

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 22, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The board conducted the Flag Salute.

ANNOUNCE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY AWARD

Boldt stated he had a great meeting with the Public Health Advisory Council last night where the emphasis of the health community is that it touches every person in Clark County.

He presented the following groups / individuals with the **Honorable Mention Award:**

- **AWARE, Inc:** Youth educators providing information to middle school and high school students about developing character, healthy relationships, and goal-setting to make informed decisions for a healthy lifestyle.
- **Teresa Norman:** Ms. Norman was instrumental in developing the North Star opiate substitution clinic for treatment of addiction and complex health issues.
- **Nutter Corp.:** The firm's comprehensive health and fitness campaign extends to employees, their families and the wider community.
- **Rebound Orthopedics & Neurosurgery Group:** Medical care providers expand access and delivery of health care.
- **Rosemere Neighborhood Association:** Community organization advocating for health promotion, disease prevention and social justice through improving water quality and neighborhood livability.

Boldt thanked them for their service and introduced Commissioner Stuart.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 22, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Stuart presented the following groups / individuals with the **Special Recognition Award**:

- **Clark College Healthy Penguin Nation:** Campus wide program promoting good health through comprehensive strategies.
- **Clark Public Utilities Water Services:** Community wide stewardship program that protects water quality and provide watershed restoration.
- **Dr. Desiree Hellegers:** Dr. Hellegers has partnered with community organizations and local universities to increase understanding of social and environmental justice locally, nationally and globally.
- **Community Choices' Walking:** All Seasons All Reasons campaign: Multi-media campaign providing resources for families, community groups, and employers to create walking programs using online tools, maps, and materials.

Boldt said it was wonderful to see a room full of people supporting these kinds of events and appreciated everyone coming. He presented Dr. Remy Eussen with the 2008 Public Health Community Award. He said he was a great leader and mentioned that when Dr. Eussen was notified of the award, he mentioned the real credit goes to the people that work for him.

Boldt stated when Dr. Eussen arrived 10 years ago he found it difficult to find dental care for young children covered by Medicaid. Dr. Eussen immediately began serving those children and currently 80 percent of his patients are children covered by Medicaid. He has mobilized community support for the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program and has trained more than 60 dentists in techniques necessary for treating and preventing dental diseases in young children. In addition to Clark County, he helped organize ABCD Programs in Cowlitz, Klickitat, and Skamania Counties. He is a regular volunteer at the Child's Dental Health Day and makes himself available at head start locations to provide dental examines. He currently is serving as an advisor to the development of an ABCD program model for seniors who are covered by Medicaid. Dr. Eussen has been instrumental in creating a partnership between public health and community providers to provide access to oral health care and marginalize population. He stated his work has gone a long way to narrow the gap in dental health equity in our community.

Dr. Eussen said thank you and that he couldn't have done it without a team approach. He gave his personal thanks to his staff and his family.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 22, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Boldt introduced Melody Scheer, Public Health.

Scheer thanked Remy for his service and supporting this program. She stated it wasn't until he was on board that the Dental Society moved forward in helping make this program a success.

Scheer introduced Shelly Gwen, who nominated him.

Gwen works with Dr. Eussen in Cowlitz County as a dental hygienist coordinating the ABCD program. She stated Dr. Eussen played a key role in getting the program in Cowlitz. She shared some personal stories regarding Dr. Eussen. She thanked him for all of his generosity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Boldt mentioned an add on to the consent agenda.

Stuart stated that was correct, the minutes from 3/24/09 (**actual hearing date was 3/25/09**)

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stuart to approve items 1 through 4 plus the added minutes. Board members Boldt, Stuart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

John Wiesman, Director, Public Health, said when we say the words Public Health, many people immediately think of their local governmental health department. He stated the Public Health system is much greater than governmental public health. He stated the obvious partners include health care providers and our non-profits that address health issues. He stated it also includes not so obvious partners such as: Builders who build communities that are walkable, bikable, and co-mingle housing with retail, services, open spaces, and play areas; Parents, adult mentors, non-profits like the Boys and Girls club and YMCA, and churches who help our children develop honorable morals and values; and employers and schools who implement policies that support breastfeeding mothers, healthy foods, and movement during the day. He stated he wanted to acknowledge the system at hand and all the players involved. He also thanked the Board for their time in attending the Public Health Advisory Council last night and would like to follow up in the next couple months on some of the issues brought up last night during future policy updates. He asked the Board if they had any suggestions.

