

BOARD OF HEALTH

August 10, 2016

7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mr. Massa with the following members and staff present.

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden

Carol Nordine – Electric City

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Tom Harris - Quincy

John Glassco – Soap Lake

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Carolann Swartz - Commissioner

STAFF

Katherine Kenison - HD Attorney

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Darcy Moss – Admin. Services Mgr.

Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

ABSENT

Todd Phillips – Environmental Health Mgr.

GUESTS

Art Brown – Light of Larson Church

Cara Hoyt – Royal City Summer Fest Committee Chair

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented (M/S Wanke/Curnel - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of July 13, 2016 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Wanke - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS - The vouchers for the period ending July 31, 2016 totaling \$313,278.45 (#1 – #21 totaling \$173,307.47 and #22 - #31 totaling \$56,109.59 and #32 - #62 totaling \$83,861.39) were approved (M/S Wanke/Harris – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS –

Art Brown from Light of Larson Church introduced himself and thanked the Board for their time. Mr. Brown explained that he is trying to help find a solution to allow the use of public water recreation inflatable toys for special events. On July 16, their church had a community barbeque where they had two inflatable water toys and a dunk tank that they rented. A representative from the Health District came and informed them that they were in violation of WAC 246-262 and WAC 246-260 and per RCW 70.90 were asked to close the waterslides and dunk tank.

Mr. Brown stated that he has worked very hard the last three years to make a positive change and create unity in the Larson neighborhood by having block parties. He stated that he has seen change with people coming out in the neighborhood and crime has been down. He concluded that he would like to be a part of the solution that allows for the inflatable water toys safe and legal.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Water Recreation Features and Public Use – The Health District received confirmation from the State Attorney General’s office that the inflatable water slides and features do in fact fall under the water recreational facilities laws. The Health District is currently exploring which route they can take to allow groups to use the temporary inflatable water recreation structures and still follow the state law. The Department of Health plans to address the law and use of temporary water inflatables next spring. The Board was reminded that it is a shared responsibility between the local public health and State. Staff have contacted several rental companies to inform them they would need a permit to operate the inflatable water recreation features .

Mrs. Adkinson added that the Health District did not solicit for these inflatable water structures to be permitted, but became involved in 2015 because of another slide that went through the permitting process here in Grant County after consultation with Washington State Dept. of Health that determined that the inflatables water structures are to be permitted under Washington State law.

Dr. Brzezny reminded the Board that this came to our attention when The Gorge requested to have an inflatable water slide at their site for events in 2015. This intern increased the awareness of the permitting process for the inflatables. The State Attorney General’s office has confirmed that this law applies to temporary water structures and now we have a responsibility to enforce this law. Previously, the inflatables were not as available to rent and are becoming more popular.

Mrs. Adkinson introduced a logic model with three options to address the temporary inflatable water structures. Option one is take note of facilities, but not contact operators about law requirements until DOH develops a statewide process. This option has the highest risk potential for illness, injury and outbreak and also the highest risk for liability. For option two, the Health District would develop an interim provisional permitting process and criteria. Input from the State and other Local Health Jurisdictions and organizers, planners and operators would be sought. Data collected about common violations, staff time, and cost are examples of outputs for this option. The risk is moderate, but would be resource intensive and there would be a high liability risk for GCHD. The third option is to wait for DOH to implement a statewide process.

A “What We Know” fact sheet was distributed which included information facts regarding this subject. Also distributed was a draft of for GCHD interim conditions of approval for a temporary water feature facility/event. The draft included requirements to obtain a permit and operate a “temporary” recreational water facility. A CDC fact sheet with information regarding illness being spread by inflatable and plastic pools was also distributed.

Dr. Brzezny stated that there isn’t evidence of illness in our County, but we need to protect the public from harm’s way and consider the liability if illness from water recreation features did occur in our County.

Mrs. Adkinson added that currently to operate a temporary water facility, applicants need to complete a plan review through DOH because we do not have the expertise at the County level. After completion, the applicant then applies for a permit at GCHD.

Discussion was held.

Mrs. Kennison stated that the legislators adopted this statute. The Attorney General's office represents State agencies and the direction they have given us is that the inflatable water structures fall under this category in the law. It is up to DOH to make and define the permitting process. Grant County has a regulatory responsibility. GCHD will need to get permission from DOH to allow local "temporary" permitting. How much time we invest in this process should be considered when the State may have a different process for the County in the spring. There is potential liability in all options. The current WAC is from the 1990's and probably did not consider inflatable water structures when it was written because they were not available or too expensive to be rented by the public.

Mrs. Hoyt explained that their vendor required them to have an attendant to monitor for safety reasons. They had also provided an attendant with first aid training.

Mrs. Adkinson stated that the two parties attending the meeting were responsible groups who took measures to ensure safety, but it will not be the case with all operators. Mrs. Adkinson witnessed an unsafe situation where a slide was set up on asphalt with no adult supervision. There needs to be a way to protect the public.

