

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS  
OCTOBER 22, 2008  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The board conducted the Flag Salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

*Dr. Tina St. John, Executive Director & Medical Director, Caring Ambassadors Program.* She stated they are a national non-profit organization headquartered in Vancouver. She said their mission is to improve wellness of those affected by chronic diseases through information and awareness building. She presented more information about chronic diseases.

*Morris* asked for examples of chronic disease.

*St. John* said chronic diseases could include diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, and long term infectious diseases such as Hepatitis C. She stated Hepatitis C is the leading blood-borne chronic disease in the United States, five times more prevalent than HIV. She said they have two disease specific programs, the Hepatitis C program and the Lung Cancer program. She stated lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in the United States in both men and women of all ethnicities. She stated each year lung cancer kills more Americans than breast, prostate, and colon cancer combined. She discussed further statistics regarding lung cancer and stated there needs to be more awareness. She mentioned November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. She said in Tacoma they had their first walk for lung cancer, which was the first of its kind in the State of Washington. She expressed that she would like to have one in Clark County next year. She stated she also gave the Board some materials that explain more about the program.

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Commissioner Stuart to approve items 1 and 2, pulling #3. Board members Morris and Stuart voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 445)

POLICY UPDATE

**Report on Public Health Standards Site Visit**

*John Wiesman, Director, Clark County Public Health* introduced *Janis Koch, Program Evaluation Manager* to present with him.

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*Wiesman* referenced a handout the Board received to follow along with the presentation.

*Koch* presented the Powerpoint on Standards for Public Health in Washington.

*(See paper copy of Powerpoint presentation in master file)*

*Morris* inquired on the Plan-Do-Study-Act and if it was circular.

*Koch* stated the idea of that is they are never completely done with the process. She said they are always checking it and making sure they are achieving the outcome they intended to achieve.

*Morris* said ok.

*Morris* said congratulations on the stellar work.

*Stuart* stated he would like to sit down with John to further discuss the budget. He stated he had a lot of concerns with the talks about cutting services with children and families and stressed we need to maintain the level of services for children and families.

*Wiesman* said he would set up an appointment with Commissioner Stuart so they can go over it line by line. He further discussed the proposal from last week.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Strategic Initiative 3 – Promoting Healthy environments**

*Dr. Alan Melnick, Health Officer, Public Health* stated the monitoring season has been extended for additional month. He stated three dead birds on this side of the Cascade mountains tested positive for West Nile. He said one was from Lewis County and two were from Pierce County. He said there have been three human cases in Washington this year but all three were exposed on the eastern side of the state. He stated the risk to Clark County residents is incredibly low.

**Strategic Initiative 5 – Good Health at Every Age**

*Melnick* stated they were going to be doing a multi-site study through the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program. He stated in his academic position at OSHU, he was able to get a grant from an anonymous foundation for \$1.7 million over the next five years. He stated it is a multi-site study so it will involve Seattle / King County, Thurston County, and Clark County Health Departments. He stated they were going to be adding a contraceptive dispensing component to the nurse family partnership model. He said when the nurses do their home visits; they will be randomized to provide the usual care or the enhanced care for women who are interested in delaying pregnancy.

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He said they are looking to reduced the number of gaps in contraceptive use and reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, to help these women space their pregnancies. He stated if this is successful, it could be replicated in nurse family partnership sites across the country. He stated the person that developed the model, Dr. David Olds is a co-investigator on the study and they would be working with him at University of Colorado. He said they are seeking positive results so it could also be applied elsewhere. He said beside funding his academic time, Marni Storey, will be a co-investigator funded at .1 FTE. He also said a portion of the nurse family partnership nurses will be funded and the costs of the contraceptives will be funded through that grant.

*Morris* mentioned when she first heard them discussing contraceptive dispensing, she thought of the machines on the wall that disperse items in the bathroom. She also asked if all women's restrooms in the State of Washington are required to have toilet seat cover dispensers.

*Melnick* stated he didn't know the answer to that but could find out.

*Morris* asked if they would find out as she has been in some schools recently that didn't have them. She said she is positive it is a legal requirement for public facilities.

*Wiesman* stated that is more of a sanitary thing and there is not a risk for disease transmission.

*Morris* said she understood that but would like to know the answer.

*Melnick* went into further detail about dispensing contraceptives.

*Morris* asked if they were within their legal prescription authority.

*Melnick* stated that was correct. The standing orders will be signed by the Health Officer the nurses will be working under.


*Melnick* gave a brief history about prenatal care access in Clark County. He stated the July-August focus findings identified a number of barriers, including patient and provider barriers. He stated one of the big issues is Medicaid reimbursement. He said the providers and clients made a number of recommendations both that have to do with Medicaid and getting on CUP. He said they are working on those recommendations. He said on July 7 the Prenatal Care Crisis team met with administrators from Southwest Medical Center, Legacy, and CUP and they made some recommendations to improve prenatal care access. He said the follow-up plan will include a conference call with DSHS on Friday, October 24 to discuss the recommendations. He said following that will be a meeting with key partners and the Public Health staff to share the findings and to develop proposed recommendations for a larger community group.

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He said on November 7 they will convene again at a larger community meeting, which will include health care providers and partnering agencies. He said they are going to share the recommendations and work on developing some agreements from their partners on strategies to improve access.

*Stuart* said he would like to receive more information on the prenatal care and recommendations and the next steps.


BOARD OF HEALTH

  
Betty Sue Morris, Chair

Marc Boldt, Board Member

  
Steve Stuart, Board Member

ATTEST:

  
Clerk of the Board

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