



Grays Harbor County
Board of Health
PEARSALL BUILDING
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520
October 27, 2022
Board of Health Meeting

Board of Health Chair Warne called the meeting to order at 8:32a.m. Board Members Jill Warne, Kevin Pine, Char Hood, Christine Winn, Christopher Olive, Dr. Kenneth Dietrich were also present. The meeting was held electronically though Zoom since the Large Meeting Room at the Pearsall Building was under construction.

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 July 28, 2022 quarterly and September 29, 2022 special Board of Health meeting minutes.

Second: Board of Health Member Pine seconded the motion.

Approval: The minutes of July 28, 2022 quarterly and September 29, 2022 special Board of Health meeting were approved unanimously. Board member Christine Winn abstained from approval of the minutes since she was not in attendance for the July 28, 2022 quarterly and September 29, 2022 special Board of Health meeting.

Due to technical issues, Health Officer, Dr. John Bausher was moved to speak after the Environmental Health updated.

Environmental Health Update – Jeff Nelson, Director:

Environmental Health is traditionally largely fee based. Charging a fee for the services and programs provided. Operating under a 100% cost recovery model; fees are not subsidized with general fund dollars. A Summary of the Changes made to fee schedules over the years shows that the rates haven't been reviewed or seen an increase since 2019. There have been significant cost increases since that time with another increase in base costs this year. Fees are associated with land use and onsite program, drinking water, water lab, food, solid waste facilities, water recreational facilities, RV park permit licensees, involvement with school health and safety programs, to name a few. Jeff put together a history of changes made to the fee schedule that will be sent to the Board prior to any proposed changes. He hopes to have a proposal for the Board by the next meeting.

A rare event occurred where a facility was asked to voluntarily close due to an overwhelming amount of relatively minor issues along evidence of a few severe issue. We received quite a few complaints about this food establishment. If anyone has any further questions, they were addressed to contact Jeff Nelson, Environmental Health Director.

Director Nelson spoke about the meeting with the individuals conducting the Wildcat Creek Aquifer Sustainability Project in McLeary, WA. This report will guide the decision making for protecting resource management.

Funding from the State for Foundational Public Services provides several specific activities. This will be used to model programs that can be disseminated through the State on certain activities. Activities such as education and outreach to families on how to mitigate exposure to lead in the home or environment. Another part of the funding will be geared towards the ongoing and increasing issue of harmful algae blooms in the marine and freshwater environments, etc.

With everything going on we will look to hire another full-time employee.

Board member Raines asked about the addition of another staff person if that funding would come from restriction or general fund resources.

Director Nelson responded this the justification could me made they will be helping with the foundational health services and activities. This would also allow other employees to help with the fee funded programs.

Board member Raines pointed out that Environmental Health does very well staying on budget and recognize additional funding might be needed. Individuals should be charged for the services they are receiving.

Board member Pine followed up with a current open position posted with Environmental Health. He wanted to clarify that with the potential rate increase it would cover the cost of another full-time employee.

Director Nelson responded and mentioned that is the direction they are heading with the volume Environmental Health is dealing with. He mentioned the limiting factor is space in the office. One full time employee would be an immediate hire and the other would be in the near future.

Board Chair Warne asked if one of the positions would be grant funded.

Director Nelson responded, "yes."

Board member Pine asked for some clarification on the funding for the positions.

Director Nelson spoke about funding for the fiscal year and that the current open position has been budgeted.

Health Officer Update – Dr. John Bausher:

As COVID winds down we are still active in a number of areas of infectious diseases, such as Tuberculosis and STD's. Our population continues to be active, and our population has an increase of syphilis. Dr. Bausher mentioned normally, there are only a few cases of syphilis per year but, this year there have been 28 cases. There is an uptick of Hepatitis C but, it could also be because we are testing more.

Even though COVID has seem to have taken a back seat, we are continuing to be vigilant.

Board member Dr. Dietrich spoke about the fading out of the Governors proclamation we are not being told as hospitals and health systems across the county and State to look for the CDC guidelines in terms healthcare

facilities. He mentioned the CDC says to look at County rates for COVID transmission. It has been hard to find information on the Department of Health website and welcomes any information on this.

