

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **February 26, 2015** was called to order by Council Member Chuck Hafner, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Council Member Chuck Hafner, Chair
Commissioner Todd Mielke (Arrived at 12:39 p.m.)
Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn (Arrived at 12:39 p.m.)
Council Member Mike Fagan
Council Member Jon Snyder
Council Member Amber Waldref
Council Member Ed Pace
Board Member Keith Baldwin, MHA (Departed at 2:36 p.m.)
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH (Departed at 2:37 p.m.)

ABSENT

Commissioner Al French
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN
Mayor Kevin Freeman, Vice Chair

CHAIR REPORT – Council Member Chuck Hafner

There was no report from the Chair.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Joel McCullough, MD, MPH, MS

Measles Update

From January 1 to February 20, there have been 154 cases of measles reported in the U.S. This involves 17 states and Washington D.C. One hundred eighteen (118) cases are due to a large and ongoing outbreak linked to Disneyland in Southern California. There two other smaller outbreaks in Nevada and Illinois. Last year, there were 644 measles cases in 27 states, which is the largest number since measles was eliminated in the U.S. in the year 2000. Measles are very common in some parts of Europe, Asia, Pacific and Africa. Sometimes travelers can bring measles to the U.S. and conversely U.S. travelers can bring measles back from their travels.

In Washington State, there have been five confirmed cases in two counties: Grays Harbor and Clallam. There have been no cases reported in Spokane County, but there have been several suspect cases tested with negative results. Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) has sent alerts to providers, provided proper testing protocols and facilitated testing of clinical specimens.

Influenza Update

Influenza remains widespread throughout most parts of the country, but activity in Spokane is declining. The most common influenza variant this season is H3N2. The highest hospitalization rates have been in those 65 years or older representing approximately 60% of the hospitalizations. The next highest rate of hospitalization is among children between 0-4 years old. In Spokane County, there have been 15 deaths and 353 hospitalizations associated with influenza.

There was a mismatch with the predominant strain in the flu vaccine this year resulting in the vaccine being 1/3 effective against this year's predominant strain of influenza. Since December, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has received reports of laboratory confirmed influenza patients with swollen salivary glands. Most cases have been in children, which was traditionally associated with mild illness. The CDC is still investigating swollen gland causes.

Council Member Fagan questioned the discrepancy between the CDCs report of the vaccine’s effectiveness on its website this morning and what was reported to the BOH. There was no report of the vaccine’s effectiveness in an interview with KXLY radio this morning. Council Member Fagan requested the agency report out all information on influenza to the BOH and media.

Avian Influenza

Since December, the USDA has confirmed three strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild and domestic flocks in the West and Northwest. All three strains have been noted in other parts of the world, but haven’t been found to infect human beings. People are advised to follow precautions when dealing with wild birds such as proper hygiene, not handling sick birds with bare hands, and cooking any meats thoroughly. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the lead agency in Washington State who is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the USDA to have nationwide surveillance efforts for early detection of the disease in birds.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist, provided the BOH with an update on current legislative activities. Rail Safety House Bill (HB) 1449 has passed from Committee without amendment. Distracted Driving Senate Bill (SB) 5656 was passed with an amendment aimed at addressing wireless communication devices built into vehicles.

E-Cigarettes and Tobacco Omnibus HB1645 and SB5573 are significant priorities for health partners across the state. Unfortunately, the bills haven’t been scheduled for hearings. The bills have a regulatory piece and will implement taxes on e-cigarettes. The largest concern heard is regarding the taxation proposal. A hearing is expected the first week of March.

Recreational Marijuana HB1276 passed committee this week. SB5903 has moved out of committee on to the Rules committee. The Mid-Level Dental Providers bill didn’t receive a hearing and will not move forward, but will remain for next session.

There have been no allocation changes to the Public Health Assistants’ Account. There are \$10 million for communicable disease in the Governor’s budget. An allocation of \$19 million from the legislature is expected from recreational marijuana revenues that will go to the Department of Health (DOH) for prevention and education efforts and for grants to local health jurisdictions (LHJs). There is \$3 million in the Governor’s budget for youth tobacco and e-cigarette prevention.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consists of items considered routine which are approved as a group. Any member of the Board may request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately.

