year.

Dr. Yu informed the Board that Pandemic Influenza planning is in full swing. Various subgroups have been meeting on a regular basis. Dr. Yu and Sherri McDonald will talk with police chiefs on Wednesday, October 4th, to look at their continuity of operation plans. Ms. McDonald explained they are working with state agencies, law enforcement, etc. to look at their operations; having them think through their plans to determine how they would deliver

essential services if staff is not able to report to work for an extended period of time due to a disease outbreak versus an earthquake for example.

Commissioner Wolfe questioned the status of the County Continuity of Operations plans. Don Krupp stated all of the Board's direct report departments, and a portion of the elected official offices, have developed Continuity of Operations plans; which are posted on the County Intranet.

Dr. Yu will be on KAOS radio station this evening (October 2nd) for the first of a 4 part series to educate the public about Pandemic Influenza.

Don Krupp stated at the October 3rd Commissioners' Update he will have a follow-up discussion of a past BOH session topic about the Pandemic Flu vaccination clinic; how it fits into our testing and practice of our system to deliver vaccine to large numbers; and whether or not the Board is interested in having county employees vaccinated during the flu season.

8) **ADJOURNMENT**

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington

ATTEST:

ROBERT N. MACLEOD, Chairman

Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

CATHY WOLFE, Member

Date: _____

Absent

DIANE OBERQUELL, Member