Mielke stated he was pretty impressed with people who were in tune and aware with bad eating habits.

Stuart said he is interested on what's happening with public health budget at the state level and suggested on tying in all of the partners to help sustain their goals with limited resources the state is providing.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS

APRIL 22, 2009

CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Wiesman stated one of the challenges of their department is this transformation from some of the work they have been doing to sharing it with non-profits and others in the community but then also engaging new partners like private businesses. He stated the department leadership role will be a topic of discussion in the next couple of months to ease transitions.

Boldt mentioned the high number of turnout that have already registered for the Faith Based meeting on April 23rd 2009.

Barron said the meeting is from 6:00 – 8:00 PM tomorrow at King's Way School, 3300 NE 78th Street. He stated the intent of the meeting is to bring together members of churches throughout the county with the non-profit community to begin the dialogue of the discussion about what they could be doing to assist public services that are already being provided by the non-profits.

POLICY UPDATES - CURRENT STATUS OF PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET AND THE GOVERNOR, HOUSE, AND SENATE PROPOSED BUDGETS

Wiesman stated he knows nothing is coming out of Olympia without cuts and they are prioritizing the most flexible funding for public health totaling \$84 million dollars for the local systems for all 35 local health departments for the biennium. He stated the Governor's budget preserved all of this funding in her budget. He said the Senate budget has made a \$4 million cut to this funding in their proposed budget, which is about a 5% reduction. He stated the House budget proposed a \$41 million cut to this funding, about a 49% reduction. He stated flexible funding are dollars that can be used for almost any public health issue. He mentioned much of the funding that comes to government has strings attached—in other words, the monies can only be used for something specific. He stated the House is attempting to get their budget similar to the Senate.

Wiesman stated they are addressing this from three angles. He said they have passed two amendments to their budget that would move state general fund from other sources to local public health. He said one took \$16M from tobacco work. He also said this does not prioritize public health it takes from one part of their budgets and puts in another part. He said the second approach takes \$8,425,000 from non-emergency medical services for non-citizens from the DSHS budget. He said he is hearing that there may not be enough money in that source, in other words, they have taken more money out of that source than is actually there. He said they are also looking at a fee bill to raise additional revenue, such as raising fees for copies for birth and death certificates, which could raise it to \$28.00 per copy.

Wiesman mentioned that could be a challenge for some folks that are already having a hard time paying those.

Boldt stated when his father passed away, his mother needed to get nine copies, which could be a bit costly for anyone.

Wiesman said that is correct and that is the challenge. He said he appreciates what the legislators are attempting to do. He said they have heard clearly that public health is a priority and they are

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 22, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

trying to response in the House. He said the last avenue they are attempting is their proposed temporary sales tax increase package. He stated public health was in that for \$3 million dollars. He mentioned they did pass an amendment making that \$7.1 million dollars. He stated the bottom line is the Senate must hold firm on their proposed public health budget. He said the Office of Financial Management on behalf of the Governor has sent a letter to leadership in both chambers indicating she supports the Senate's budget in relation to public health.

Stuart asked if their has been a discussion on what to do during that interim time.

Wiesman stated once they get the final budget the leadership team will meet quickly to determine what the impacts on our budget and work with the various departments. He stated there is some of the flexible funding that can be accessed during that gap. He stated they will be ready to go as soon as they find out the final results.

Barron stated while in the last budget process, John and his leadership team did a good job anticipating a hierarchy of all the programs and the upcoming obstacles.

Wiesman stated that was correct and they would touch base on that again. He said it will be some quick work they need to do.

Boldt suggested a budget worksession between now and July if further discussion was needed. He also mentioned some concerns about policy groups and advisory groups going away over the next couple years.

Wiesman stated the importance of the presence of the advisory group and being able to apply pressure when they need to voice the local concerns to state agencies and legislative bodies in the executive branch to help ensure those funds continue to do the work they are intended to do.

