



Grays Harbor County
Board of Health
PEARSALL BUILDING
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520
July 28, 2022
Board of Health Meeting

Board of Health Chair Warne called the meeting to order at 8:30a.m. Board Members Jill Warne, Kevin Pine, Char Hood, Christopher Olive, Dr. Kenneth Dietrich were also present. Board Member Christine Winn was not present. The meeting was held both in person at the Pearsall Building and electronically through Zoom to allow for social distancing.

An introduction of new Board members Char Hood, Christopher Olive, Dr. Kenneth Dietrich, and Chrissy Winn occurred.

Also in Attendance: Jeff Nelson, Environmental Health Director; Mike McNickle, Public Health Director; Dr. John Bausher, Health Officer; Jon Beltran, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor; and Alex Vido, Secretary. Members of the Grays Harbor Public Health Department were also present.

Motion: Board Member Raines moved to approve the April 28, 2022 quarterly, May 17, 2022 and June 22, 2022 special Board of Health meeting minutes.

Second: Board of Health Member Pine seconded the motion.

Approval: The minutes of April 28, 2022 quarterly, May 17, 2022 and June 22, 2022 special Board of Health meeting were approved unanimously.

Board of Health Orientation:

- Director of Public Health, Mike McNickle began the orientation with a video titled [What is Public Health?](#) which explained the basic functions of public health.
- He provided a power point that went over, what public health is, essential services, public health vs. health care, State Local Health Jurisdictions, GHCPH funding streams, drives or local Public Health work, Local Boards of Health roles, Local public health officials- Directors and Health officer and lines of authority.



LBOH Orientation
Presentation - July.p

Board Member Hood asked about the fees public health collects.

Director McNickle answered the fees come from the clinic or vital records. If changes need to be made, it goes before the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Board of Health Meeting Frequency:

Board Chair Warne mentioned this Board meets quarterly then asked if there needed to be more.

Director McNickle responded he wanted to bring it before the Board since there are new members. There is a good amount of time between the quarterly meetings and there are several topics coming up such as the Community Health Assessment/Community Health Impact Plan and the Behavioral Health Gap analysis.

Board Chair Warne asked if there could be special meetings.

Board Member Raines wanted to hear from the new Board members since in their interview it was mentioned the Board of Health meets quarterly.

Board Member Dr. Dietrich mentioned he would like to meet every month or every other month.

Board Member Raines asked if the new members have sat on boards before and if they have training about the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)

Some of the new Board members have sat on a board and had training on OPMA.

Director McNickle talked about how these meeting are open to public records and we will get the Risk Manager to provide trainings.

Board member Pine asked Director McNickle if he wanted the meetings to occur every other month.

Director McNickle responded that it was a suggestion

Board Chair Warne asked how the meetings will flow with the reveal of the Gaps analysis

Director McNickle answered, "It would be revealed in October at the next quarterly meeting".

Board Member Raines suggested a September meeting since a lot of individuals would be gone in August. The CHIP/CHA could happen in September with the assessment in October.

Board members decided to schedule special Board of Health meetings on Thursday, September 29th and Thursday, November 17th at 8:30 am. The quarterly meeting on Thursday, October 27th will still occur at 8:30 am.

Community Health Assessment / Community Health Impact Plan Introduction:

- Director McNickle mentioned that most Local Health Jurisdictions conduct this review about every five years but Grays Harbor County hasn't had one done in a while.

- Public Health worked with the contractor, RedeGroup. This about six months to complete by going through a through process of community engagement, surveys, data analysis, focus groups, etc. They provided a detailed report and a three-page summary that is easy to read.
- At the next meeting he would like the Board to have a conversation about what they would like to do to address the issues found in this report. The Board will help develop policies and a vision over the next few years and how we can measure success.
- He also went over what he is hoping the Board can do to work within the scope of Public Health to help our community.

Public Health Update – Mike McNickle, Director:

- COVID response continues to meet with a policy group twice a month in with Dr. Bausher and Commissioner Raines are both a part of.
- Public Health is scaling back based on what the State needs us to do. Public Health is contracting with BirdsEye to conduct the vaccines, following up with large outbreaks in the larger care facilities. We do not conduct contract tracing any longer, the State is responsible. There are still cases and outbreaks going on in Grays Harbor County.
- Our first case of Monkey Pox wasn't our case, but they did come through Grays Harbor County. Our staff did follow up and conduct the Communicable Disease work associated with it. This case was from Washington D.C.
- He mentioned there are burn out issues in Public Health but the department is trying to provide support to staff. One way they boost moral is to have fun games during all-staff meetings and to ensure employees know that family comes first.

Board Member Dr. Dietrich asked, if an organizational chart of Public Health could be sent to them.

Director McNickle said, we could provide it.

- Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) has agreed to provide \$50,000.00 for a mobile van unit to provide services to individuals who can not come into Aberdeen services.
- During the next few meetings, he would like the managers to provide you an overview of what their departments do.

