

BOARD OF HEALTH**March 9, 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

Richard Stevens – Commissioner
Carol Nordine – Electric City
John Glassco – Soap Lake
Mark Wanke – Ephrata

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

STAFF

Katherine Kenison - HD Attorney
Todd Phillips - E.H. Mgr.
Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Shawta Sackett – Epidemiologist
Darcy Moss – Admin. Services Mgr.
Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

ABSENT

Carolann Swartz – Commissioner

Tom Harris - Quincy

GUESTS

Bill Stevenson – iFIBERONE News

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – An Executive Session will be added to the agenda. A motion was made to adopt the amended agenda (M/S Curnel/Wanke - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of February 10, 2016 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Carter - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS - The vouchers for the period ending February 29, 2016 totaling \$161,411.51 (#1 – #19 totaling \$126,924.71 and #20 - #43 totaling \$34,486.80) were approved (M/S Swartz/Curnel – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS – None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Mr. Phillips

Mosquito Season Preparation - Last night Amber McCoy, EHS, GCHD and Mr. Phillips met with citizens in Wilson Creek to collaborate on the upcoming mosquito season. A volunteer will set and retrieve traps in the area. The plan is to set more traps in the 2016 season than in the 2015 season. There is also a collaboration meeting set up for Monday with the Grant County Mosquito Control District #1. The goal is to control the mosquitoes in the larvae stage, before hatching.

Other updates - None

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Moses Lake Healthy Beginnings Project Update – Prescription for Play and Farmer’s Market Match – A community lead initiative was started to address childhood obesity in the greater Moses Lake area. The Health District has teamed up with Moses Lake providers to look at childhood obesity rates to put intervention programs in place. The healthy beginnings work group has adopted the 5210 program. The program is evidence based and has clinical guidelines with questionnaires for medical providers to ask of their patients. After gathering the information on the questionnaire about a child and identifying a concern about a child’s weight, providers can distribute a prescription for fun to the family. The family will be given a voucher to be used towards one of the programs in the parks and recreation guide offered by the city.

Funding for Childhood Obesity – A contract was signed recently with DOH for \$66,000 to expand work into Ephrata and possibly Royal City. This program is designed to link the clinic community with the local community.

Other Updates – Dayana Ruiz, our Communities That Care Coordinator, has began working in Quincy.

Dr. Curnel added that the Moses Lake doctors have donated \$3,000 to go towards the prescription for play program in the 2-5 age group. He also stated that he is aware of other agencies who plan to donate.

ASSESSMENT REPORT - Mrs. Sackett

Needle Exchange Assessment – Mrs. Sackett reported back to the board after a request for more information was made by the board last month. A handout was given listing services that are provided by needle exchange programs. Some of those services include providing sterile injecting supplies, health education, overdose prevention education and other services. The handout also listed benefits of the program which include reduction of disposal of syringes in public places, protects the health and safety of families, law enforcement and public workers, decreases transmission of diseases along with many other benefits. A brochure from the Kittitas County Syringe Exchange program describing the services and education they provide was distributed as well. Their program is limited to one day a week for a couple of hours because it relies heavily on volunteers. The volunteers assist the clients in getting connected to other resources. The more people an IV drug user gets connected to, the more likely they are to seek treatment.

The Health District would seek the support of healthcare providers and social service agencies/programs that have existing relationships with clients in order to be successful. The average cost is \$20 per user, per year.

Mrs. Sackett is currently working on her doctorate to become a nurse practitioner and as part of her education she needs to complete a community project. She asked the board to consider a needle exchange program in Grant County as her project. She also asked for the boards support for the needle exchange program.

Dr. Curnel asked about funding for the project. Mrs. Sackett explained that in Kittitas County it cost \$21,219/year and approximately \$5,000 was from local funds and \$15,000 from state funds. Mrs. Adkinson added that GCHD staff would also need to seek out funding. Mrs. Sackett will bring a formal request to explore a Needle Exchange Program with community partners.

The request was tabled until the next meeting to explore funding for the project.

Dr. Brzezny recommended going online to Frontline/PBS to watch a movie called “Chasing Heroine”. It was filmed in Washington and is relevant to public health. It addresses needle exchange clinics and the move from enforcement to a public health model in managing the disease.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Petty Cash Resolution 16-1 – The Ephrata Health District office merged with the Moses Lake office in October of 2014. At the time each office had its own petty cash of \$500. The resolution is to combine the petty cash into one in the amount of \$700 with the remaining \$300 to be deposited into the Health District’s general fund.

