

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 27, 2008
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members Boldt and Stuart present. Commissioner Morris, Chair, absent.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – OUR PERSONAL BEST TRIBUTE TO INA MORITZ

Commissioner Boldt opened with some comments regarding Ina Moritz's many years of volunteer service to Clark County's Public Health. He invited John Wiesman to share some memories of Ina, who recently passed away.

John Wiesman, Director, Public Health, talked about how important and valued Ina was to the department.

Sandi Kendrick, Public Health, said Ina was their "Our Personal Best" because she exemplified what they strive for in Public Health and was exceptional in all she did.

[Staff played a video segment on Ina created for the Spirit of Clark County awards when she won three years previously.]

Commissioner Boldt pointed out that Clark County has never recognized anyone with an OPB award who didn't actually work at the county, but it was difficult to tell the difference with Mrs. Moritz. He presented the OPB award to her family.

A family member thanked the Board of Health, as well as several staff members from Public Health.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The board conducted the Flag Salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Boldt asked staff for further clarification on items 2 (grant with the Department of Social and Health Services for Early Family Support Services) and 4 (grant with the Department of Social and Health Services for Early Intervention Program).

John Wiesman, Director, Public Health, explained that the grants were specifically for individuals who may have been referred to Child Protective Services (CPS), but are a low enough risk as to not to receive CPS services and so Public Health receives those

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 27, 2008
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

referrals. He said their home nurses visit families and try to offer any kind of support they can in terms of parenting services, health issues with children, etc.

Boldt wanted to know if some of those services have to be contracted out.

Wiesman said they plan all of the services and have a referral network they work with.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stuart to approve consent agenda items 1 through 6. Board members *Boldt* and *Stuart* voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 404)

POLICY UPDATE

Wiesman stated that there were two policy issues, one being to start a three meeting update on their strategic plan and today they would updating the board on Strategic Initiatives 1 and 2.

Peggy Coates, Public Health, talked about Strategic Initiative 1 – Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure. *Coates* went through the following main objectives: to achieve sustainable, flexible funding; implement multi-media and computing technologies to improve communications and customer service; create and sustain an organizational environment and workforce with a commitment to learning and healthy behaviors; increase accountability through ongoing program evaluation; and develop and update departmental policies and procedures that support efficient systems and manage risk. She further explained each objective. *Coates* said they would also be doing some work on the next priority projects, including data warehouse and electronic records and tablets. She said there are some challenges, the biggest one being financial. She said they have continuing increases in their overhead expenses and also the current economic slump in Clark County has affected property development, which affects Public Health in terms of revenue from environmental health fees. In order to meet those challenges, *Coates* said they are looking at how they might innovate or reallocate tasks and assignments in order to be more efficient. In addition, they are looking at ways to pool their resources with Community Services to address public health needs where they have that crossover.

Boldt mentioned the web site.

Coates said they have been working closely with OBIS and PIO. She said she understands that part of the IS department's long term strategy is to grow their infrastructure and make it more accessible, which is what they're trying to do with help from OBIS.

Wiesman added that as part of the data warehousing project, they are also looking at getting all of their data geo-coded so that they can do the mapping.

Bob Williamson, Public Health, presented Strategic Initiative 2 – Responding to Health Threats. He described the following main objectives: to enhance public health's first

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 27, 2008
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

responder capacity and optimize emergency management resources where available in the community; to develop and update community wide all-hazard and respiratory disease plans; to increase the early detection of disease through the enhancement of public health surveillance systems; and to ensure availability of protocols and resources for response to routine and emergent public health events. Williamson briefly explained the projects under each objective. He stated that in 2008 they would continue the work on the priority projects launched in 2007, and would also be focusing on how to prepare the general public on how to respond to health emergencies. He said ongoing cuts in federal funding create some challenges, but they would be looking at ways to regionalize some resources and services.

Stuart wanted to know if federal organizations were taking any action to ensure that funding to meet the mandates is in place. He also asked what the Board of Health could do.

Wiesman stated that the following week he would be in Washington, D.C. attending a board meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. With the board's permission, he would like to schedule meetings with their legislative delegation to discuss ensuring that Congress remembers public health when looking at health care reform, and also emergency preparedness funding challenges. He suggested they draft up a letter for the board to sign and he would take it to the meetings.