Dr. Bausher mentioned that the number is difficult to come up with but there is still activity. Now with home tests, it's harder to get those individuals to report positive test. There is a still an active rate in our County and in his facility they still mask.

Board member Dr. Dietrich mentioned they still wear masks. He mentioned the confusion comes with the question why or why not there are screeners, The information on screeners is hard to find.

Dr. Bausher mentioned he cannot provide the numbers currently, but this County is still active. He spoke a bit about the decision to mask and the ability to tack the hospitalization rates for COVID.

Board member Dr. Dietrich mentioned he can connect with April Heikkila, Public Health Manager for further direction and thanked Dr. Bausher

Board member Pine asked about COVID being treated like influenza with the emergency ending.

Board member Dr. Dietrich said, "not according to the CDC guidelines." He also spoke about how the pre-COVID guidelines have changed.

Public Health Update – Mike McNickle, Director:

Director McNickle introduced two Public Health employees who will be presenting about their programs. The first presentation will discuss what we do in our clinic and the second is about how Public Health is financed and how we get our funding.

He mentioned that the current Fiscal Manager, Robyn Doré, will be retiring. Tina Coker, an internal candidate, will start their new position as Fiscal Manager in November.

Public Health Clinic Services Presentation – Lenka Cech, CNM Family Planning Clinician:



Reproductive and
Sexual Health Clinic a

Lenka introduced staff then spoke about the services provided, clinical statistical, expansion of services, clinic contacts and hours, treatment, before and after photos of the clinic and insurance.

Board member Dr. Dietrich asked Lenk a few questions about patient providers.

Lenka responded to Dr, Dietrich's questions.

Board member Pine asked Lenka about the HIV testing and positive numbers provided.

Lenka responded that the numbers provided are Public Health numbers. She also mentioned that Public Health is a title ten clinic and there are certain questions that have to be check and report on.

Public Health Fiscal Presentation – Robyn Doré, Fiscal Manager



The Financing of
Public Health Present

Robyn provided an overview of how the fiscal department works and the funding sources. Funding comes from federal, state, independent grants, clinic revenue via insurance and client payments, donations, County, and other non-Governmental Contributions. She mentioned there currently 53 “programs” used internally in which staff allocate their time and six funds that Public Health manages. Public Health uses about 15% of the County’s general fund dollars.

She also talked about the accounting system moving from an accrual bases to a cash bases to be incline with the counties system.

Board member Olive asked about what happens to the variance from year to year.

Robyn responded by stating the variance lives in the beginning and ending cash. She also mentioned public Health likes to have some money saved up since we have to pay upfront for things before, we are reimbursed.

Robyn took a moment to thank her fiscal and Public Health team and mentioned this is “one of the best teams I’ve ever worked for.”

Board member Raines mentioned it was a pleasure working with Robyn and wished her will in retirement. She appreciated everything Robyn did for the department and her answering any questions Board member Rains would have.

Board Chair Warne also thanked Robyn for her service.

Board member pine asked questions about medicate reimbursement and expansion of client base.

Robyn responded that public health is working on the communication to get the word out there that Public Health is open and share the services provided. She mentioned public health is very different from private health funding.

Conversation between Board member Pine and Robyn discussed patient count and communication in the clinic.

Public Health Homeless Housing Update – Cassie Lentz, Healthy Places Program Manager

Cassie provided an update on the process for considering Cold Weather Shelter proposals. There was an RFP published back in September which closed on October 5th. There were four proposals. One proposal came from Chaplains on the Harbor for the Westport location. This location has been running for the past few years. The second proposal came from Costal Community Action Program for the hotel/motel voucher program which has also been done by them for the past several years. The third proposal came from Chaplains on the Harbor for an Aberdeen location geared towards adults. The last proposal came from The Moore Wright group for an Aberdeen location geared towards providing a Cold Weather Shelter for families with children.

At the recent Board of County Commissioners meeting, we presented the recommendations from an evaluation committee with a special thanks to Board member Char Hood for serving on the committee. Other review committee members included Lisa and Ruth from Aberdeen and Eric Baya from NeighborWorks of Grays Harbor.

