

BOARD OF HEALTH**August 9, 2017****7:00 PM**

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

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

John Glassco – SL, Krupp, WC

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Carol Nordine – EC, CC, GC, HtlN

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

STAFF

Katherine Kenison – HD Attorney

Virginia Valdez – Admin. Services Manager

Darcy Moss – Admin. Services Manager

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Todd Phillips – E.H. Manager

ABSENT

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

Tom Harris – Quincy

Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

Tom Taylor – Commissioner

Kathleen Nelson – Community Public Health Manager

Anna Franz – H.D. Attorney

GUESTS

None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Stevens - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending August 8, 2017 totaling \$255,689.50 (#1 - #3 totaling \$127,526.03 and #4 - #29 totaling \$ 57,198.77 and #30 - #53 totaling \$70,964.70) were approved (M/S Stevens/Curnel – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jon Ness

Royal Organic Update – Several visits have been made to Royal Organic Products (ROP) to address concerns about litter being exposed in the soil and drifting to neighboring farmlands. On July 17, 2017, staff visited the ROP site and observed visible effort to address the complaint. On July 21, 2017, Mr. Ness and staff visited the site again to follow up and spoke with Chuck Graff who stated no additional clean-up had been made since the previous visit. Necessary clean-up efforts going forward were discussed. A letter addressing

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continued compliance was sent to Thad Schutt and Chuck Graff. GCHD will continue to conduct weekly visits to ensure compliance. Jon asked for any questions.

Dr. Curnel asked if they received many complaints from the neighbors.

Mr. Ness stated that the neighbors were thankful and encouraged the GCHD to continue to inspect.

Commissioner Carter stated that she received a call from a citizen a couple of months ago, and Mr. Phillips (former EH Manager) began addressing the complaint.

Food Program Update – Todd Phillips (EH Manager) moved on to a new job, as well as Mattias Dilling (summer intern) and Evelyn Zepeda (Program Specialist). We have transitioned staff into new positions. Mr. Ness was promoted to EH Manager and Lars Richins was promoted to an Environmental Health Specialist III, leaving one vacant Environmental Health Specialist position with primary responsibilities in the food program. Currently screening applicants and scheduling interviews very soon. Lars Richins participated in training this week for septic conducted by Washington State Department of Health.

Food Permit Suspension – Food permit has been suspended for a local food truck. Owner was observed cooking foods in his residence and not in an approved kitchen. Owner has filed an appeal and an administrative hearing is scheduled for tomorrow, August 10, 2017.

Rotenone Update – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife treated a local lake with Rotenone to kill all fish in the lake. They conducted a study of wells to see if Rotenone was getting into the wells. The study revealed low levels of contamination; however, a regular pattern was not found. Washington State Department of Health and Department of Ecology have requested the raw data for analysis. Summary study included in provided packet.

Crescent Bar Water Update – Two wells on each side of Crescent Bar development were tested and arsenic levels were found to be 15 ppb. The use of the south well was closed which put more pressure on the north side of the well. This resulted in water pressure being very low for residents in the area and complaints were received. Issue is anticipated to be addressed and fixed by Friday, August 11, 2017.

Complaint Letter – A complaint letter was received by GCHD involving a known problematic home. GCHD has received continued calls and letters about this specific home. There is not much, if any, progress that has been made. The only recourse is to take the issue to court; however, funding for this program is unavailable to use due to the State's capital budget not being adopted. GCHD will not be responding to these types of complaints without the budget to support the program unless there is an immediate threat to the public's health.

Mrs. Adkinson added that the authors of the letters requested that the letters be shared with the GCHD Board.

Wildfire Smoke Update – In response to the wildfires in Canada and Washington, the GCHD responded by distributing N95 masks to local city halls. The GCHD Emergency Management team coordinated distribution and also informational resources for the public. Press releases were sent out to the media reporting on

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unsafe conditions. Local public pools decided to close during the weekend when air quality was extremely unsafe. The Gorge decided to keep their venue open and said they would purchase masks for distribution over the weekend.

Mrs. Adkinson added that the GCHD has promoted the use of the Ecology website as a resource tool for the community. Also, GCHD promotes the use of the 531-site distance tool.

Mrs. spoke with the Fair manager about the air quality during fair week, the manager stated they would have an AMR booth and provide masks to the public if necessary. Dr. Brzezny remains concerned about the heat and restricted access to water.

Other Updates – National Frozen Foods has submitted a solid waste permit application.

