

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **March 31, 2016** was called to order by Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair, at 12:34 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair
Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn, Vice Chair
Commissioner Nancy McLaughlin (arrived 12:44 p.m.)
Councilmember Lori Kinnear
Councilmember Chuck Hafner
Board Member Keith Baldwin, MHA
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH

ABSENT

Commissioner Al French
Councilmember Breean Beggs
Councilmember Amber Waldref
Councilmember Dean Grafos
Board Member Susan Boysen, EdD, RN

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CHAIR REPORT – Mayor Kevin Freeman

New Board of Health (BOH) member, Commissioner Nancy McLaughlin, was welcomed to the board.

The BOH Health Officer Selection Committee held its first meeting this month and has begun to evaluate the structure of the health officer position. The committee will meet again in April and will update the board next month.

The BOH committee descriptions are in the process of being updated and will come before the board for consideration.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Zika Virus Update - Mark Springer, Epidemiologist, Disease Prevention and Response Division

There are 312 travel associated cases of the Zika virus identified in the U.S. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a test for the blood supply. This is to address the situation in Puerto Rico where blood importation is needed. It will also be considered for outbreaks in the South and Southwest where local transmission has been identified. In Spokane County, there have been nine cases evaluated for Zika with only one testing positive. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a backlog of 2-3 weeks for testing.

Influenza Update – Mark Springer, Epidemiologist, Disease Prevention and Response Division

The influenza season is late this year in Spokane. There have been 150 cases of influenza reported with the majority of the cases in March. Based on the numbers reported, the flu season is expected to last through April. SRHD has recommended a masking requirement for any healthcare workers who are unvaccinated during the flu season. This recommendation will continue through April or until cases are in decline. There have been over 80 influenza B cases this season. Typically, there are less 20 in a season. Nationally, there have been reports of influenza A activity. The cases reported are only hospitalizations. Board Member Lutz recommended SRHD working with local providers to promote data reporting.

MOA with Washington Poison Control Center – Torney Smith, SRHD Administrator

Jerod O’Connor, who previously worked as an intern at the health district, is now working with the Disease Prevention and Response Division’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) program to allow better access to Washington Poison Control Center’s data and work.

BOH Orientations – Torney Smith, Administrator

The health district has completed several BOH member orientations. Board Members Lutz and Boysen were thanked for their work on the manual used in the orientation. There will be additional updates to the manual after upcoming board action.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Linda Graham, Health Policy Specialist and Communications Manager

A one-page summary of legislative activity was included in the agenda packet. Vaping legislation has been approved, which will be discussed under Action Items. A budget provision was approved related to foundational public health services. Research has shown that public health is underfunded by \$100 million. This provision calls on the legislature to work with Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) and the Department of Health (DOH) to develop a budget proposal for the next legislative session.

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: February 25, 2016
2016 Vouchers paid: February 1-29, 2016

Voucher Numbers:	#239097 - #239304 & EFT B&O Jan 2016	\$ 764,732.15
Payroll Warrants:	#915186 - #915217 Advice Numbers: #DD33568 - #DD33759	703,463.40
Payroll Warrants:	#916287 - #916320 Advice Numbers: #DD33760 - #DD33949	659,277.22
	TOTAL	\$2,127,472.77

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

Motion/Second: Hafner/O’Quinn

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #16-01 Adopting RCW 70.160 By Reference and Prohibiting Smoking Including Smoking Tobacco, Flavored Tobacco Products and Marijuana, and Vaping of Any Substance in Public Places and Places of Employment in Spokane County and Providing for Enforcement Pursuant to RCW 70.160 – Linda Graham, Health Policy and Communications Manager

The state legislature has passed a vaping bill that is now before the Governor. The bill will have limited effect on the proposed resolution before the BOH because the state legislation does not address vaping in public places. Retailers of vapor devices are now required to be licensed. The bill also increases the tobacco retailer license fees. Age verification is now required for mail and internet sales--requirements that will limit sales to minors. The bill also includes a penalty on minors for purchasing and possessing vaping devices. Child-resistant packaging of products is also required, along with labels with warning statements and nicotine content. Enforcement is now performed by the Liquor Control Board (LCB).

