



# Grays Harbor County Board of Health

PEARSALL BUILDING  
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520

## October 22, 2020 Board of Health Meeting

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Board of Health member Vickie Raines called the Board of Health meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Wes Cormier and Commissioner Randy Ross were also in attendance. The meeting was held electronically through Zoom to allow for social distancing.

Also in Attendance: Karolyn Holden, Public Health Director; Jeff Nelson, Environmental Health Director; Norma Tillotson, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; Tracey Munger, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; Beth Mizushima, Deputy Director Public Health; Alex Vido, Recording Secretary; Cassie Lentz, Public Health Manager; Brianne Probasco Public Health Manager; Kristina Alnajjar, Public Health Manager; Hanna Cleverly Deputy Director of Emergency Management; Kimberly McLaury, Public Health Nutritionist; and Wilma Weber Public Health Community Health Specialist.

Chair Vickie Raines called for approval of the minutes from the July 22, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Randy Ross moved to approve the July 22, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes.

**Second:** Commissioner Wes Cormier seconded the motion.

**Approval:** The motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 22, 2020 was approved unanimously.

### **Public Health Report – Karolyn Holden, Director**

- Went over where we are at in regards to COVID in terms of community prevalence, major activities, where we've been and where we are heading.
- Response has evolved to see how broad and all encompassing the activities are in which Public Health is being called to perform in addition to case investigation and contact tracing.
- Providing daily contact for everyone in isolation or quarantine.
- Communicating with the public, cooperators, policymakers, tribes, school and hospital.
- Making sure our healthcare system is not overwhelmed
- Being asked by the state to come up with a vaccine plan for if and when a vaccine becomes available.
- Eviction prevention and supporting housing work with some money from Commerce.
- Public Health Department has grown from 33 staff to 43 individuals with a few positions that were vacant at the beginning of the year. Appreciate the board for these positions.
- Graph showing cases overtime per 100,000 ending October 9, 2020. Low risk:  $\geq 25$  cases per 100,000 population, we stayed here till July 2020. Intermediate Risk:  $\geq 25-75$  cases per 100,000 population. High Risk:  $\geq 75$  cases per 100,000 population.
  - Schools are using the decision tree on the graph to help decide which modalities should be considered in each category.
  - Large peak was contributed to clusters and outbreaks in which we have sorted out and are now over.

- Disease transmission with case investigations over the past two weeks shows up that 59% have an exposure to a known case, 35% are not able to identify where exposure occurred, 16% are still under investigation and information on potential exposures are still pending.
  - The more we see community transmission the more concern we do not have a full picture of disease prevalence but with more testing, that is occurring in large numbers now, will help us have better visibility on this disease.
  - Commissioner Raines asked about individuals who do not wish to share information for one reason or another, do these cases fall in the 25% category?
  - Director Karolyn Holden will double check with our Epidemiology department but believes they do fall in the 25% category.
- Case and Contacts as of noon on 10/21/2020.
- Cases by Race/Ethnicity. It is notable that 39% of the cases are Hispanic/Latino but this population only represent 10% of the county. This population is over represented, becoming ill and dealing with COVID at a higher rate than the rest of the county.
  - Commissioner Randy asked a question about fish processing workers from Europe and Russia if they are representant in the white population on the graph.
  - Director Karolyn Holden stated it depends on how the individuals self-identify. When we interview people, they tell us with what race they identify with. It can be more than one race and does not know unless looking at the case investigation data.
- Isolation and quarantine as of October 21, 2020. Provided individuals a place to isolate or quarantine along with food, medication and groceries.
  - EconoLodge and Sweetgrass facilities have provided a total of 26 guests with a total of 142 overnight stays.
  - As of Oct 9, we've provided in-home support for 12 individuals.
  - Remodeled 8<sup>th</sup> Street Facility is planned to open on November 15<sup>th</sup> with 15 beds. 5 are for quarantine and 10 are for isolation.
- Testing: As of October 20, 2020, we've performed 10,397 tests.
- Support from the National Guard and the State Public Health Lab is much appreciated.
- Emergency Management is working hard to procure supplies and transportation to do testing without the National Guard using local resources at hand.



COVID

PowerPoint.pptx

### **WIC Report – Kimberly McLaury, Nutritionist**

- A brief update about our WIC program
- WIC provides healthy foods, nutrition educations, breastfeeding support and healthcare referrals to our local families.
- In September 2019 we went through a major transition from paper check to EBT cards.
- Once COVID was declared we were able to switch our appointments remotely seeing a 10% increase and a decrease in no-show rate with fewer families missing out on benefits.
- Reducing maternal mortality rate with mothers and children participating in WIC
- Connecting clients to services remotely
- Financial contributions



WIC BOH.pptx

## Environmental Health Report – Jeff Nelson, Director

Mr. Nelson provided the board members the following updates:

- COVID major consideration in the Environmental Health Department especially as it pertains to inspections and thinking about enforcement. Enforcement has been hampered by capacity issues transferring one staff to Public Health and another staffer on medical leave.
- Only 2 staff on this week. We are processing a lot of permits while working with planning and building and keeping an eye on moving forward through when we start working with restaurants and inspections.
- Hoping to hire a new employee in the next week or so.
- Difficult to maintain in facilitating the Marine Resource committee and those that are essential to our budget but not core to our mission. Trying to pay attention to these items.
- Permitting season is beginning. Food permits need to go out in mid-November.
- We need to clean up some data for a number of establishments who need to renew their permits or late fees. We will go into our database to make sure all fees, numbers, applications and renewals are correct.
- Solid waste permits can be timely because they are specific to each facility.
- Budget: We trying to get more funding from the state for solid waste work. We did focus in late 2019 and 2020 on doing quite a bit of work with solid waste facilities. We are hoping that reflects positively as we approach the State about getting funding through the local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Fund.
- We will be preparing another reimbursement request from CARES next week which is very helpful as well as reimbursements done through IMT.
- Payment due to Ecology for the exempt wells as we process water availability for all wells drilled after January 19, 2019. This should not impact our budget.
- We need to go through a bars update as we are 8 months to a year behind on updating bars coding. Hoping to have this cleaned up for the 2021 budget so we are reporting our revenues and expenditures appropriately to the State of Health.
- Last board meeting I mentioned updating the water availability verification review process. We have one applicant who is requesting a rain water catchment system. We've hit a snag with the language primarily as it pertains to the requirement of the State for approving water haulers. We have very few if any dedicated water haulers in the county.

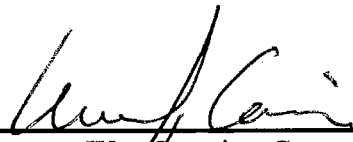
## Health Office Report - Dr. Bausher

- Not on call. Will need to catch up next Board of Health meeting.
- If anything needs to be reported, it can be done over e-mail.

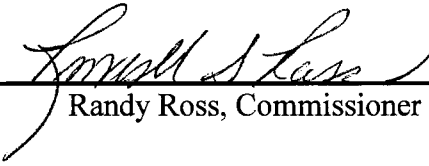
Hearing no public comment through the chat box or directly to Beth Mizushima, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 AM on October 22, 2020.

Approved on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2020

  
Vickie Raines, Chair Commissioner

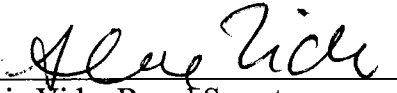


Wes Cormier, Commissioner First District



Randy Ross, Commissioner Second District

ATTEST:



Alexandria Vido, Board Secretary