

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members Tom Mielke, David Madore, and Jeanne E. Stewart present.

**9:00 A.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Madore read consent agenda item #1.

**ACTION:** Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** consent agenda item #1. Madore seconded the motion. Board members Mielke and Madore voted aye. Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION**

**Enrollment in the Health Benefit Exchange**

Dr. Alan Melnick, Public Health Officer, provided some background. Lynn Johnson, program coordinator, provided an update on the Health Benefit Exchange and the enrollment that is done through *Healthplanfinder*. Jessica shared a personal story as a Health Benefit Exchange enrollee. Mike Jackling, one of four small business agents with the Health Benefit Exchange, discussed how these agents provide support to small business owners. Further discussion ensued.

*Board member Stewart arrived*

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Policy Discussion: Public Health Strategic Plan – readopt**

Dr. Melnick provided some background. Madore inquired about the language mentioned regarding the comprehensive plan. Melnick responded. Further discussion ensued.

**ACTION:** Moved by Stewart to **APPROVE** the re-adoption of the Strategic Plan. Mielke seconded the motion. Board members Mielke, Madore and Stewart voted aye. Motion carried.

**Policy Discussion: Public Health Legislation**

**1. Electronic vaping (HB 1645 and SB 5573)**

Dr. Melnick provided a summary of the vaping legislation directed at reducing youth access to these devices.

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

Bryce Hackett, Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) youth representative addressed specific questions from the Board of Health (BOH), including their concerns about youth access to these devices through the internet. Further discussion ensued.

*The Board adjourned for a break and reconvened.*

**ACTION:** Moved by Stewart to **SUPPORT** HB 1645 and SB 5573 and to contact the county lobbyist to give support of the bills. Mielke seconded the motion. Board members Mielke, Madore and Stewart voted aye. Motion carried.

**2. Policy Discussion: Exemptions from Immunizations for School-Age Children (HB 2009)**

Dr. Melnick presented information on HB 2009, which would remove the philosophical exemption for immunizations for school-aged children. Current state statute allows exemption for medical, religious or philosophical reasons. Parents requesting philosophical (also known as personal) exemption must provide documentation that they discussed their concerns with their child's health care provider. Despite this requirement, many schools within Clark County have exemption rates above that required for herd immunity, and which could increase the risk for an outbreak as recently observed with the measles outbreak associated with Disneyland. The vast majority of the exemptions are for philosophical reasons, and removing this exemption would result in immunization rates sufficient for herd immunity.

The BOH expressed concerns about the exemption rates as well as concerns about the rights of parents to determine whether their children should receive specific immunizations. The BOH suggested that Clark County Public Health continue to provide community education regarding the value of immunizations, including the role of herd immunity in protecting vulnerable children who cannot receive immunizations for medical reasons. The BOH recommended unanimously that Clark County Public Health not testify in favor of House Bill 2009 but instead allow the legislature to decide the issue.

Influenza Update

Melnick stated there have been 6-7 outbreaks in long-term care facilities, and vaccination is still the best way to prevent influenza.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

None

Hearing adjourned

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015

BOARD OF HEALTH



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David Madore, Board Member



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Jeanne E. Stewart, Board Member

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Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



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Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

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