Commissioners Boldt and Stuart said that would be fine.

Boldt asked if they had a priority ranking system.

Wiesman said they are looking at what they are doing regionally in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. He said they have a governing council, which is comprised of the health department directors and health officers from the four counties, and they would be meeting in March to look at a proposal regarding how they might do things differently. Secondly, at the state level there is a steering committee that goes along with the preparedness piece.

Wiesman then updated the board on the pandemic flu anti-viral stockpile. He stated that pandemic flu from bird flu H5-N1 continues to be a threat and since 2003 there have been 368 human cases throughout the country and of those confirmed cases, 234 have died. So far in 2008 there have been 19 cases with 17 deaths reported in China, Indonesia, and Vietnam. He explained that the overall threat analysis remains at a level 3, meaning that there are very limited human-to-human transmissions. As far as the anti-viral stockpile they purchased, *Wiesman* said they are in the process of securing storage sites and that both local hospitals have agreed. Also, they are preparing for some storage within the Center for Community Health. In terms of the shelf life of the medication, *Wiesman* said they received word that it is now 7 years and that the supply they receive should be no older than 4 months. Lastly, he noted that pediatric dosages might now be available, but

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 27, 2008
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

they would look into that further and come back to the board to propose possible adjustments to the second part of their order.

Stuart asked *Wiesman* if they were working on distribution contracts with the hospitals and would they be doing the dispensing from their facilities.

Wiesman said the initial use of the medications would essentially be for folks who are ill, which is one of the reasons for placing the anti-viral in the hospitals. He stated that the medication would be under their control.

Boldt asked for clarification about who has control.

Wiesman responded that it would be under the Health Officer's orders that the medications are released and dispensed and that is outlined in the memorandums of agreement with the hospitals.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wiesman acknowledged that Dr. Melnick had published his second book, entitled Biological Chemical and Radiological Terrorism/Emergency Preparedness and Response for the Primary Care Physician. Also, *Wiesman* stated that Bob Williamson and Marni Storey had been accepted into the National Public Health Leadership Institute, which is a leadership development program.

Nathan Weed, Public Health, updated the board on the Regional IV Joint Information System/Joint Information Center preparedness exercise that took place April 19, 2007. He explained that it was a functional exercise designed to test the ability of their region's Public Information Officers to coordinate the development and distribution of a public message. He further explained. He said a follow-up exercise was scheduled for the summer. *Weed* said another exercise, Operation Dark November, took place after hours on November 27 and 28 and was designed to test the communications annex and the policy making capability of the Region IV Governing Council. He further summarized the exercise and stated that future exercises should continue to test communications tools and ensure that everyone is on the SECURES system so they can receive alerts.

Richard Conrad, Public Health, updated the board on Operation TriPOD 2007. He said a large part of Public Health's responsibility is to dispense medications and vaccines to a large population and this exercise was meant to test that function. He further explained. *Conrad* concluded that future exercises should continue to develop management expertise for Points of Distribution and improve communication between remote sites and the Incident Command Post.

Wiesman stated that Children's Dental Health Day received a Clark County Spirit Award and that they held their second annual event the day after the State of the County Address.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 27, 2008
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

He said it was very successful and 307 children were seen in one day with x-rays, fillings, extractions, and preventative care done by 166 volunteers.

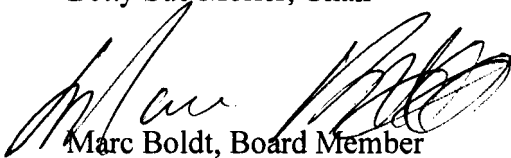
Stuart wanted to know if there were any programs available that would help people better afford dental care, like the prescription drug benefits card.

Wiesman said he wasn't aware of any, but would follow-up with Public Health's dental hygienist. He noted that SEAMAR operated a dental clinic.


Dr. Alan Melnick, Health Officer, Public Health, added that the Free Clinic offers some dental services, including a dental van, and they are looking into possibly expanding dental services.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Betty Sue Morris, Chair




Marc Boldt, Board Member



Steve Stuart, Board Member

ATTEST:



Lamine Richards
Clerk of the Board

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