

BOARD OF HEALTH**April 13, 2016****7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Massa with the following members and staff present.

MEMBERS

Carolann Swartz – Commissioner
Carol Nordine – Electric City
John Glassco – Soap Lake
Mark Wanke – Ephrata

Tony Massa – Warden
Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake
Cindy Carter - Commissioner
Tom Harris - Quincy

STAFF

Katherine Kenison - HD Attorney
Todd Phillips - E.H. Mgr.
Theresa Adkinson – Administrator
Stephanie Shopbell – Environmental Health

Lois Swenson – Public Health Nurse
Darcy Moss – Admin. Services Mgr.
Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

ABSENT

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

GUESTS

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Under the Assessment Report, item 7a, Resolution 16-3 (Interventions for Injection Drug Use and Disease) will be added. An Executive Session will also be added to the agenda. A motion was made to adopt the amended agenda (M/S Swartz/Wanke - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of March 9, 2016 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Wanke - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS - The vouchers for the period ending March 31, 2016 totaling \$180,872.03 (#1 – #28 totaling \$138,468.74 and #29 - #70 totaling \$42,403.29) were approved (M/S Wanke/Harris - unanimous).



PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Swenson explained most years around March 24, which is World TB Day, the Health District awards a medical provider with a Spittoon award to a healthcare provider that has shown efforts in TB prevention. This year the award is being given to Confluence Health. Typically it is given to a provider that has worked on an active TB case the previous year. In 2015 Grant County had no active cases. The Health District then looked at latent TB treatment completion rates for providers. Confluence Health patient TB infection completion rates were over 80%

Dr. Curnel, a GCHD board member and physician on staff at Confluence Health, accepted the award on behalf of the facility. He thanked Mrs. Swenson for acknowledging their efforts.

Dr. Brzezny added in the past few years the Health District has been transitioning TB follow up on latent (no active disease) TB patients to clinics and typically see 50-70% treatment completion rates in Grant County clinics. He also added that he appreciates their cooperation with the Active TB treatment.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Mr. Phillips

Solid Waste Staff Update – Stephanie Shopbell was recently hired as a sanitarian to work in solid waste, food and emergency response programs. She comes with knowledge in surface water issues that will be useful to the Health District.

Fee Schedule – There are a few changes that need to be made to the current fee schedule. One change is in the food program fees. In order for it to coincide with our Food Ordinance the food permit fee does not include the first re-inspection. First re-inspections will be billed at ½ of the permit fee. Second, temporary food permits have to be applied for in order to avoid a double fee. One other change is for Level 2 Assessments in Group A water systems. Currently there is not a fee for this service. When a Group A water system has an unsatisfactory bacteria sample result, the fee would cover Health District investigation costs to figure out a cause for the unsatisfactory sample.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing to amend the current fee schedule. (M/S Carter/Swartz – unanimous)

Discussion was held regarding requirements for temporary food vendors. Mr. Phillips explained that they are continuously looking at ways to make the program run more efficient while at the same time abiding by the food code and ensuring food safety.

Delancey-Houghton School – A complaint was received from the Department of Ecology last July regarding piles of asbestos and other solid waste in Soap Lake at the abandoned school location. The school was closed years ago. The property is held by the Grant County Treasurer because of a private owner's failure to pay the taxes. The owner had torn down parts of the building in order to salvage some of the materials. EPA visited the site and tested for asbestos and found some material containing asbestos. EPA is planning to remove the asbestos containing material this spring. Mr. Phillips and Mrs. Shopbell went to the site to post warning signs which included a fact sheet regarding asbestos exposure.

Mrs. Adkinson added that the word has been widely spread to Soap Lake citizens through several media outlets.

Other Updates - None

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

DOH STD Site Visit – Two employees from the Washington State Department of Health, who are based out of Yakima and work in STD investigations, came to the H.D. office and met with Mrs. Adkinson and Mrs. Swenson to discuss the rise of syphilis rates and the difficulty of finding and treating exposed partners. This is not just a Grant County issue, but a regional issue as well. There is a need for a community based approach as well as testing and treating patients for multiple STD's all at one time.

Vaping in Washington State – State legislation passed Bill 6328. Some of the contents of the bill are vaping in public restrictions, youth access, advertising restrictions, and packaging and labeling requirements. There are currently no fees for establishments who sell vapor products. The Liquor Control and Cannabis Board will be working on an application process. We will need to update our local Ordinance once Liquor Control and Cannabis Board determine their licensing procedures. We do not anticipate needing to make these changes for several months.

