



# Grays Harbor County Board of Health

PEARSALL BUILDING  
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520

**January 25, 2018**  
**Board of Health Meeting**

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Commissioner Raines called the Board of Health meeting to order at 8:32 am and called for the Pledge of Allegiance. Randy Ross was excused.

The agenda was approved for reports from Dr. Bausher, Health Officer; Karolyn Holden, Health and Social Services Director; and Jeff Nelson, Environmental Health Director.

Commissioner Raines called for approval of the minutes from the October 26, 2017 Board of Health meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cormier moved to approve the 10/26/2017 minutes

**Second:** Commissioner Raines seconded the motion

**Approval:** The minutes of 10/26/2017 were approved unanimously.

### **Public Health and Social Services Update:**

Karolyn Holden presented on Foundational Public Health Services and assessment:

- Karolyn Holden reported on the current efforts in Washington State to secure stable funding for local public health services. As a part of the package of information that will be presented to the legislature, she participated in an assessment of the Department's capacity to carry out activities essential to the Foundational Public Health Services. Preliminary results indicated that significant additional staffing would be needed. She expressed her hope that the effort to secure funding is successful along with her concern that the State's movement to restructure the system and pressure to share responsibilities across jurisdictions will increase the disparities between urban and rural public health services, putting rural communities at an even bigger disadvantage.
- Wilma Weber, Public Health Educator II presented a summary of participation in the PDO grant through the University of Washington that began April of 2017. The priority of this grant is to prevent deaths from opioid overdoses. Public Health is responding by increasing the capacity in the community to respond to opioid overdoses to save lives by distributing naloxone kits and training first responders. Partners in distribution include Harbor Calvary Chapel, Out and Proud Coalition, and Chaplains on the Harbor. Agencies trained include Connections, Public Health nurses, Revival of Grays Harbor, A First Place, Quinault Tribe Tx staff, and Lifeline Connections. Law Enforcement Agencies include GH Sheriff's Department, Montesano Police Department, Westport Police Department, Shoalwater Bay Tribal Police, and Pacific County Sheriff's Department. Others that have been trained include lay individuals that are at high-risk for witnessing an overdose and being the first responder such as users at the syringe exchange, and family members of someone who is at risk of overdose. Weber reports that she has gotten feedback that suggests the stigma is beginning to change with responder's interactions with individuals that call 911 to report an overdose.

There were 665 total kits distributed in Grays Harbor in 2017. 342 refill kits were distributed and 134 were used in an overdose. Of these incidents, 911 were called 48% of the time. National statistics tell us that there are about 20 non-fatal opioid overdoses to every 1 fatal overdose, so that would account for 7 lives saved in Grays Harbor.

Next steps include continuing to increase partner capacity to respond to overdose, continue to decrease stigma, and finalize the 5-year strategic plan to address opioid use in Grays Harbor. Next steps include continuing to increase partner capacity to respond to overdose, continue to decrease stigma, and finalize the 5-year strategic plan to address opioid use in Grays Harbor. .

**Dr. Bausher Update:**

- Dr. Bausher reports that influenza is an issue right now state-wide. GHC Community Hospital is screening approximately 20 patients per day with approximately 2/20 suffering from influenza. Dr. Bausher reminded us that even if someone has received a flu shot, they may still become ill with the flu. However, those that have gotten the flu shot and become ill with the flu will most likely have reduced symptoms.

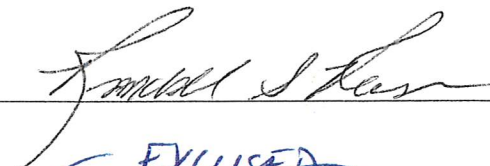
**Environmental Health Update:**

Jeff Nelson provided the board members the following updates:

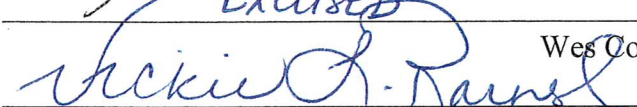
- Group B Water Systems: Environmental Health is working on outreach. A letter was sent out to all Group B Water Systems informing them of compliance requirements to Group B Public Water System (PWS) ordinance #2017-001, which was adopted by the Grays Harbor Board of Health to protect the health of consumers using Group B public drinking water supplies by ensuring that Group B PWS are designed, constructed, and maintained properly. This includes requirements for routine water monitoring. The letter asked that each purveyor update contact information on the Water Facilities Inventory (WFI).
- Abandoned Mills: 134 abandoned sites have been identified. There have been complaints to clean these sites up; however, there is a resource issue in undertaking that project and the threat to human health is very low.
- School lead-testing: Priority schools being tested for lead in water include Lake Quinault K-12, Oakville School, A.J. West Elementary School, Central Park Elementary School, Hopkins Building, Stevens Elementary School, Cosmopolis Elementary School, Elma Elementary School, Community Gym, Satsop Elementary School, Wishkah Valley Elementary/High School.
- Climate Change: Continuing to work with OSU.


Hearing no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Approved on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

  
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Randy Ross, Chair

*EXCUSED*

  
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Wes Cormier, First District

  
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Vicki Raines, Third District

Attest:  
  
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Carlyn Huffman, Board Secretary