Meeting Minutes: December 4, 2014
 2014 Vouchers paid: November 1-30, 2014

Voucher Numbers:	#235489 - #235692 & EFT B&0Oct2014	\$ 395,849.04
Payroll Warrants:	#865523 - #865545 Advice Numbers: #DD27796 - #DD27971	621,128.67
Payroll Warrants:	#866918 - #866944 858395 - #858403	
	Advice Numbers: #DD27972 - #DD27144	594,639.64
	TOTAL	\$1,611,617.35

2014 Vouchers paid: December 1-31, 2014

Voucher Numbers:	#235693 - #235904 & EFT B&0Nov2014	\$ 536,177.31
Payroll Warrants:	#868142 - #868163 Advice Numbers: #DD28145 - #DD28323	622,704.63
Payroll Warrants:	#870103 - #870130 Advice Numbers: #DD28324 - #DD28499	606,804.39
	TOTAL	\$1,765,686.33

2014 Vouchers paid: January 1-31, 2015		
Voucher Numbers: #235905 - #236150		\$ 677,570.56
Payroll Warrants: #871540 - #871665	#872130 - #872136	
	Advice Numbers: #DD28500 - #DD28675	655,195.39
Payroll Warrants: #873308 - #873370	Advice Numbers: #DD28676 - #DD28854	642,703.82
	TOTAL	\$1,975,469.77

Motion: To approve the consent agenda including meeting minutes and vouchers as presented.

Motion/Second: Fagan/Snyder

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Adopt the 2015 Meeting Schedule

Board Member Baldwin made a motion to adopt the 2015 Board of Health meeting schedule. Council Member Fagan seconded the motion.

Motion: To adopt the 2015 Board of Health meeting schedule.

Motion/Second: Baldwin/Fagan

Approved: Unanimously

Governance Committee Recommendations – Linda Graham

Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist, presented the BOH Governance committee recommendation for a Policy committee. The Policy committee would not make recommendations on policy, but only recommend what policies to present before the BOH. The committee would help advise which proceedings are required for proposed policy. At least three BOH members, the health officer and the health policy specialist are recommended for committee membership.

The Governance Committee recommends the Board use resolutions and guidelines and recommendations for approved policies. Each summer/fall, health district staff will provide initial research and identify potential policies. The Policy committee will be appointed each January and in February/March determine a policy work plan with priorities and schedules. There may be additional research and coordination with the Education committee before the proposed policies are brought before the Board.

Commissioner O’Quinn requested that all proposed policies be reviewed by the committee prior to being presented before the BOH. Council Member Hafner stated any proposed policies will be reviewed by the chair and approved for BOH consideration. Council Member Snyder added the committee’s purpose would be to determine a policy work plan for each year understanding, on occasion, there may be policies that will need to be considered outside committee.

Adopt 2015 Committees – Council Member Hafner

Council Member Hafner reviewed the BOH committees and proposed chairs for each: Budget and Finance - Commissioner O’Quinn; Education Committee - Board Member Lutz; Governance Committee - Board Member Baldwin; Policy Committee - Jon Snyder; BOH Temporary Food Event (TFE) Ad-Hoc Committee – Commissioner O’Quinn. Board members were asked to volunteer for committees prior to leaving the Board meeting.

Commissioner O’Quinn stated the TFE Ad-Hoc Committee will need to meet and make recommendations prior to the fee schedule being approved.

Motion: To approve the chairs of the 2015 Board of Health committees.

Motion/Second: Pace/Waldref

Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #15-02 Adopting BOH Legislative Agenda for the 2015 State of Washington Legislative Session

Commissioner O'Quinn expressed concern that the discussion and decisions were already made at a previous meeting and adopting a resolution at this meeting would fail to capture the discussion of the previous meeting. She requested the resolution not be voted upon.

Council Member Pace made a motion to accept the resolution as presented and attach the minutes from the previous legislative discussion to the resolution. Council Member Snyder seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mielke made an amendment to the motion thereby tabling the discussion until the fall of 2015 in anticipation of the 2016 legislative session. Commissioner O'Quinn seconded the motion.

Board Member Baldwin called for the question.

Motion: To approve the amending of the original motion.

Motion/Second: Mielke/O'Quinn

Approved: 6 Yea /3 No (Baldwin, Pace, Waldref)

Motion: To amend the original motion tabling the discussion until the fall of 2015 in anticipation of the 2016 legislative session.

Motion/Second: Mielke/O'Quinn

Approved: 7 Yea /2 No (Baldwin, Pace)

Resolution #15-01 Adopting the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan for Spokane Regional Health District

Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist, presented the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan for SRHD. The workgroup started late summer and completed work in December 2014. The SRHD Executive Team approved the plan in December to be brought forward to the Board.