Community Health Workers in North Central Washington – Chronic disease prevention will be addressed in a new pilot program. This program is part of the 1422 chronic disease prevention grant. One required deliverable for this Grant is to choose a pilot community to place a trusted Community Health Worker to a specific community to assist in connecting community members to clinic services and other health services related to pre-diabetes and hypertension. Funding will be added to hire the Community Health Worker or contracted person.

Grant County Health District will be hosting a training next week to educate Community Health Workers allowing them to use this knowledge in their communities.

Other Updates - None

ASSESSMENT REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Resolution 16-3 (Interventions for Injection Drug Use and Disease) – This resolution shows the community that the BOH supports a needle exchange intervention program in Grant County with the assistance of Grant County community partners. Mrs. Adkinson reviewed the Resolution and explained that Shawta Sackett will be volunteering her time to get this program started.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 16-3 (M/S Curnel/Wanke – unanimous).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Staffing Update – The Nurse Manager position is posted on the website and ads were recently ran. Unfortunately, there has not been much response. Mrs. Adkinson is considering using a recruiter. There is also a Public Health Nurse, temporary Public Health Associate and a temporary Community Health Worker positions open.

Legislative Update - This legislative session is currently ending. There was no movement on the Tobacco 21 Bill because of funding. It will likely be back in the next session. Stable funding for public health will continue to be discussed.

New Web Site Launch – The new GCHD website is now live and mobile friendly. Our new GCHD building sign went up on the front of our office last Friday. The signs are in line with our new branding logo. Two signs will also go up on the sides of the office.

2015 Annual Report – Mrs. Adkinson presented the 2015 video report to the Board. This is GCHD's second annual report video report. The report is also on the GCHD website.

2016 Budget Update – Mrs. Adkinson stressed how important the annual city contributions are enabling the Health District to have flexible dollars. She also thanked the cities for their contributions.

Other Updates - None

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT– Dr. Brzezny

STDs and Syphilis – Syphilis cases continue to increase each year. In 2015 there were 18 cases in 2015 and we have already received 6 reported confirmed cases since the beginning of 2016. In 2009-2010 there were only 0-1 cases. These cases are difficult to track and many cases go untreated for long periods because of this. Of the contacts, only about half are reached and treated. Syphilis can cause permanent disabilities. A very comprehensive approach will need to be developed regarding proper treatment and along with following the CDC guidelines.

Seasonal Influenza – Local Clusters – This season has been a weaker season than the past 2-3 years. There has been a good immune response to this seasons vaccine. The cases are approximately 50/50 between influenza A and B caseses.

Asbestos – Soap Lake – It can take up to 20-30 years to see if individuals will contract a disease from being exposed to asbestos. There will not be immediate symptoms. Tiny particles go into the lungs when inhaling and can cause inflammation or cancer over time.

Vector-Borne Diseases Review – These are diseases spread by animals. Recently in Grant County there have been three diseases reviewed that were animals bites. Two were treated with prophylaxis against rabies.

Other Updates – Zika virus can cause neurological damage to the fetus when pregnant moms are exposed to the virus. Of the approximate 360 cases in the United States, all were acquired abroad. Grant County could see cases from travelers at some point in the future. GCHD will be communicating Zika testing guidelines for pregnant women to community healthcare providers.

World Tuberculosis Day was March 24. A “Tuberculosis 2015 a year in review” handout was distributed explaining the disease and showing infection and death rates. TB is a treatable, yet 4,100 people die every day from the disease. Rates have declined in the U.S. because of treatment efforts by healthcare providers.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Resolution 16-2 (A Resolution Establishing One Credit Card and Increasing the Card Limit) -

As discussed at last month’s Board meeting, the Health District would like to consolidate the offices two credit cards, one from the Moses Lake office and one from the former Ephrata office with a \$5,000 limit on each card. The Health District would also like to request approval to increase the limit to \$15,000 on the one consolidated card.

A motion was made to approve consolidating the agencies two credit cards and request an increase in the credit limit to \$15,000 on one card (M/S Carter/Curnel- unanimous).

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The meeting was adjourned at 8:21p.m. to executive session according to RCW 42.30.110 to last 10 minutes regarding potential litigation with no further business. The public meeting was reopened at 8:31p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:32p.m. (M/S Wanke/Curnel – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Darcy Moss, Administrative Services Manager
Clerk of the Board