Mr. Ness reported on an event that he participated in at Big Bend Community College. It was a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) exercise. Jon was impressed with the community's collaboration on this event and wanted to take a moment to applaud the community partners that participated.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT – Theresa Adkinson on behalf of Kathleen Nelson

Immunization Coalition – Mrs. Nelson has been working on forming an immunization coalition that will address missed opportunities for immunizations in clinical settings. Also, has been working on reporting tools to use.

National Immunization Awareness – Back-to-school immunization time, Theresa participated in an interview with iFiber One News on the importance of up-to-date immunizations. Mrs. Nelson spoke with school officials about enforcing school immunization policies and the risks of being out of date with immunizations. More information to be shared online on the GCHD Facebook page.

Other Updates – Community Public Health Division has collaborated with law enforcement officials on providing medication to be administered when there are drug overdoses. Public Health nurses are discussing with community leaders about the importance of creating policies, procedure, and training on when to administer the drug. Grant Integrated Services is an important partner and has a grant that may cover some of the funding for training.

ASSESSMENT REPORT – None

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Theresa Adkinson

Introduction to Virginia Valdez- Ms. Valdez is the new Administrative Services Manager and is stepping into Darcy Moss' role. Darcy will be moving to a vacated Program Specialist position within the Community Health division. Mrs. Adkinson thanked Mrs. Moss for her hard work and dedication to GCHD. She will be missed by the management team, but will be a valuable asset to the Community Public Health Division.

Organization Update and Changes- There have been a number of recent changes. Currently recruiting for an Environmental Health Specialist position and hope to conduct interviews the week after fair. Maria Vargas is transitioning into the Community Public Health Division to coordinate the Maternal and Child Health grant

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and Children with Special Healthcare Needs program. This has left an opportunity to redefine a Health Educator position. Currently have a Public Nurse opening which has been difficult to fill but GCHD is looking at ways to fill this position.

Federal Audit – There will be an exit interview soon that will be sent to all the board members. The exit interview will have recommendations for improvement. Mrs. Franks (GCHD Accountant) started in January 2017 and there was a knowledge transfer that was taking place during this time. The full report is anticipated to be available in September.

Foundational Public Health Funding – The Washington State Legislature has allocated funding for Foundational Public Health Funding. Parameters include \$52,000 a year for Grant County in communicable disease. It is necessary to have data to support this and systems to support this work. There is still \$500,000 allocated for shared public health services demonstration projects such as Hep-C project. The Washington State Plan is to be sent to legislature in December. Original ask was 60 million and 10 million in funds was awarded to local public health.

Grant County Coalition for Health Improvement – This is a local coalition and a participant in the North Central Washington Accountable Communities of Health (NCW-ACH). GCHD received a small grant to facilitate this work. The coalition is currently searching for a representative to serve on the regional ACH board that would represent Grant County.

Quincy Communities that Care Opioid Grant – GCHD had hopes that this grant would be awarded to us. Just found out yesterday evening that GCHD was not the recipient of this grant.

Other Updates – None

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Theresa Adkinson and Jon Ness on behalf of Dr. Brzezny

E. coli Cluster/Outbreak Investigation – Jon Ness

Two cases of E. coli reported, both infants that were hospitalized with HUS. The cases were related (cousins) and were likely secondary cases to the small E. coli illness outbreak from a family BBQ. Final lab results of both patients matched.

There was another unrelated reported case of E. coli the second week of July. Patient's test results were sent to state lab and tested for E. coli 0157 and the results were negative. E. coli was an uncommon type that cannot be tested by state lab and was forwarded to CDC for further testing. Results are pending.

A fourth case of a Grant County child hospitalized with HUS was reported today. No further information is available at this time.

Pertussis Outbreak – Theresa Adkinson

As of today, there are a reported number of 63 pertussis cases. New cases being confirmed daily. The average age of those infected is 12 years old. GCHD staff are working on effective messaging about the importance of timely vaccines, high-risk populations, and close contact.

Vectors Update – Jon Ness

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GCHD has facilitated the trapping and testing of mosquitoes in the Wilson Creek area. Representatives from Wilson Creek are conducting the trapping and are sending the trap nets directly to DOH for counts and testing. Wilson Creek mosquitoes have all been negative for West Nile virus; however, the first West Nile virus-positive mosquito sample was identified this week by Grant County Mosquito Control District #1. It was found near Dodson Rd and I-90. GCHD is working on a media release to go out before the weekend.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm. (M/S Stevens/Carter - unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Virginia Valdez
Clerk of the Board