Under the state legislation, tasting and sampling are allowed but restricted to the indoor area of licensed retail vapor product outlets that are restricted to those over 18, with nicotine in the samples only for those who give consent, and used with a disposable mouthpiece of a vapor device owned by the store. Local

regulations can be passed for indoor use except: indoor public places identified by the state legislation and prohibiting tasting and sampling in licensed retail outlets. The proposed BOH resolution has been modified to be consistent with the state legislation; therefore, it doesn't fall into a substantive change category requiring a new public comment period and hearing.

It is recommended that the BOH vote on the revised resolution after the Governor signs the current legislative bill and postpone any future consideration on whether or not to further restrict sampling.

Commissioner O'Quinn recommended waiting on any sampling action following the lead of other jurisdictions in the state.

Commissioner O'Quinn made a motion to continue Action Item 8 until the April 2016 Board of Health meeting. Councilmember Hafner seconded the motion.

Motion: To continue Action Item 8: Resolution #16-01 Adopting RCW 70.160 By Reference and Prohibiting Smoking Including Smoking Tobacco, Flavored Tobacco Products and Marijuana, and Vaping of Any Substance in Public Places and Places of Employment in Spokane County and Providing for Enforcement Pursuant to RCW 70.160 until the April Board of Health meeting.

Motion/Second: O'Quinn/Hafner

Approved: Unanimously

Further discussion: The health district would not enforce any licensing requirements for stores or child-resistant packaging. The LCB would provide enforcement on those matters. The health district would assist the LCB on enforcement of sales to minors. Keith Baldwin recommended exploring opportunities to educate youth about laws on vaping and vaping prevention. The agency expects to receive future grants for youth prevention efforts.

REPORTS

Disease Prevention & Response Division (DPR) Overview – Lyndia Wilson, Disease Prevention and Response Director

The DPR division has five units: Data Center, Communicable Disease Epidemiology, HIV/STDs Prevention, Immunization Outreach and Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHEPR). In 2015, the Data Center produced 16 assessment publications for staff and the community, 64 data requests and 114 surveys. Every other year, the Data Center updates *Spokane Counts*, which is used to prioritize data and issues in the community. The *Missing the Foundation* publication was developed to assist the Priority Spokane effort around homelessness.

There are over 60 conditions that are mandated as reportable to public health. Communicable Disease Epidemiology is responsible for following up on the cases to assure treatment and to prevent additional exposures. These cases include: food and waterborne disease, vaccine preventable diseases, Hepatitis A, B, and C, vector-borne diseases, and HIV/sexually transmitted diseases. Of 3,862 cases in 2014, 75% were STDs. Gonorrhea and Syphilis have been at a very steep incline in the past few years with each Gonorrhea case requiring more follow up than an HIV/AIDS case. Most of the HIV/STD work is primarily funded through state and federal dollars. All others are an unfunded mandate, which uses local dollars.

Due to climate change, there can be increases in diseases. Last year, the firestorms and windstorm had public health implications. Staff monitor local and national events to be prepared for the unknown. Due to the Ebola outbreak, there is special funding for several projects working with hospitals and first responders. Last year, staff monitored 11 travelers who returned from West Africa that were exposed to Ebola.

There is continual disease prevention education with providers, school nurses and residents. Using vaccinators from the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the College of Nursing and Pharmacy, there were

45 events vaccinating 2400 children and adults. Work with Spokane Public Schools brought immunization non-compliance from 45% down to less than 1% through onsite clinics.

The HIV/AIDS program goal is to test and keep those positive in medical care. Due to healthcare reform, 100% of clients now have health insurance. When a person with HIV adheres to their medication, they have a very low viral load and are less likely to infect others. There is also pre-exposure medication that helps keep those exposed negative, which the program is encouraging healthcare providers to carry. Of the clients on the program, 80% have a suppressed level which is high compared to the state.

The Needle Exchange program--that is 25 years old in May--operates on a harm reduction strategy to prevent HIV in intravenous drug users (IDUs). For the last two years, the program exchanged approximately 1 million needles with approximately 1500 clients and 500 new clients each year. In 2014, there were zero cases of HIV in the IDU population and last year, there were three.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) participated in eight emergency response practices with partners and 10 exercises in 2015. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) housed at SRHD logged 2,600 volunteer hours, which equates to a \$98,000 benefit to the community. The MRC participated in trainings, exercises, community events, vaccination clinics and had a Bloomsday booth.

