

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 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.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – GARY BICKETT

The Board of Health recognized Gary Bickett, Environmental Public Health Program Manager, who is retiring after nearly 32 years of service to Clark County. Gary was involved in the design and construction of the largest landfill in Washington State, which allowed Klickitat County, as the host community, to form its own public health department. In addition, Gary worked with local and state partners to figure out how to deal with Rufner landfill, which was abandoned by a major corporation. He helped to find a resolution that protected public health and the environment without affecting public budgets. Gary also played a leading role in changing the emphasis of the food safety program from quantity and enforcement to quality, education and a more collaborative approach to food safety. Gary Bickett accepted and said a few words. Stewart spoke about Gary's leadership. Mielke spoke about Gary's dedication. Madore spoke about Gary's working foundation.

The Board adjourned for a break and reconvened.

CONSENT AGENDA

Madore read consent agenda item #1.

ACTION: Moved by Stewart to **APPROVE** minutes for May 27, 2015. Mielke seconded the motion. Board members Madore, Mielke, and Stewart voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION

Dr. Alan Melnick, Public Health Officer / Director provided some background.

• **ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DUTY OFFICER**

Rich Konrad, with the Public Health Regional Emergency Response and Preparedness program, described the role of the Clark County Public Health (CCPH) Duty Officer. The Duty Officer is part of a system that allows healthcare providers and the public to contact a public health professional 24/7. The system includes a 24/7 communicable disease resource and environmental public health resources and defines when the County Health Officer must be notified. Examples of conditions requiring immediate Health Officer notification include, but are not limited to, hemorrhagic fevers like Ebola, suspected bioterrorism, rabies, West Nile virus and unexplained deaths. The Duty Officer can also issue SECURES alerts and establish Incident Command.

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2015**

The public, including healthcare providers, can call (888) 727-6230 to report public health emergencies 24/7. Calling that number connects the caller with a professional answering service that then connects the caller to the Duty Officer. The system provides backup if the Duty Officer does not answer. In this case, the answering service immediately calls the communicable disease on-call staff, and failing that, the Department leadership. Most managers in the department take turns as Duty Officer on a weekly rotation.

The Duty Officer system meets requirements of Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant funding from WADOH and CDC and PH Accreditation Board standards. Duty Officers log all calls on a standard form that describes the nature of the call and its resolution. The Duty Officers also triage calls to appropriate agencies in situations outside the scope of our Department's authority/responsibility. Mr. Konrad described the volume (70 calls so far this year) and types of calls the Duty Officers receive.

- **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE: SECURES**

Rich Konrad described SECURES, a secure web platform that the State Department of Health and local health departments, including CCPH, use for sending and receiving messages and storing documents. The platform is free and allows us to send and receive Public Health Information Network (PHIN)-compliant messages. It allows callback alerting and actual callback, and we use the system to distribute local and regional health alert network (HAN) messages. The GRID includes an example of a public health provider advisory. All PH employees have an account on the system that notifies and alerts them as necessary.

During the discussion about advisories, the Board of Health raised concerns about the upcoming heat wave. Dr. Melnick provided information about health risks associated with heat events and measures the public can use to prevent heat exposure. In addition, Dr. Melnick informed the Board that CCPH was working on a press release that would include this information as well as the location of cooling centers in Clark County.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Dr. Melnick provided a legislative update, including the status of the Coordinated Prevention Grant program, vaping (e-cigarette) legislation and State public health funding. Further discussion ensued about the budget.

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2015**

• **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE**

Dr. Melnick provided an update on Pertussis. The associated document is on the GRID. Dr. Melnick also described how public health staff investigate and respond to each case of Pertussis (each case takes about 1 to 1.5 hours of public health nurse time). Mielke inquired about quarantine circumstances. Melnick responded. Stewart inquired about the timeline of vaccinations in relations to pertussis. Melnick responded.

• **INCREASE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES DURING THE SUMMER**

Chuck Harmon and Joe Laxson, Environmental Public Health Program Managers, described the increased level of environmental public health activities we should expect this summer, including septic systems inspections, addressing increased complaints related to solid and hazardous waste, recreational water safety inspections and monitoring, food inspections and West Nile Virus monitoring. Madore inquired about lake testing. Public Health staff responded.

Hearing adjourned

BOARD OF HEALTH



David Madore, Board Member

Jeanne E. Stewart, Board Member



Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

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Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. Digital recordings can be provided upon request. In addition, the Commissioners' hearings are broadcast live on CVTV, cable channels 21 and 23, and are also videotaped and repeated several times (www.cvtv.org)