The workgroup consisted of representatives from across the agency, three BOH members, and a consultant who advised the process. The plan is not designed to be a comprehensive operational plan nor define a new direction for public health. The action plans for each goal will provide guidance and accountability for implementation, which are currently being reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team with work beginning immediately afterward.

Board Member Lutz recommended the health district remain aware that the strategic plan is required by Public Health Assessment Board's (PHAB) Standards to be linked to the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Council Member Waldref made a motion to adopt Resolution #15-01 adopting the 2015-2017 strategic plan for Spokane Regional Health District. Commissioner Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion: To adopt Resolution #15-01 Adopting the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan for Spokane Regional Health District.

Motion/Second: Waldref/Mielke

Approved: Unanimously

BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN

NALBOH Webinars on Public Health Law – Board Member Baldwin

Board Member Baldwin listened to the recent NALBOH webinar on public health law. The webinar spoke to the authority of public health versus the limitations that government should have on public health. There

are three more webinars in March, April and May. Board Member Baldwin recommended Board members participate in the upcoming webinars. Information on the webinars will be available by contacting the recording secretary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Fagan requested Agenda Item 11 be held before Agenda Item 10 in consideration of the citizens attending the meeting. Board Member Hafner denied the request in order to maintain a quorum for the executive session.

Council Member Fagan requested a poll of Board member availability for the remainder of the meeting. Board members discussed and agreed the Executive Session would be held prior to citizen input.

Council Member Hafner announced an executive session pursuant to RCW §42.30.110(1)(g) at 1:46 p.m. for 10 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Council Member Hafner reconvened the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Council Member Snyder made a motion to include the health officer from today forward in the same cost of living adjustment (COLA) granted for 2015 for all non-represented employees of the health district. Commissioner Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion: To include the health officer from today forward in the same cost of living adjustment (COLA) granted for 2015 for all non-represented employees of the Spokane Regional Health District.

Motion/Second: Snyder/Mielke

Approved: 8 Yea / 1 Abstain (Fagan)

CITIZEN INPUT

- Rose Marie Waldrem, Green Acres, WA – Spoke on the use of fluorides and the lack of testing to determine if vaccinations are safe.
- Lisa Pipella, Spokane, WA – Spoke against HB2009 and the side effects associated with her vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV). She asked the Board to oppose HB2009.
- Melissa Garcia, Spokane, WA – Spoke against HB2009 and for the right to deny medical procedures which immunization is one.
- Nancy Babcock, Cheney, WA – Spoke against HB2009 and for her support of Council Member Fagan. She read a statement from Tony Bark, MD regarding immunizations and the negative effects on children.
- Gary Edwards, Spokane County, WA – Spoke on the ridiculing and censoring of public officials with opposing views and his support of Council Member Fagan.
- Jessica McGuire, Liberty Lake, WA – Spoke against HB2009, for the right of informed consent and the right to refuse medical procedures. She expressed her concern over the National Adult Immunization Plan drafted by the National Vaccine Program office with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which details vaccines desired for all U.S. adults and her support of the current three immunization exemptions.
- Tim Bean, Spokane, WA – Spoke on the need to hear dissenting opinions and asked the government to realize that policies does not usurp constitutional rights.
- Marian Lonam, Otis Orchards, WA – Spoke on her support of Council Member Fagan, vaccine related seizures in adults and the need for investigation into issues with vaccines.
- Hannah Thomsen, Spokane WA – Spoke against HB2009 and for the right of informed consent.
- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane County, WA – Spoke on issues related to vaccines.

- Kayloni Bonner, Green Acres, WA – Spoke on side effects of vaccines, the mocking of those with opinions and convictions on vaccinations that are different than the medical community and her support of Council Member Fagan.
- Mary Ellen Moe, Mead, WA – Spoke on government control of the public and the lack of data to show whether vaccines provide benefit.
- Amber Wood, Spokane County, WA – Spoke on her childbirth experiences and for the right to choose one’s own medical procedures and that HB2009 removes the right of choice.
- Roxanne Lechton, Spokane County, WA – Spoke on her right to make an informed and knowledgeable decision about her children’s healthcare and that removal of Council Member Fagan from the Board would send a message to the public that it’s not comfortable discussing controversial topics.


Council Member Hafner clarified that it’s not within SRHD Board of Health’s authority to remove any member from the Board.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on March 26, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

APPROVED:  VICE-CHAIR Date: 3/26/2015
 Board Member Name and Title


 Recording Secretary