

BOARD OF HEALTH**August 19, 2019****7:00 PM**

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

MEMBERS

Mark Wanke -- Ephrata

Tony Massa -- Warden

Tom Taylor -- Commissioner

Cindy Carter -- Commissioner

Richard Stevens -- Commissioner

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny -- Health Officer

Jon Ness -- E.H. Manager

Rita Morfin -- Board Clerk

Theresa Adkinson -- Administrator

Katherine Kenison -- H.D. Attorney

ABSENT

Dr. David Curnel -- Moses Lake

Tom Harris -- Quincy

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA -- The motion was made to approve the agenda with the amendment of July minutes being approved. (M/S Stevens/Wanke -- unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- The minutes of the July 10, 2019 meeting were approved as written (M/S Wanke/Taylor -- unanimous).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The July vouchers for the Period ending July 10, 2019, totaling \$198,235.58 (#1 -- 3 totaling \$127,312.13 #4 -- 28 totaling \$27,043.90 and #29 -- 45 totaling \$43,879.55) were approved (M/S Taylor/Stevens -- unanimous).

The August vouchers for the period ending August 19, 2019, totaling \$217,164.33 (#1 -- 3 totaling \$129,862.62 #4 -- 19 totaling \$20,154.60 #20 -- 31 totaling \$21,456.62 #32 -- #48 totaling \$45,690.49 and #49 -- #62 totaling \$44,411.24) were approved (M/S Carter/Wanke -- unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS -- None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT -- Jon Ness

Food Program Workshop -- Proposed Updated Food Categories -- Jon presented a PowerPoint with different scenarios to the board. Discussion was held and direction was given for Jon to bring back a hybrid option of scenario 2 and 3 to the September BOH meeting.

Harmful Algae Bloom Update -- The EPA has released an Android app which shows satellite images of algae counts in the water. The darker the red, the higher the algae count, this is not an indication of toxic algae but is a tool for the public to locate algae blooms. Moses Lake Watershed Council recently met and discussed how to reduce the algae blooms. As we know there is no funding for Blue Green Algae, ideas were

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discussed on how to identify potential funding sources. Due to a citizen complaint, Moses Lake is the only Grant County body of water being tested during the 2019 summer.

Upcoming State Rule Updates/New Rules – Jon provided an update on the draft food rule revision by WA-DOH (Washington State Department of Health) as well as the on-site sewage systems changes. WA-DOH will be hosting several workshops across the state for stakeholders and public health staff regarding the rule changes to on-site sewage systems. The Moses Lake workshop will be held on September 10, 2019.

Rabies Update DOH Guidelines – Jon presented updated flow charts of rabies exposure that will be used by staff to determine appropriate testing and post exposure treatment.

Other – Food and septic reports sent in email, no questions.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Theresa Adkinson

Program Updates – Included in BOH Packet, Safe Firearm Storage event on August 24, 2019 in Moses Lake.

Health Educator Position Update – We have a new employee joining us from New York State tentatively starting September 16th. He has worked in China and is excited to move to Grant County. Gabriela Mendez has transitioned from our HE temporary to HE permanent.

Other – None

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Grant County Suicide Date – Handout with facts about suicide given.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT -Theresa Adkinson

Board of Health Vacancies – Theresa and Rita visited the North County Regional Board of Mayors Meeting to discuss the current vacancy on the Grant County Board of Health (BOH). Informational handouts were given, and discussion was held on what the vacancy means for North County representation. Options given to the mayors included potential updates to the GCHD Board resolution to include the ability to video conference when there is bad weather. They suggested an ad be placed in their local newspaper and then have an application process to determine who best could fill the seat.

Commissioner Taylor advocated to change the BOH meeting start time from 7:00pm to 6:00pm. Katherine Kenison, GCHD Attorney, gave feedback to the board on remote call in options. Katherine will work with Theresa on our current resolution to reflect any and all changes the board would like to see.

Financials Report – Update given to the board. The mumps response's cost to GCHD was \$42,000.71 which put GCHD \$22,566.00 over budget for the Emergency Response Grant, this overage will be covered by GCHD flexible funds, which is generated from the county, city and some state funds. FPHS (Foundational Public Health Services) Steering Committee is working on an Emergency Fund that would be set aside for LHJ's to apply for in case of an outbreak.

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The Syringe Services Program received grant funds for \$14,000 in supplies and continue to utilize volunteers to make the supply kits, such as wound care kits.