The Board of County Commissioners approved Chaplains on the Harbor Westport site and Coastal Community Action Program hotel/motel voucher program. Staff will start working on the contracts. More conversation was request by the board about the Aberdeen sights submitted by Chaplains on the Harbor and The Moore Wright Group. There is a workshop meeting about this conversation tomorrow.

Behavioral Gap Analysis Presentation – Mike McNickle, Public Health Director



Gap
presentation.pptx

Director McNickle mentioned this process started when he started in 2021. There are a lot of issues surrounding mental health that haven't gone away. We contracted with Health Management Associates (HMA) to provide what gaps are occurring in Grays Harbor County. This analysis is designed to provide short-, medium- and long-term activities and identify the gaps in those services. We can use this data to work towards closing those gaps.

HMA designed and deployed two community surveys, one in English and the other in Spanish. They also deployed provider surveys, hosted two community events; one in-person and the other virtually, conducted two provider service groups, 15 key informant interviews and other available data such as the CHIP/CHA.

Director McNickle went through each slide and discussed the themes provided. He also shared some immediate/short-term, medium, and long-term options.

Board member Olive asked if Public Health or a subcontractor would be handling mental health substance.

Director McNickle mentioned that mental health hasn't always been under Public Health until recent years. He mentioned they would like to work with individuals to work on this program and support it financially through grants or whatever is available. "It would be great to contract with someone who is an expert in that program to get it moving forward."

Board member Raines mentioned the comment from Board member Dr. Dietrich's about telehealth capacity. That would be beneficial with District I, II and II. Especially the rural communities. She asked if they knew how many people in Oakville go outside of the Centralia clinics.

Director McNickle said he did not have the data in front of him but could provide this information at a later time. He also mentioned technology will play a huge role in telehealth. He sees Public Health as the organizer and provide funding for those who are the experts in said programs/issues.

Board member Raines asked if either hospital districts are offering telehealth and that it would be great to offer telehealth for our local communities.

Board chair Warne mentioned she knew Summit offers telehealth.

Board member Dr. Dietrich mentioned Summit Pacific offer telehealth for primary care, and they have contracted with IHC to augment behavioral services for mental health. They have also recruited a nurse practitioner psychiatrist.

Board member Dr. Dietrich asked Director McNickle how we go about prioritizing and activating options to provide impact to our community.

Director McNickle responded this is why there is a special meeting in November to move forward with a strategic plan to figure out how we can address these gaps moving forward with a five-year plan.

Agenda Topics for the November Special Meeting

Director McNickle asked if the board would like anything else added to the November agenda other than strategic plan and vaccine safety.

Board member Pine asked if the messaging about the vaccine will change.

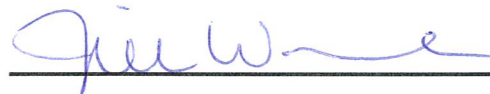
Discussion about the vaccine and hospital beds occurred between board members.

Director McNickle mentioned an introduction of Regional Health Officer Dr. Herbert C. Duber, MD, MPH will occur during the November meeting. He would be able to answer any questions the board may have.


Public Comment

Hearing no additional public comment, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 am

Approved on this 26 day of January, 2023



Jill Warne, Chair



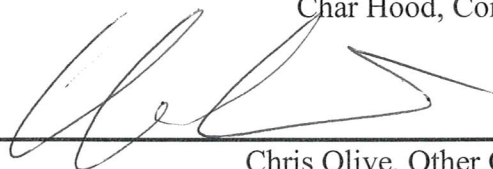
Kevin Pine, Commissioner Second District



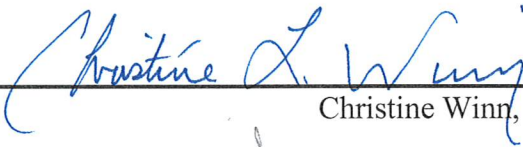
Vickie Raines, Commissioner Third District



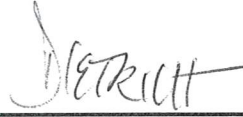
Char Hood, Consumer of Public Health



Chris Olive, Other Community Stakeholder



Christine Winn, Tribal Representative



Dr. Kenneth Dietrich, Provider

ATTEST:



Alex Vido, Board Secretary