

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS  
NOVEMBER 26, 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

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Commissioner Stuart to approve items 1 through 10. Board members Morris and Stuart voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Dave Seabrook*, Chair, Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC), said the integrated primary and behavioral clinic at the new Center for Community of Health was off the ground and running in a productive matter. He stated they have studying the ground water issue, looking at quality and quantity issues and plan to have a joint presentation with the library in February. He also said their time as been spent looking at health disparities which has been an eye opener for most people on the council. He said they are looking at the way, social class, racism, unemployment, education, and geography affect our health. He said it is a very deep topic and they plan on being part of a regional forum next year.

He stated that his two years of being chair is coming to an end and the incoming slate of nominations include Rainy Atkins, Marilyn Darr, and Jonathan Avery.

He stated that he is very concerned about the state of public health in our community, in the county, and across the state. He stated he appreciated the difficult task before the Board as they balance the needs of the community with the resources that are provided. He said he brought a letter to the Board today from the Public Health Advisory Council with their recommendations on the public health proposed budget for the 2009-2010 biennium. He mentioned the council supports the proposed one year, one-time \$1.4 million of general fund "bridge funding" to find community partners to take on direct services and we encourage your approval of this approach. He also stated it is his understanding the department is updating its environmental public health fee schedule and they would encourage adoption of that revised schedule. He encourage the Board to secure a stable, dedicated funding for public health one of the County's highest priorities in the next year by lobbying at the state level for more resources to be allocated to this important part of our community.

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*Morris* thanked Mr. Seabrook for his time spent chairing the board. She stated the Board is equally concerned about public health funding and appreciated his recommendations. She inquired if the June 2009 deadline was too fast or reasonable if someone would be taking the programs.

*John Wiesman*, Director, Clark County Public Health, said from the department's perspective they would want to know by then because it is going to take a couple of months to transition. He stated there have been five or more agencies interested.

*Morris* said that was good.

*Wiesman* stated once the Board adopts a budget they will be ready to run with whatever direction the Board gives.

*Seabrook* stated the PHAC perspective is that while six months may seem short, six month is also a short time that would be needed if they can't find a home for these programs and need to discuss further policy debate.

*Stuart* inquired if there has been any talk about the advisory council going to Olympia or making some calls to legislators about public health funding. He said the council is comprised of some great people and think it would be very helpful.

*Seabrook* said there has been conversations around that and there will be that kind of involvement.

*Stuart* stated our lobbyist is aware of the issues and is working with the county associations/public health associations to try to move something forward.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Marni Storey*, Public Health, introduced *Tricia Pace*, Clark County Public Health to discuss Clark County Homegrown (CCHG).

*Tricia Pace*, Public Health, invited her panel and thanked the Board for the opportunity to present on this program. She stated it was a project that is near to her heart. She said the project was conceived in public health and then it was worked out through a collaboration that came together and nurtured by dedicated and enthusiastic participants and volunteers. She introduced the panel and members from the audience.

She explained Clark County Homegrown was conceived in 2006 as a practical, sustainable means to assist residents with limited financial resources to increase their consumption of fresh produce. She said growing produce at home eliminates many of the obstacles of availability, cost, transportation, freshness, and storage which prohibit people

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from eating fruits and vegetables. She stated mentors also make the huge difference in making this program work. She stated in addition to the food other benefits included increased physical activity and more time being spent outside. She said it was a meaningful family activity.

She said in 2007, CCHG received funding from a Public Health Block Grant to implement ten gardens. She stated it was a remarkable year and others wanted to continue on for another year, including five of the six mentors. She said they were able to put in 37 gardens the next year and thanked the board for their support in obtaining that. She stated this summer she worked with the Solid Waste team to put in another 30 gardens in the Rose Village neighborhood which also incorporated composting. She thanked Kris Alexander for coordinating that project because it was huge and got off to a late start. She discussed into further detail about the community partners, Friends of the Carpenter, Lewis and Clark High School, and WSU Master Gardeners. She said the next step was recruiting participants, which came from the parent / child case load whom were struggling with their limited food budget. She said they installed the gardens, matched the mentors up with the gardeners, and all throughout this summer the mentors met with the gardeners for support and education. She said in the end they celebrated with a potluck featuring dishes prepared by gardeners with their homegrown produce. She provided a handout titled Clark County Homegrown Gardens – the Numbers (please see master file). She stated there were lots of benefits to this program but was most touched by the continued personal relationships that occurred.

*Mike*, Lewis and Clark High School, said he gained good work ethic from this program. He said it was a great experience.

*Melissa Harris*, WSU Master Gardeners, was a mentor for the program. She discussed her experience with the project and how she was able to help out. She said it was nice to see the participants try new things and compare the produce they grew versus what they bought in grocery store. She said it was a very good experience.

*Bob*, Program Manager, said it was a wonderful experience. He went into further detail about the therapeutic benefits of gardening.

*Morris* asked what was the most common grown fruit and vegetable.

*Pace* said tomatoes and lettuce. She offered a handout to the Board on overarching sustainability ideas and possibilities to increase gardening to Clark County. (*Please see master file*).

*Stuart* stated there was an article today in the Columbian about Clark County being awarded almost \$400,000 in a grant to do a lot of work within the community on sustainability and community gardening and he hope they will be working with those who

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got that grant within the county to be coordinating their efforts. He stated he appreciated them on what they were doing.

*Jonnie Hyde*, Public Health, presented on the Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Program. She stated they had a 60 % increase a month in septic inspection. She said they went from 450 to an average of 750 a month. She said in the first 13 months, of 8392 systems, they found 33 % with deficiencies, which would eventually lead to failure, but were caught early enough to be corrected. She said that protected the homeowner's investment as well as ground water, and public health. She stated an additional three percent of all those inspected had critical deficiencies, meaning they were failing, but they were still able to be repaired. She said there were a total of 69 in complete failure.

*Stuart* asked the percentage of that.

*Hyde* stated it was .8%. She said it doesn't sound like much, but 69 is a lot of systems. She said if the systems that were failing had not been identified and corrected through this program, they would have potentially seen six and half million gallons of water that was improperly treated each year go into our ground water.

*Morris* asked if most of the failed systems were in or out of urban growth areas.

*Tom Gonzales*, Public Health, stated they were tracking it through a data base that doesn't sort the addresses. He stated he does have an information technology person trying to develop a system where it does that.

*Morris* stated that seemed complicated. She asked again for the number of failed systems.

*Hyde* said 69.

*Morris* said to start with that number and manually use a map.

*Hyde* said she will do that.

*Gonzales* said he misunderstood what Commissioner *Morris* was asking. He said for the 68 failed systems it was roughly about 60% were in the UGB and 40 percent were out.

*Stuart* recommended using GIS because they could map those addresses easily.

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BOARD OF HEALTH

  
Betty Sue Morris, Chair

Marc Boldt, Board Member

  
Steve Stuart, Board Member

ATTEST:

  
Louise Richards  
Clerk of the Board

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