



Grays Harbor County
Board of Health
PEARSALL BUILDING
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520
October 24, 2019
Board of Health Meeting

Board of Health member Vickie Raines called the Board of Health meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and called for the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Wes Cormier was in attendance. Commissioner Randy Ross was excused.

Also in Attendance: Dr. John Bausher, Health Officer; Karolyn Holden, PHSS Director; Tracey Munger, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; Aliza Esty, BOH Recording Secretary; and several members of the public.

Motion: Commissioner Vickie Raines moved to approve the July 25, 2019 meeting minutes.

Second: Commissioner Wes Cormier seconded the motion.

Approval: The minutes of July 25, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Vickie Raines moved to excuse Commissioner Ross from the meeting.

Second: Commissioner Wes Cormier seconded the motion.

Approval: The motion to excuse Commissioner Randy Ross was approved unanimously.

Health Officer Report – Dr. John Bausher:

Influenza like illness is being reported in local communities. The public is advised to receive flu vaccination when appropriate. Treatment for active tuberculosis patients continues.

Health Care Authority – Teresa Claycamp and Alice Lind:

Health Care Authority covered an overview of the upcoming changes for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) in 2020 for the Great Rivers Region.

- Requirements for integrated managed care
- History to get to this point
- Reasons to integrate
- Roles & functions of managed care organization across Washington State

For more information, <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/regional-resources>

Census 2020 – Adan Aispuro, Partnership Specialist:

Adan Aispuro discussed the importance of accurate census data, which determines funding allocations for funding Federal, State, and local government programs. The U.S. Constitution require the count occurs every 10 years. Census day is April 1, 2020. Citizens will receive an invitation to complete census data online by March 2020. Group counts will be conducted by mid-summer. By December, State and local districts will receive the census data in a statistical format. For additional information, www.ofm.wa.gov/2020census

Census 2020 currently has open positions available across the nation. For more information, visit www.2020census.gov/jobs

Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative - April Heikkila, Coalition Coordinator:

Harbor Strong is a new coalition formed in July 2018 with funding from the WA State targeted response plan to end the opioid epidemic. The Coalition has developed multiple local programs that focus on drug and alcohol prevention. Liam Heikkila and Merryn Bruner, student coalition members, discussed the risk factors that the Coalition identified and the strategies they are implementing.

An upcoming event on October 30, 2019 located at the Aberdeen High School called “Beer Goggles to Blackouts” features Dr. Jason Kilmer, Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at University of Washington. Dr. Kilmer will be providing information regarding the importance of alcohol and marijuana prevention.

Public Health and Social Services Report - Karolyn Holden, Director:

Karolyn Holden discussed a number of policy changes:

- MMR Vaccine Exemption Law Update:

- Washington State Legislature passed a bill effective July 28, 2019 that removes the personal/philosophical exemption from the requirement to obtain measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine for public/private schools and child care attendance. The changes do not include religious and medical exemptions.
- Measles is one of the most highly infectious diseases known. Approximately 95% of the population must be immune to prevent outbreaks in the community.
- Local school districts do not meet the 95% immunization rates to create the immunity.
- Public Health and Social Services will send a letter to County school administrators that outlines the number of students in each district out of compliance with the new law.
- Purchase of Tobacco and Vapor Products:
 - Washington State Legislature passed a bill to raise the minimum legal sales age of tobacco and vapor products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age. Limiting the minimum sales age can reduce the risk of addiction and prevent access for school-age youth. Public Health and Social Services will issue a press release regarding the new law.
 - There are free resources to help individuals quit:
 - WA State Tobacco quit phone line 1-800-QUIT-NOW
 - Smart phone app at www.doh.wa.gov
- Report on Vaping related lung injuries:
 - On March 9, 2019, the WA State Legislature passed an emergency ban on flavored vape products. The rule requires the health care providers to report cases of vaping related illness to public health within 3 business days. Retailers selling vape products are required to display signs warning consumers about the risk of lung disease associated with the use of vapor products.

Environmental Health Report – Jeff Nelson, Environmental Health Director:

Jeff Nelson discussed the following updates:

- Sewer/septic system changes and updates are currently in transition. No definitive updates to report. Local management plans are still in process.
- Department of Ecology is currently in the process of firming up language regarding permit-exempt well use in WA State.
- Environmental Health has issued two health advisories regarding toxic algae. The Environment Health Division is currently working with City of Ocean Shores to address these issues.

Public Comments:

Shelby Kennedy, Hoquiam: Kennedy shared a letter written by a local minister that discussed several concerns in our community including homelessness and substance use disorder, and strategies to resolve those issues.

Becky Walsh, Aberdeen: Walsh discussed the Grays Harbor Public Hospital Board's vote to support Grays Harbor Public Health's operation of the Syringe Services Program. She shared a letter from the Board addressing their support for the Syringe Services Program.

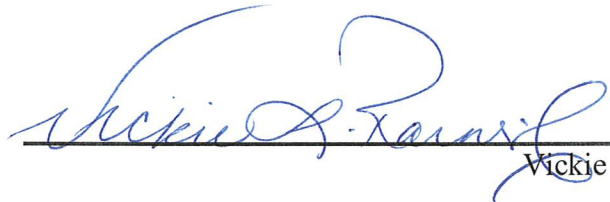
Tara Mareth, Aberdeen: Mareth discussed concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Syringe Services Program, and concern about infectious disease rates.

Andrea Vekich, Aberdeen: Vekich discussed her background and experience in serving Grays Harbor and Pacific County citizens, support of the Syringe Services Program, and effective approaches for supporting individuals with addiction.

Jeff Cook, Aberdeen: Cook discussed his support of measures such as the Syringe Services Program to prevent the spread of disease, and reduce the cost of disease burden.

Hearing no additional public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 am

Approved on this 23 day of JANUARY, 2020



Vickie Raines, Chair

EXCUSED

Wes Cormier, Commissioner First District



Randy Ross, Commissioner Second District

ATTEST:



Aliza Esty, Board Secretary