

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

January 10, 2018

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

John Glassco – SL, Krupp, WC

Tom Taylor – Commissioner

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

Dr. David Curnel - Moses Lake

Carol Nordine – EC, CC, GC, HtlN

**STAFF**

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Virginia Valdez – Admin. Services Manager

Kathleen Nelson – Community Public Health Manager

Katherine Kenison – H.D. Attorney

Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

Jon Ness – E.H. Manager

**ABSENT**

Anna Franz – H.D. Attorney

Tom Harris – Quincy

**GUESTS**

Stefan Ball – Environmental Health Specialist

Harold Hochstatter – Citizen

Kelsey Jacobs – Environmental Health Specialist

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2018**

A motion was made to keep Tony Massa as Board Chairman and Marke Wanke as Vice Chairman. John Glassco made a motion to close nominations. Motion was passed (M/S/Curnel/Taylor-unanimous).

**ELECTION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR 2018**

A motion was made to keep the audit committee the same to include Marke Wanke, Tony Massa, and Richard Stevens. Motion was passed (M/S/Curnel/Taylor-unanimous).

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**– A motion was made to approve the agenda with an amendment to add an Executive Session. (M/S Curnel/Carter - unanimous).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - The minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting were approved as written (M/S Stevens/Curnel - unanimous).

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

The vouchers for the period ending January 10, 2018 totaling \$197,359.28 (#1 - #3 totaling \$139,295.05 and #4 - #15 totaling \$8,191.80 and #16 - #37 totaling \$49,872.43) were approved. (M/S Curnel/Wanke– unanimous).

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### **PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS** – Mr. Harold Hochstatter

Mr. Hochstatter addressed the Board about a letter that he sent to the County Commissioners Cindy Carter, Tom Taylor, and Richard Stevens. Mr. Hochstatter spoke about a problem that was created over 30 years ago when he drilled the Keller Quay well. His concern was that the cost to short – plat the well and 16 subdivided lots is well above his available means. It was discussed amongst board members and decided that the fee charged for site registrations would remain unchanged even when land is subdivided. A letter was issued by Jon Ness to Mr. Hochstatter on behalf of the Grant County Health District.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT** – Jon Ness

**New Environmental Health Staff** – Jon introduced his new staff members in the Environmental Health division. Stefan Ball is a graduate of UW and is working in the Septic, Water, and Food programs in the North half of the county. Kelsey Jacobs is a CWU graduate and is working primarily in the Food program. Jon spoke about how his division is excited to welcome the new staff and provide them with the necessary training to be successful in their new positions.

**Sewage Spill in Quincy** – On 12/27/17 GCHD staff received notification of surfacing sewage at a mobile home park outside of Quincy, WA. Stefan reported out to assess the situation and found a repairman already there. He found the pumps wiring was not connected properly. On 12/28/17 GCHD staff went back out and there was still sewage on the ground. The repairman removed sticks that were clogging the pump. The repairman sucked up as much sewage as he could and spread lime out on the affected area. GCHD staff followed up on 01/02/18 and found no further issues. No fees were charged but it costs the agency money in terms of staff time.

**HealthSpace Software Update** – About 1 year and 4 months ago, GCHD tried to go electronic with inspections. This started with a grant that was received federally. There have been some challenges in using the software but Environmental Health has now been able to sync food inspections electronically online. Environmental Health division will continue to electronically report in 2018. Septic and Water reports will be next to go electronic using the database. HealthSpace is the same software that is being used by the Washington State Department of Health.

**End of Year Septic Applications Report**- Jon reported 270 septic applications for the year 2017. This number has grown in recent years.

**Other Updates** – Jon spoke about a likely case of rabies involving a Grant County resident. During the individual's visit to Arizona, the resident encountered what is believed to be a rabid fox. The individual strangled and killed the fox and claims he/she was not bitten during the attack. DOH contacted GCHD to investigate. The individual researched Post Exposure Prophylaxis and the cost. The individual decided to seek treatment in Mexico to reduce out-of-pocket cost.

Dr. Brzezny stated that it appears the man was not given immunoglobulin shots, only the vaccine. GCHD does not know the quality of the vaccine he received. This cost can be a difficulty and there are no public funds available at the moment to help pay for rabies treatment; however, individuals can seek treatment at a hospital and they will not be turned away. Dr. Brzezny also added that rabies is one hundred percent fatal in humans and has a varied incubation period, usually 1-3 months, but also as short as 14 days or less in some studies.

