

BOARD OF HEALTH**September 13, 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

Carol Nordine – EC, CC, GC, HtIn

John Glassco – SL, Krupp, WC

Tom Taylor – Commissioner

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

STAFF

Katherine Kenison – HD Attorney

Virginia Valdez – Admin. Services Manager

Kathleen Nelson – Community Public Health Manager

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Jon Ness – E.H. Manager

Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

ABSENT

Tom Harris – Quincy

Anna Franz – H.D. Attorney

Dr. David Curnel - Moses Lake

GUESTS

None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of the August 9, 2017 meeting were approved as written (M/S Cindy/Wanke - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending September 12, 2017 totaling \$223,455.31 (#1 - #3 totaling \$127,181.26 and #4 - #17 totaling \$ 9,805.68 and #18 - #32 totaling \$10,626.12 and #33-#53 totaling \$75,842.25) were approved (M/S Wanke/Taylor – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jon Ness

Royal Organic Update – Mr. Ness reported significant improvements made by Royal Organics. Staff has been making routine visits to the facility to inspect progress.

New EH Staff – GCHD made a job offer this week to a UW recent graduate for the vacant Environmental Health Specialist position. The candidate accepted and is anticipated to start September 21, 2017. Current staff member, EH Specialist, Stephanie Shopbell passed her Registered Sanitarian exam and is now a

BOARD OF HEALTH

September 13, 2017

Page 2

certified Registered Sanitarian. All EH staff members have this certification now, with exception of the new hire. We will continue to encourage our new hires to study and take this exam.

West Nile Virus – GCHD has been working with Wilson Creek and the State Department of Health. There have been mosquitos that have tested positive for this virus here in Grant County which happens every year. Amber McCoy has been taking the lead and working with Wilson Creek.

PHEP Update – State Department of Health has changed PHER to PHEP (Public Health Emergency Response to Preparedness). This is an important change because it means grant dollars will be spent on emergency preparedness instead of emergency response.

Other Updates – As a part of the smoke response effort, GCHD reached out to schools in the county and provided resources on air quality. With the help of the Emergency Management team, GCHD was able to distribute 4,000 masks to the community's most vulnerable population. Heather Massart (Public Information Officer) released information on social media and received high response levels from the community (see handouts).

In a recent news release, State Department of Health has reported an increase of rabid bats in public parks and private homes in Washington State (see handout).

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT – Kathleen Nelson

Opioid Work – The Grant County Sheriff's Officer will equip officers with anti-opioid medicine and will provide training on administering this medicine in cases of overdose (see handout).

School Nurse Meeting – A school nurse meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18th at the Grant County Health District. This will be an interactive, information, networking opportunity.

Influenza – Community Public Health staff sent out letters to group homes on how to better care for residents and vulnerable people. Ms. Nelson has invited assisted living staff to GCHD to receive education on how to isolate an outbreak using their facilities map.

Immunization Coalition – This coalition involves people at the M.A. and RN level who come together and share plans. It includes a presentation on HPV and a pharmacist explains what is an immunization. An immunization does not prevent illness but lessens the symptoms. The more people that are immunized, the less of a chance there is of spreading it (see handout). Prevention goes a long way. Ms. Nelson had a few staff members move to her division and the division will be interviewing an RN soon.

ASSESSMENT REPORT – None

BOARD OF HEALTH

September 13, 2017

Page 3

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Theresa Adkinson

National Shared Services Conference – GCHD is a Washington State recipient of the grant, Diamond Project. Mrs. Adkinson had the opportunity to participate and represent Washington State at this national conference. At the conference, the modernization of shared services was discussed. Jackie Dawson from Chelan-Douglas worked with Assessment Coordinator, Laina Mitchell, Accountant, Cory Franks on the costs for Foundational Public Health vs Shared Services. This included evaluating 35 local health jurisdictions.

Audit Update – The audit is now complete and the exit interview is scheduled for September 19th at 2:30 at GCHD. Theresa, Cory and Virginia will be in attendance. The official audit report will be released next month.

Financial Update – GCHD recently renewed our insurance policy with Enduris, there was a slight increase in pricing. Shane Heston from Trask Insurance came and spoke with GCHD and assisted us in the renewal process. GCHD will begin working on the new annual budget for next year. This year we had additional payouts that we paid from reserves and not the operating budget. Paid out sick and annual leave for long-term employees. Due to recent departures, payroll is down; however, we cannot bill out all grants at this time.

Wanke – Have we sent out an annual letter to cities requesting \$2.00 a resident?

Theresa – Not yet.

Other Updates – Maria Vargas has taken over the maternal and child health grant under the Community Public Health division. We are getting away from direct services and instead focusing efforts on the prevention of spreading communicable diseases. The state will not allow Safe Kids Grant County to continue but instead, GCHD has passed some of these important initiatives to community partners.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Air Quality – Wildfire smoke is harmful to health; short-term effects are sore throat and watery eyes. Long-term effects include lung disease with exposure over a prolonged period of time. Dr. Brzezny acknowledged and thanked teachers and coaches who canceled practice outdoors due to the air quality. This shows the communities willingness to listen and make appropriate changes to protect children's health now and in the future.

Taylor – Messaging to the public about air quality was well done and very information/helpful to the community.

Pertussis – Pertussis is making waves, first case was reported May 18th (see handout, first graph). Second graph on handout reveals onset and symptoms. Third graph shows diagnosis. There have not been many cases in the schools. Cases reported in Moses Lake, Ephrata, Soap Lake; every community is affected. It is estimated 20-30 people affected reside in Adams County. It is important that we continue the message that vaccination is not prevention, it is harm reduction.

BOARD OF HEALTH

September 13, 2017

Page 4

Vector Borne Diseases – West Nile Virus is found in some mosquitos where the marshes are. Staff have gone out and met with property owners. Amber McCoy being one staff member who has built strong relationships with residents in the community.

Other Updates – There is currently one case of influenza reported. Dr. Brzezny spoke about a situation where an individual in the community applied for a loan and the loan required GCHD to declare water in the area as contaminated with nitrates before they could proceed with treating the water (see USGS handout). Dr. Brzezny asked for the Board’s help in determining what the process will be in handling cases such as this one in the future. Will return to the topic and discuss with the Board at a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. (M/S Wanke/Taylor - unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Virginia Valdez
Clerk of the Board