POLICY UPDATES - WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) NUTRITION
PROGRAM TRANSITION

Wiesman said we have enough revenue to keep all of the programs running for this year. He said at the last board meeting they indicated that organizations interesting in providing WIC services needed to submit an application to the state Department of Health by the end of March. He said they had a community meeting explaining the services in greater detail. He said they were anticipating two organizations to submit applications, but in the end, only one did and that was Sea Mar Community Health Centers. He also said the state Department of Health is awarding the WIC contract to Sea Mar. He said Sea Mar operates 50 clinics in Washington and they currently are providing WIC services to over 7,000 individuals in the Puget Sound area. He said they will be taking over WIC services for Thurston County who is also transitioning out of WIC services due to budget shortfalls. He said now that the selection has been made, they are working with the state and with Sea Mar to plan the transition.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 22, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Wiesman said they anticipate it to occur in the last quarter of this year. He stated this is understandably a very difficult time for the 18 staff who has invested a lot of themselves personally in providing these services. They have been providing excellent services to some of our most vulnerable citizens for 29 years. He mentioned many of them had held out hope that this transition would not need to take place, so with this announcement last week, it was a difficult time. He said they have been working with human resources and having on-site session about looking for employment and coping with change. He also mentioned the program managers are taking staff meeting time to help the staff identify their transferable skills. They will continue to do this, listen to staff for their needs, and do their best to help meet those needs. He stated Sea Mar has committed to using their same business and staff models. They intent to provide services in the same areas they do—Vancouver, Battle Ground, and Camas. They will be providing services in the same space they do in the Center for Community Health. He said they will continue to update the Board and the WIC families as the planning progresses and as they have a transition date firmly set.

Stuart stated as the transition goes we should be fiercely advocating for our staff in that transition.

Wiesman said that is occurring and Sea Mar would love to have our staff however; the challenge for our staff is that wages will be lower.

Stuart said every individual has to choose their own path and he understands that. He stated from the Board's perspective we owe it to our staff to advocate for them.

Wiesman said Sea Mar has asked for our wage and benefit compensation packages and for the credentials of our staff so they can begin to look at wage compensation issues.

Boldt stated the Council of Government (COG) has taken over the senior nutrition program that was recently cut. He said they are giving 800 – 900 senior produce vouchers however they aren't able to do it either, so they are currently asking Loaves and Fishes to do it. He stated if Loaves and Fishes can't do it, they are going to ask Sea Mar to take over the program.

Wiesman stated community partners are a great resource to use and that we are very lucky to have them as not every community has them.

Wiesman introduced Tricia Mortell to present on the Food System Council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Strategic Initiative 5 – Good Health at Every Age

Tricia Mortell, Nutrition Family Wellness Program Manager, Public Health provided some background information on the Food System Council. She said their membership drive is this month and they are hoping to add five new members. She said the council prioritized three areas for activity this year including food production, improving access to healthy food particularly for low income residents, and community education /awareness.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS

APRIL 22, 2009

CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mortell stated they are very pleased to work with Vancouver's Farmer Market to get EBT at the Vancouver Farmer's Market, Battle Ground Farmer's Market and the Camas Farmer's Market. She said they are continuously supporting that and have translated some flyers into various languages to help with promotion. She stated they should have some numbers out at the end of the year to see how many people are using it. She also updated the board about the community garden project and discussed about future partnerships with other organizations.

Boldt said he was talking to a produce buyer from Safeway and he admires us going to the market but wants to be involved too. He stated there is a concern if we just go to one avenue like the market that we will make others like Safeway and Fred Meyer look like the villain.

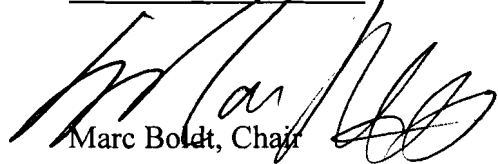
Mortell mentioned starting in October all WIC participants will be eligible to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables every month at the farmers market and the regular grocery store.

Wiesman mentioned the discussion last night and the importance of support the whole continuum.

Mortell said one of the new council members they are expecting to have is the fruit and vegetable buyer for Wal-Mart.

Boldt said that is good and thanked them for their work.

BOARD OF HEALTH



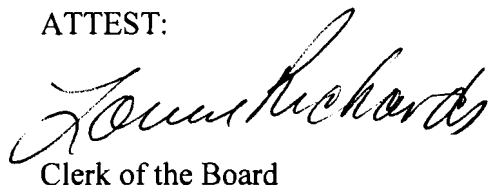
Marc Boldt, Chair

Steve Stuart, Board Member



Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



Tom Richards
Clerk of the Board

jc