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Jon also reported on another case where an individual was bitten by a stray dog while going outside to get the mail. The individual has been unable to locate the suspected dog. GCHD recommended that the individual work with their care provider to obtain Post Exposure Prophylaxis.

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT** – Kathleen Nelson

**Opioid Meeting with School Nurses** – Kathleen spoke about receiving a few requests from local school nurses to come and talk about opioids at local schools. Kathleen said with the rise of the opioid epidemic, we will hopefully see an increase in the use of Narcan.

**HIPPA Update** – Kathleen will be going to a training in Seattle on HIPAA compliance and updates. Kathleen will then report back to the agency and train staff. Dr. Brzezny stressed the importance of this because of the confidential information that the agency staff may come into contact with and because of the number of new staff members that will need the required training.

**Immunization Program – Regional Activities** – Kathleen reported that DOH is taking back the immunization work because there is not enough funding to be distributed locally. There will be a Nurse advice line that clinics can call and get information. The Community Health division will still be doing clinic visits and encouraging immunizations to increase the rates.

**Other Updates** - Kathleen reported working with Heather on updating the GCHD website to include electronic forms that can be completed online. Kathleen stated the updates make the website very user friendly.

### **ASSESSMENT REPORT** – Theresa Adkinson

Theresa spoke about the Washington State Health Assessment that has been made available to LHJs by the Washington State Secretary of Health, John Wiesman. LHJs are encouraged to review the assessment and provide feedback online. (See handout).

### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT** – Theresa Adkinson

**Staffing Updates** – Theresa informed the Board of the departure of the GCHD Chief Financial Officer, Cory Franks. Theresa stated that Cory gave her notice and will be working until the end of January. Ultimately, Cory decided that she will be staying home and focusing on her young family.

**Grant County Prevention Coalition** – Theresa spoke about the prevention of drug misuse and the importance of working with behavioral health and prevention partners in the community. The coalition meets to discuss the drug misuse prevalent in the youth population. They are working to create a draft action plan to address the situation using lots of data. It is a lot about connecting people with the appropriate resources within the community.

**Public Health Legislative Day & Administrators' Meeting with the Secretary of Health**– Theresa will be attending the Public Health Legislative Day in Olympia on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

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**Coalition for Health Improvement** – A draft proposal has been completed and it has been recommended that the coalition expand the committee to include media. The leadership team met recently to discuss upcoming meetings and the one local representative needed to serve on the regional ACH board. Barry Kling

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from Chelan/Douglas currently serves as the public health representative for the four North Central Counties. GCHD is receiving a \$40,000 grant to run the local ACH coalition.

**Staff Goals & Measurable Outcomes for 2018** – At the end of year staff meeting, Theresa asked each staff to set up 2 personal goals and program goals. Then the division Managers are to come up with 2 measurable goals for division for the year. Managers are working on this with their staff and will have end of January scorecards available.

**Other Updates** – Theresa reported receiving an email from the Washington State Secretary of Health on the new proposed Governor’s budget which highlights specific public health activities and other issues of importance to the public health budget.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT** – Dr. Brzezny

**Mumps Update** – Dr. Brzezny reported at this time there were no secondary cases from the healthcare worker exposure.

**Pertussis Update**– Dr. Brzezny reported a big change in pertussis numbers. Final tally of the year, 82 cases for 2017. This is the highest rate of pertussis in Washington State. The season is not over yet but Dr. Brzezny is hopeful that we will see a baseline.

**Norovirus Outbreak Update** – Dr. Brzezny asked the Board to review the Epi report provided which discusses norovirus at LTC facilities during the winter months. There were large numbers of the population affected; however, the outbreak is now over. (See handout).

**Seasonal Influenza**– Dr. Brzezny reported that we are currently experiencing an epidemic of influenza. Reported cases are increasing and all counties are reporting. Dr. Brzezny expressed specific concern for Influenza A in relation to an epidemic, it is in full force. There are many hospitalizations and no new reported deaths.

**Other Updates** – There have been Hepatitis A outbreaks in California and Michigan. Six hundred plus individuals were affected. People should receive vaccinations. MMRs are needed for traveling.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The executive session took place from 8:15 pm to 8:25 pm to discuss the job performance of a public employee.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. (M/S Carter/Curnel - unanimous).

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Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

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Virginia Valdez  
Clerk of the Board