

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 17, 2008
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

PROCLAMATION – PRETEEN VACCINE WEEK

Board member Stuart read a proclamation declaring the week of January 18 through 24, 2009 as Preteen Vaccine Week in Clark County.

Dawn Straughan, Public Health, accepted the proclamation and thanked the board. She stated, "Don't hesitate ~ vaccinate."

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 Stuart to approve items 1 through 6. Board members Morris and Stuart voted aye. Motion carried.

Morris stated some of the viewers at home might not know what is going on when they approve the consent as a whole. She gave some background of what a consent agenda item is and where it could be found on our webpage.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John Wiesman, Director, Public Health presented.

Strategic Initiative 1 - Strengthening PH Infrastructure

Wiesman updated the board on the state funding forecast. He stated Washington State departments were recently directed by the Governor to reduce their current biennium expenditures. He stated the Department of Health (DOH) has to reduce spending by \$7.1 million before June 30, 2009.

Stuart asked what the percentage of that was.

Wiesman said about 20 percent.

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Wiesman said the State DOH has announced how they are going to implement those cuts. He said the good news is they are preserving infra-structure in the local public health systems and not touching anything around flexible funding that has previously been discussed.

Wiesman stated they are achieving this reduction by leaving vacancies unfilled and generally reducing expenditures. He stated they are going to slow or stop some programs, but none that will impact Clark County.

Wiesman discussed the process of the Governor's budget. He said the State DOH has been asked to take a reduction of \$60 million to \$80 million dollars out of their budget. He said the State DOH gets about \$160 million in state funding and \$100 million in what is called look-alike funding. He stated they are looking at a 25 percent reduction if that is the range with the governor's budget. He said he feels optimistic the Secretary of Health has made a strong case for the local public health funding and he would have more information in January after they saw the governor's budget.

Wiesman stated in the budget the board passed for next year, one of the recommendations was to reduce the department's leadership team from 5 members to 4 members by the end of 2009. He said doing that they proposed eliminating the deputy director position, held by Bob Williamson. He stated he was pleased and sad to report that Bob has found another job. He stated Bob will be leaving on January 15th and starting his new job on January 20th. He said Bob, an aficionado for presidential history, likes to note that will be the same day as the presidential transition. He said Bob has done a tremendous job of keeping the daily operations of the department going, getting their strategic plan developed and implemented, getting them settled in their new building, mentoring new managers, and leading the implementation of the contract with SeaMar for integrated primary care. He said Bob has served the department well and he will be greatly missed. He said Bob is leaving a year before they had budgeted but the leadership team will redistribute his duties and not refill his position. He stated they have a great leadership team and program managers and together they will do their best to fill the gap.

Morris told Mr. *Wiesman* to resist any attempt made by Board from taking that money back.

Wiesman said Ok

Stuart agreed and said Bob would be missed. He said our loss is someone else's gain. He thanked Bob for his work and service.

Morris stated they were very proud.

Wiesman introduced Bob Williamson, Deputy Director, Public Health.

Williamson referenced a report that reflects the progress of all of the initiatives. He stated they are half way through Public Health's 2007-2010 Strategic Plan.

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Williamson stated he was pleased to report that 53 projects in that plan, 29 of them have been completed. He stated some of the highlights of the projects include developing a cost and data-based system for determining environmental public health fees, implementing a new quality improvement and performance measurement system, updating the public health's web site, obtaining policy direction on stockpiling anti-virals, developing and exercising a new emergency notification system for public health staff, completing imaging of all environmental public health documents, developing new local on-site septic system code, launching a new integrated primary care clinic (Sea Mar) at the Center for Community Health, and implementing the Nurse Family Partnership program.

Williamson said among the projects they will be working on in the next two years, they will be developing a centralized data warehouse which, when combined with GIS mapping, will allow them to plot and track key public health data by geographic units. He said they will be strengthening their disease surveillance system, developing and implementing a revised local water code, and continue to work with community partners / providers to explore methods for improving access to health care and completing a comprehensive community health assessment to identify areas of concern and opportunity and that lays the foundation for the next iteration of the Strategic Plan.

Stuart asked if any of those projects will be included in the transition the non-profits are taking over.

Williamson stated that all of the remaining projects are work that Public Health does.

Stuart asked if the list was going to change.

Williamson said the list will not change.

Wiesman stated with the transition plan, there are some activities they are looking to slow down from what they planned because they are going to have to focus on the transition next year. He stated most of these projects they will still get done but they are going to look at them again in January.

Stuart congratulated Bob on his new job.

Wiesman introduced *Dr. Alan Melnick*, Health Officer, Public Health and *Dr. Jennifer Vines*, Deputy Health Officer, Public Health.

Melnick introduced *Dr. Vines* who started work last week. He said *Dr. Vines* has a Masters in Public Health. He said she is Board Certified in two specialties: Family Medicine and Public Health & General Preventive Medicine and very well trained. He said they have created a Regional Health Officer Program through the four counties. He said the idea of that is to provide a unified and systemic approach to health officer services by ensuring consistency throughout the region.

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Melnick said under supervision of his position, the Deputy Regional Health Officer will have a broad portfolio in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. He said she will be on site at Cowlitz County two days per week and one day each month in Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties and she will also be on site in Clark County one day each week. He said there will be a Health Officer on site every day of the week and that works out pretty well. He said the Regional Health Officer program will provide services to the four counties in four basic domains: Case Consultation, Public Health Program Design and Operations, especially in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum. He said she will provide agency-level consultation and leadership which will include expert review and consultation of department programs and priorities based on population health needs. He stated she will also get into community-level consultation and leadership which means working with partnering agencies, being a liaison with local physicians and becoming a part of the medical society as well as working with hospitals. He stated her position will help ensure consistent services across the region while providing on site services in all four counties. He said Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties are providing funding for the Deputy Health Officer.

Morris asked if she mind traveling.

Vines replied no. She stated she will be doing a lot of driving.

Morris welcomed her to Clark County.

Wiesman thanked Commissioner *Morris* on his behalf as well as the entire Public Health staff for her passion, her energy, and her support of public health. He stated she has been a strong advocate for prevention programs and services to women and children and they appreciated that. He also stated great appreciation for her getting a more stable and sustainable public health budget. He stated he has learned many lessons along the way from her that have helped him. He thanked her for her leadership on the budget and wished her the best.

Morris said thank you and recognized John and Bill Barron in deserving credit for the graceful transition from being a district to a department. She said they did a marvelous job. She mentioned to Jonnie Hyde that she hasn't given up that thought of becoming a septic tank inspector.

The Board, Staff, and audience laughed.

Hyde said they would provide a special class for her.

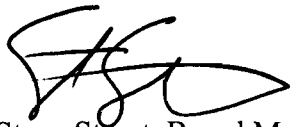
Morris thanked John and public health staff for all that they do. She said if they needed a citizen advocate to go up to Olympia during the budget session, she would be happy to help anyway she can. She said John did a marvelous job on his budget and met his challenge head on.

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Wiesman said thank you but mentioned it does take the Board's policy support to do that, so ultimately they need their authority.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Marc Boldt, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Stuart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Stuart, Board Member

Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Richards", written in a cursive style.

Clerk of the Board

jc