Discussion was held.

Mr. Massa added that the Board's position is to advocate on behalf of the people that we serve.

A motion was made to move forward with option two from the logic model. (M/S Massa/Stevens - unanimous).

Mrs. Adkinson stressed that the Health District is committed to working out the process. A lot of staff time has already been used in preparation and will continue to be used towards the permitting process. She also informed the Board that the State was asked to make contact with the other vendors to inform them that they need a permit.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing next month to adopt Ordinance 16-3 (Interim Temporary Water Recreation Facility) (M/S Wanke/Curnel - unanimous)

Mrs. Hoyt added that she is leaving a request for reimbursement from the Health District for the rental fees that were paid by the Royal City SummerFest committee to the vendor for the water inflatables.

Other Updates - Currently, there are over 600 food establishments permitted and inspected in Grant County.

Mr. Glassco stated at the last board meeting that he would look into the asbestos clean-up project at the old Soap Lake School. He provided pictures to the Board.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Vape Youth Prevention Funding – The State Liquor Control Board is working on a vaping licensing process that will start in September. GCHD will need to adopt a local ordinance to correspond with the State. With licensing, GCHD has an obligation to educate the public in our community. Funds will be coming to our County and also distributed to other counties for vaping education. The rate of kids switching from smoking to vaping is alarming.

Smoking in Cars Prevention – Community Request – Elisia Dalluge-Eklund contacted GCHD and requested to present information to the Board about smoking in cars with children present. She would like to see a local law passed forbidding smoking in vehicles when children are present. She was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Dr. Brzezny added that Health Youth Survey data shows the older the children are, the more likely they are to be exposed to tobacco smoke in a vehicle which correlates with tobacco use. There is no legislative proposal at this time, but as a Health Officer, he supports working with legislatures to pass a state law supporting no smoking in vehicles where children are present in addition to the Tobacco 21 legislation

Discussion was held on the need for state legislation but local legislation was not the appropriate and would be difficult to enforce.

Back to School & Immunizations – Immunization reminder postcards for children have been sent out to parents by local healthcare providers. An annual meeting with local school nurses will be scheduled soon. The meeting is held to get feedback from the nurses and is also a question and answer session with the Health Officer.

Other Updates – None

ASSESSMENT REPORT - Mrs. Adkinson

North Central Washington Regional Community Health Assessment – Grant County Health District will be sharing their regional assessment model approach with other Health Districts. Data that has already been collected by GCHD will also be shared.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

IT Update – A contract has been put in place with CompuNet. They will give recommendations on our exchange server and e-mail to prevent any security breaches. Filters have been put in place to avoid spam e-mail.

Public Health 3.0 – Mrs. Adkinson attended a meeting that looked at Public Health programs and ways to ensure that the most vulnerable populations needs are being met in areas like transportation, food, housing and safety issues.

Accreditation – Five counties in Washington are accredited and approximately eight are going through the process. The accreditation program establishes core Public Health functions and establishes the best ways

to address these functions based on evidence. It is a process to assist in program planning across the agency. One of the functions of the accreditation process is to develop a strategic plan which will set the goals and vision for the agency. GCHD plans to fulfill this with the help of staff and BOH. GCHD will be able to glean from the 115 agencies across the country who already are accredited. Becoming accredited could also open the agency up to future funding. However at this point in time GCHD plans to adopt the elements of accreditation that assure GCHD is an effective public health agency utilizing the best methods for addressing the community needs and not explore official accreditation unless it is determined to be a cost benefit or becomes required.

Other Updates - None

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

STI Outreach Event – The Larson area in Moses Lake was identified as an area with high rates of STD's with syphilis being the highest. Last month GCHD staff went to the community to perform STD testing and treatment. Before the event, 150 flyers were distributed in the neighborhood. The event was a success and staff hopes to go out again when there is a need.

Mosquito Borne Disease – Benton Franklin County received their first human West Nile Virus Case. Grant County has the highest rate for positive WNV testing in mosquitoes.

On August 6, the Health District was notified of the first Zika Virus case in Grant County. The male had traveled to Mexico and was likely exposed to the virus there.

Other Updates – On August 8, the Health District was notified about a bat that had bitten a child. The bat was collected and sent to the State lab where it tested positive for rabies. The quick thinking by the family allowed for quick response and treatment for the child when the bat tested positive for rabies. The patient is receiving a series of anti-rabies vaccine. This was the first bat in over 15 years that has tested positive for rabies. A press release was posted to the GCHD Facebook page which reached over 15,000 people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. to executive session according to RCW 42.30.110 to last 5 minutes regarding potential litigation with an additional 5 minutes for evaluation of a public employee. The public meeting was reopened at 9:10 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held on public meeting procedures and time allowed for public comments. Mrs. Adkinson stated she would bring to the next meeting recommendations for the Board's consideration.

ADJOURNMENT - With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:13p.m. (M/S Swartz/Wanke – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Darcy Moss, Administrative Services Manager
Clerk of the Board