A motion was made to approve Petty Cash Resolution 16-1. (M/S Wanke /Massa- unanimous).

Disease Investigation and Public Notification – The most recent press release from the Health District, dated February 29, 2016 regarding two botulism deaths was distributed. Mrs. Adkinson stated, at the request of the media, we are discussing the Health District’s media policy. The Health District is stewards of private patient records only for the purpose of the investigations. We are entrusted by the public to keep information related to investigations confidential. We have to be cautious that patients cannot be identified in a press release as stated in both federal and state laws. Only information that would assist in the investigation and is necessary will be disclosed. She added that our agency takes confidentiality very seriously and limit staff knowledge of an investigation to only the ones that need to know for investigation purposes. If staff is not directly involved, they will only be given the same information that is released to the public. Our health officer determines what information is disclosed to the public. If the public were at risk there may be certain information allowed to be released. Our attorney also works with our office in many of the press releases distributed by our office.

Dr. Brzezny added disclosing information is determined by if the health of the public is at risk and if it is imminent that the public be informed of the risk.

Bill Stevens stated that iFIBER News was the media group that was requesting more information. He stated that his request for information was to report more accurately and more credible to the public.

Staffing Update - The Nurse Manager position has been posted. Interviews for the Community Health Worker have been completed and a decision will be made soon. Interviews for the Environmental Health Specialist position will be scheduled soon. There will also be a new 6 month temporary Health Educator position open. Funding is available for the healthy communities project and tobacco work to support this position.

Web Site Launch - The website is nearly complete. The website includes the Health Districts new branding. There will be feature pages that will be updated on a regular basis. There are several places where information is duplicated to make it easier for the public to find what they need. A search tool and Google Translate will also be available for users to pick the language of their choice. The website will officially be launched the first week in April for National Public Health Week, along with a press release.

Other Updates – The agency has two credit cards, one for the Moses Lake office and one for the former Ephrata office with a \$5,000 limit on each card. With the Ephrata office being merged with the Moses Lake office, there is no need to have two cards. Mrs. Adkinson would like to request approval to consolidate to one credit card account and increase the limit to \$15,000.

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

A handout was given on the breakdown of the flexible funding and where it is allocated. Communicable disease investigation and immunizations are two examples of programs the funding goes towards. Other programs are covered by their fees. These funds also go towards audit costs. Some programs also require matching funds and the flexible dollars are used for those programs as well.

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Influenza - There has been a shift from higher numbers of influenza A to influenza B more recently. The vaccine continues to be a good match with a 57-58% human immune response rate.

Mosquito Borne Disease Update - We will continue to see more mosquito borne diseases like dengue fever, Zika virus and the Chikungunya virus. These diseases can be transmitted by sexual contact. The CDC has specific guidelines for testing people who have traveled to high risk areas. If an individual has symptoms for one of the viruses they should be tested for all three.

Food Borne Diseases Update - The recent epi-update gives a summary of the botulism cases that occurred in February. The cases were located to one household and are not considered a communicable disease. We were fortunate to have cooperation from the family members so that no one else would consume the contaminated canned food. One case was lab confirmed and because the second case had the same symptoms, and were living in the same household, it made both cases confirmed. It was confirmed the food had not been shared with any other persons.

School Nurse Conference - The School Nurses Organization of Washington (SNOW) conference will be held on March 18 & 19. Public health individuals will be there to collaborate with school nurses on topics such as substance abuse, teen pregnancy, tobacco and marijuana use. Dr. Brzezny and Mrs. Adkinson will be presenting on a panel at the conference.

Other Updates - The Epi-Update and notifiable conditions summary was distributed. Outbreaks of STD's continue to occur.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The meeting was adjourned at 8:23p.m. to executive session according to RCW 42.30.110 to last 15 minutes regarding potential litigation and evaluation review of a public employee. The public meeting was reopened at 8:38p.m.

A motion was made to extend Mrs. Adkinson's administrator probationary period for six months. (M/S Carter/Wanke – unanimous).

ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:39p.m. (M/S Curnel/Stevens – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Darcy Moss, Administrative Services Manager
Clerk of the Board