July 18, 2017 meeting notes

Council: Steven Becker, Joan Caley, Paul Childers, Mark Collier, Remy Eussen, Dave Fuller, Adrianne Fairbanks, Bob Richardson, Stephanie Roise-Yamashita

Staff: Lydia Gherman, Jeff Harbison, Janis Koch, Roxanne Wolfe

Guests: Chuck Harman

(1) **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES (Stephanie)**
Stephanie opened the meeting and introductions. The council did not have a quorum to approve the meeting notes from June 20, 2017 and will approve at the next meeting.

Steve Becker (Executive Director of Downtown Business Association), discussed his new position which starts on August 7th.

(2) **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**
No comments.

(3) **DEPARTMENT UPDATE (Public Health Staff)**

- **State Budget update (Dr. Melnick, Jeff)**
  - **Foundational Public Health Services update (Dr. Melnick)**
    - State passed the budget and allocated $12 million (biennium) for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS), with $2 million to DOH and $10 million going to local health departments. This is a onetime allocation over the biennium state wide and will need to show a lot of outcomes for the dollars spent.

- **State operating and capital budget update (Jeff)**
  - As of today, the capital budget has not been signed and using department fund balance to cover those losses. If the capital budget is not signed by the end of August, the County will need to consider other options. There isn’t a deadline on when the capital budget needs to be signed, and it could theoretically not be signed at all. Several Environmental Public Health grant funds are allocated in the capital budget. BOCC has approved application for grants once the capital budget is signed.

- **Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) & Coordinated Prevention Grants (CPG) funding update (Jeff)**
  - The Model Toxic Control Act funding has numerous grants underneath it and is funded through the Coordinated Prevention Grants Program. A portion of the funding is provided to Public Health by the Department of Ecology and supports solid waste enforcement, site hazard assessment, and local source control and waste resources. Some of the MTCA funding is sustained by gas tax revenues and, due to sustained low fuel prices, the funding was reduced by 50% in 2015-17 with an additional 33% proposed for 2017-19.
- The funding supports Public Health solid waste and hazardous waste protection services such as waste programs, operations programs, system evaluations and analysis, solid waste enforcement, complaint responses and local source control outreach. Also, the funding supports the programs, such as the Green Programs, that were previously under Department of Environmental Services and which transitioned to Public Health about a year ago.

- **Local impact of MTCA/CPG funding (Janis, Chuck)**
  - Solid waste grant funding is facing an ongoing decline. The Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) funding cuts will reduce service levels in Solid Waste Enforcement, Site Hazard Assessment and Solid Waste Operations. Clark County Public Health (CCPH) is proposing a minimal solid waste tipping fee increase to help fill the gap and is asking PHAC to support bringing the tipping fees increase to the Board. The impact to customers would be an increase of approximately 5 cents per month for curbside solid waste pick-up services (based on 2016 rates). The proposed increase would help maintain services that were previously funded through MTCA. In comparison to similar sized counties in Washington State, the tipping fees in Clark County are significantly lower. The proposal would still keep Clark County tipping fees below counties with similar demographics.

- Stephanie opened discussion for a letter of support regarding tipping fee increase. Steve Becker moved for CCPH staff to write a letter of support for the tipping fee increase being proposed and to give Stephanie (Chair) authorization to sign the letter on behalf of PHAC. Joan Caley seconded with all members present in favor. A follow-up email will be sent to the other members for an opportunity to vote via email.

- Solid Waste and Environmental Outreach, which includes the Green Programs, is fairly new and, although they have been with us for about one year, they have only been in our building for about six months. Janis suggested sharing upcoming Green Program events with PHAC to further highlight what these programs do.

(4) **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (Stephanie)**

- **Dark in August**
  
  Just a reminder that there is no meeting in August and we will be meeting again in September 19th.

(5) **DEBRIEF (Discussion)**

- **Debrief last meeting/panel; advocating around youth depression/ suicide; other CCPH topics of interest**
  - Briefly reviewed last month’s presentations: ACEs, AWARE grant, SMART panel and Youth perspective.
  - Suggested topics for further exploration at PHAC:
    - ACEs Action Alliance will have a clearer path on some kind of public funding hopefully by next year. Also, need to continue and get the message out on raising community awareness of the importance of early learning in terms of suicide, chronic disease and health (Joan).
    - Affordable housing. Possibly have Andy Silver give an overview of the homeless and the community since housing is one of the social determinants of health (Joan).
    - Service Animals and what they do, how they are defined, how they impact public health (Adrianne).
    - Environmental topics around child care and creating good eating habits (Adrianne).
    - Farm to school – WSU Extension (Roxanne).
    - Behavioral health services and Medicaid (Joan).
    - Opioid epidemic – status, mitigation efforts (Roxanne).
    - May want to bring back updates on past work done with PHAC to close the loop (Joan).
- Please consider additional topics of interest that will be timely and for which PHAC would like to advocate (Roxanne).

(6) COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE
- No comments.

(7) ADJOURN
The meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.