Theresa has begun planning for the 2020 budget with assistance from the accounting firm CLA.

Foundational Public Health Services – The FPHS Steering Committee is gearing up for the 2020 special session. There is an error in the funding allocations that shorts the system by 3.8 million dollars. DOH is requesting a budget fix. The Steering Committee do plan to work with Legislators on a the larger ask to stabilize our public health system while continuing to modernize our work, where appropriate.

Adams County Public Health Services – Adams County is requesting assistance with their on-site Septic Program due to the loss of their only licensed on-site septic sanitarian. We have had an agreement in the past and the MOU would include all costs. They are currently asking for five (5) hours a week which brings concern for Commissioner Taylor when looking at GCHD and the amount of inspections that we are not able to complete due to staffing. Theresa mentioned that in the past they have used an exempt employee which wouldn't affect the budget. Dr. Brzezny stated that if we are unable to help Adams County, their business will stop which can lead to PH concerns. Because we have helped in the past, they did come to us again. Dr. Brzezny gave some different scenarios for a broader picture. Commissioner Taylor would like to see a plan or possibly recommend they reach out to other neighboring counties.

Chair Massa presented allowing them to use GCHD staff for five (5) hours a week until our September BOH meeting. At that meeting they would like Adams County to present a plan and other options for their program. Motion made to approve this plan (M/S Taylor/Wanke – unanimous)

Enduris Insurance Renewal – Enduris had an industry wide 12% increase, despite the increase our fee dropped by \$17,000. Motion made to pay invoice (M/S Carter/Stevens – unanimous)

Upcoming Administrator's City Visits & City Contribution Letters/MOU – The Administrator's city visits are being scheduled starting with Moses Lake. Theresa is working on a presentation for the visit and Commissioner Taylor showed interest in joining Theresa. An invitation to join her was extended to all board members.

GCHD Labor Management Committee – LMC is a mix of leadership and representatives from each division. We work on things such policies, employee recognition and most recently developing a mileage policy. Theresa recognized the committee on their hard work on behalf of the organization.

Accountable Communities of Health – GCHD was recently awarded a \$20,000 school-based opioid prevention assessment grant from the North Central Washington Accountable Communities of Health. A LOI was sent on Friday for additional services in the SSP to help with Hep A and Hep B education. There is

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\$450,000 available through this grants program to be split between all four North Central Washington counties.

Other – The GCHD audit is set to begin September 23, 2019 with a pre-audit meeting on August 22, 2019.

The Regional Epidemiologist position that will serve Chelan-Douglas, Grant, Kittitas and Okanogan counties is moving forward in their hiring process. They started with 70 applicants and are down to four (4) for the interview process.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Communicable Disease Update – Current numbers of notifiable conditions were provided to the board.

There is a significant increase in STI infections which is increasing the amount of time public health nurses spend contacting individuals. Each individual could have a minimum of three (3) phone calls to start. Medication packs provided for the partners of individuals with an STI were previously given at pharmacies. That has been pulled and are now being provided at LHJ's.

Hazardous Smoke Guidelines – The final version for the smoke guidelines was recently released and provided to the board. Dr. Brzezny encouraged the board to take the flier home for reference. If the air quality is in the hazardous zone (PM_{2.5} >150.4) all outdoor events and activities will be cancelled.

Hepatitis A outbreak in the US and Washington State – Since March 2017, the US has had 25,000 cases of Hep A, 60% of those were hospitalized and occasional cases in Grant County. Statewide there has been a big push for the Hep A immunization for high risk individuals. We are exploring having Hep A and B immunization available during our SSP.

Active TB Update – The active TB patient has concluded treatment as of today. Currently there are no other cases to report on.

SSP Update – Updated numbers given to the board. Since starting the SSP program in May 2018, we have had 51 overdose saves due to the distribution of Narcan. This means a significant decrease in costs due to individuals using the Narcan and not needing to call 911 or go to the emergency room.

Other – West Nile Virus media release was presented and Dr. Brzezny let the board know that while we have had a mosquito test positive in Grant County, there has been no human diagnosed with West Nile Virus.

OTHER BUSINESS – Mark Wanke noted that the safe routes to school grant was awarded to Ephrata and the new equipment is up and running. That includes flashing lights, signs and still working on the crosswalks. This work started several years ago with GCHD and improvements from the assessments done continue to be funded providing safer walker environments for students and the community.

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ADJOURNMENT – With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. (M/S Wanke/Taylor – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Rita Morfin, Clerk of the Board