There were five PHEPR response events last year (Ebola, Measles, Pacific Steel chemical release, wildfires and windstorm). One of SRHD's roles were to help the community understand risks. PHEPR belongs to the regional healthcare coalition that has 333 members that assist with response. PHEPR has approximately 25 local agreements in place that provide additional personnel, equipment, distribution of medication and administers immunizations. Six of the MRC volunteers were deployed during the wildfires and logged about 900 volunteer hours. During the windstorm event, staff worked out of the Greater Spokane Emergency Management Center and assisted with coordination efforts. The PHEPR program is funded only with federal funds.

The challenges of division are: 1) New and emerging diseases that requires staff time to be prepared to communicate to the public and providers; 2) resources for continuing healthcare provider engagement to use the newest guidelines, reporting measures, assuring population gaps in health care are filled, and assuring providers are using best practices; 3) increasing vaccination rates with only 42% of 24-36 month olds current with vaccines which is lower than the state (70%) and the national goal (90%); 4) meeting the needs of high need HIV clients with many having mental health issues and 18% being homeless, which makes it difficult to keep them on medications to assure low viral loads; 5) cuts and limited funding, such as a 50% state cut for STD case work and a reduction in special project funding in the PHEPR program with funds being transferred to the Zika federal response.

The Quality of Life Survey results are almost finalized; the Violence Assessment report will be published soon and can be shared with the BOH. The mandated community health assessment process will be held in 2018. Other partners in the community (Providence, Shriners and St. Luke's) will work with SRHD on the process.

The BOH can assist the division by advocating for stable public health funding and for data surveillance from local providers and hospitals. Board Member Baldwin recommended BOH members advocate for data sharing in the community. Torney Smith mentioned Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information, will be in Spokane on July 11. Board members will be encouraged to attend and it will serve as an opportunity to speak on data sharing.

Health Promotion Division Overview – Kyle Unland, Health Promotion Division Director

Health Promotion works to make the healthy choice the easy choice, improve knowledge and awareness, collaborate with partners, and address unhealthy behaviors that result in 80% of health care costs. The

Breast, Cervical, Colon Health Program (BCCHP) has found that even though the Affordable Healthcare Act has covered the public, the public can't afford to pay premiums or for treatment. Last year, 31 cancers were diagnosed as a result of the program.

The Community Healthcare Worker (CHW) program is an effort through the SNAP-Ed program that trains peer-to-peer CHWs. The models have been successful and well received in the county. The program has expanded into 10 locations with 75 workers trained. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) uses the peer-to-peer model to help people make healthy food choices and lead an active lifestyle.

The Women Infants and Children (WIC) program held over 41,000 nutrition education appointments last year and served approximately 13,000 clients in the program. The program also assists the economy with \$7.7 million spent in the area.

The Walk Bike Bus program was initiated in the Perry District and will be expanded to the Garland District. The program works to decrease automobile trips and increase walking, biking and busing trips.

The Safe Routes to School Program's goal is to promote safe walking and biking to school and Active Living Program works to influence policy around active transportation by trying to shape infrastructure in the community.

Commissioner O'Quinn recommended including all areas in Spokane County on the list of the Walk, Bike, Bus program.

The Sodium Reduction Program is funded through the Department of Health (DOH) and works to reduce high blood pressure in the community. At one cafe, almost 40 lbs. of sodium have been reduced from the menu. Healthy Eating Environments project assists grocery stores, food banks and cafeterias in placement strategies to promote and increase the visibility of healthier eating options. This has resulted in students eating more scratch-cooked foods in the schools.

Senior Falls Prevention facilitates a Fall Free Coalition and promotes low-cost classes for seniors.

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Spokane County. The Tobacco Cessation program's goal is to mobilize the health care community to focus on tobacco cessation. The Youth Tobacco Prevention program is funded by a DOH grant to address youth using tobacco and vaping devices. The Second Hand Smoke Exposure project works to reduce second-hand smoke in multi-unit housing and patios and the Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education program is a new program starting April 1 where a six-county coalition working with school district addresses marijuana use.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN

City of Spokane Human Trafficking Ordinance – Councilmember Kinnear

Final details are being discussed for the City of Spokane's human trafficking ordinance that will be completed by June.

Absenteeism Voting – Board Member Lutz

Board Member Lutz asked staff to research the possibility of absenteeism voting for BOH members.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING


The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on April 28, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

APPROVED:  Chair
Board Member Name and Title

Date: 4/26/2016


Recording Secretary