Health Officer Update – Dr. John Bausher:

- He welcomed the new members to the Board and indicated he has been Health Officer for over 40 years and has a background in microbiology. All his training came into play when he became the Health Officer for Grays Harbor County.
- Public Health has become more visible during moments of crisis such as HIV, Anthrax scare and Covid to name few.
- He spoke about the Monkeypox response Public Health conducted and about how Environmental Health has improved our water testing and algae testing to name a few.

Environmental Health Update – Jeff Nelson, Director:

- A new online permitting software system was put into effect in Montesano this week. This will be very useful for the customers.
- Harmful algae bloom occurs almost every year, but this year looks mild. The advisory in Ocean Shores was an abundance of caution as they had their own test strip mechanism with results above threshold levels. We came and sent a sample to the King County Lab and their results came back below the threshold level. Cyanobacteria makes a distinctive bloom and as long as it is present, it is wise to keep the general advisory up until it went away.
- Environmental health has nine employees which is the highest staffing level since 2009. A lot of the staff we have onboarded are being trained in food inspections. Visits usually take a few hours, but they are going a bit longer due to the lack of normal presence during COVID. Issues are being corrected.
- Environmental Health is a regulatory agency. We regulate facilities such as restaurants, RV parks, water recreational facilities, solid waste, motels, spas, hotels, etc.. They also have their own in-house water lab. This lab is used by 99% of the county. The State has accredited our lab, which is done every five years. The lab manager did a great job showing no issues.
- Solid waste takes a lot of time due to the complexity of their situations.
- The Community Health Assessment is always interesting as it almost always states the environment as one of the strong points of the County. There is a need to maintain the environment especially with the growth we are seeing. There are some concerns with the growth Grays Harbor is Experiencing.
- Summer is usually a very busy time for Environmental Health due to the temporary food permits.
- The Beach Program through the EPA is an assessment of swimming beaches where individuals use our beaches recreationally. Westport is a main sample area because of the surfers as they get fully immersed in the water.
- He mentioned they are still experiencing above average food permitting.
- Washington State encouraging them to have a greater role in school health and safety. They are participating in monthly calls with other jurisdictions. They will not be regulating but educating schools.
- The annual education conference occurred in Spokane. All staff were able to participate.
- Some staff participated in the Emergency Expo last weekend. Their role is in response to water; drinking water and flooding to name a few.

Board Member Pine mentioned that since he was remote, he was able to experience the hybrid meeting option. It was very easy to hear Director Nelson, but it was difficult to hear everyone who attended the meeting in person. He would like to see an improvement in the quality of sound for future hybrid meetings.

Board Member Pine directed a question to either to Health Officer Dr. Bausher or Director McNickle regarding an article about the COVID vaccine protection effectiveness.

Director McNickle mentioned that nothing has come from the State or CDC to change administering the vaccine. Getting the vaccine is something that an individual can choose to do.

Board Member Pine asked a question about changing the messaging about the COVID vaccine not being effective.

Director McNickle mentioned that something in writing needs to come from the State or CDC.

Board Chair Warne asked if Grays Harbor County was doing the minimum requirements from the State.

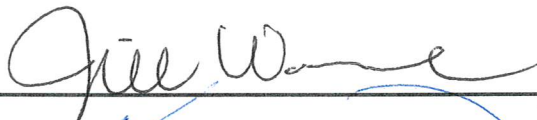
Director McNickle stated they were doing the minimum.

Board Member Pine asked what the goal, target or percentage was for the Community Health Assessment. Director McNickle mentioned that there were about 329 individuals who responded to the surveys and group meetings. He also mentioned surveys for the Gaps analysis will be on paper and online.

It was mentioned again that there will be a Special Board of Health Meeting on September 29th at 8:30 am.

Hearing no additional public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 am

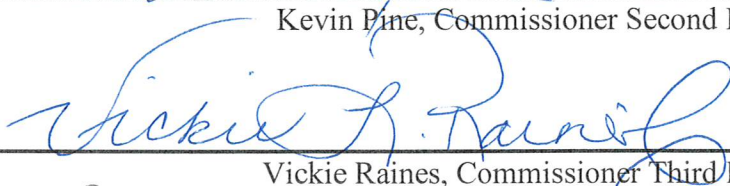
Approved on this 27 day of October, 2022



Jill Warne, Chair



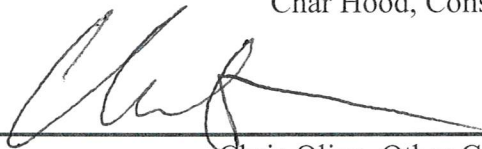
Kevin Pine, Commissioner Second District



Vickie Raines, Commissioner Third District



Char Hood, Consumer of Public Health



Chris Olive, Other Community Stakeholder

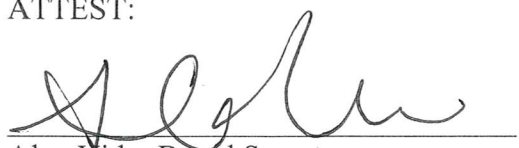
- excused -

Christine Winn, Tribal Representative

approved by phone

Dr. Kenneth Dietrich, Provider

ATTEST:



Alex Vido, Board Secretary