

KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Regular Meeting
October 6, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 11:24 a.m.

MINUTES

Mayor Chris Snow moved and Council Member Roy Runyon seconded to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2009, regular board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

After a brief discussion, Mayor Kathryn Quade moved and Mayor Snow seconded to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

"KITSAP GETS ACTIVE" AWARD

Pat Degracia, Health Educator in the Health District's Health Promotion Program and a representative of the Kitsap Gets Active Coalition, presented the 2009 "Kitsap Gets Active" award to Ms. Gail Demo Smith, for her leadership in running the "Kids Get Active" Program at Cottonwood Elementary in her role as a physical education teacher. Ms. Smith expressed her thanks to the Board for the award and acknowledged the assistance of several individuals who helped her start and sustain the Cottonwood "Kids Get Active" Program including Kathleen Hackney and her team; Amy Jeter and Yelena Watson, students from Olympic College; and Barb Smithson from the Health District. Ms. Smith explained that the program works by providing incentives in the form of active prizes, such as jump ropes, to encourage students to be more active and to track their activities daily. With the success of this pilot program, she plans to expand so that students track activities as a regular part of their physical education class and to track their food choices over a several day period. With the success of this program, Smith also plans to start a runners club to encourage walking and running at recess. Smith expressed her belief that programs like the pilot "Kitsap Gets Active" Program are an important first step to help students understand the need for activity and good nutrition to help make a difference in their lives. Several Board members expressed their support of this program and the hope that it would be expanded to other schools in Kitsap County.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Before the Director's Report, was presented to the Board Chairman Steve Bauer expressed his appreciation of and support for the pro-active stance of the Health District with regard to preparation for the H1N1 influenza.

Dr. Scott Lindquist brought the Board up-to-date on the District's current strategy in response to both the usual seasonal influenza season but more especially the preparations around the H1N1 influenza. Lindquist explained that the focus of this year's preparation for the flu season has centered on communication to the public and providers.

Using federal pandemic influenza money, the District was able to partner with Harrison Medical Center to put full page ads in local newspapers to get the public health message out to the community with regard to both seasonal influenza and H1N1. The ad encourages everyone to get the seasonal flu vaccine, which is widely available in the community at local medical

providers' offices, local pharmacies, and Peninsula Community Health. The Health District's efforts have focused on providing the vaccine to underserved communities such as homeless shelters, food banks, Salvation Army, and the Community Service Office (CSO) at the local office of the Department of Social and Health Services.

With regard to the H1N1 vaccine, Lindquist explained that the first batches of vaccine that are received in the County will be given to high risk populations first, including children and young people age 6 months to 24, health care workers, and pregnant women. Kitsap County will receive 2,600 doses of the vaccine in the nasal spray form. The first doses will be prioritized to health care workers, followed by other high risk groups in subsequent weeks as additional doses are received.

INFLUENZA PLANNING DECISIONS

Dr. Lindquist informed the Board that there has been discussion across the State about the desirability of declaring a state of emergency within counties in response to the H1N1 outbreak. Lindquist laid out the positives and negatives of either declaring or not declaring an emergency. An advantage of declaring an emergency would be that it would allow the Health Officer to expand the pool of medical personnel that would be available to provide vaccinations in the community and would also provide more flexibility in moving registered emergency workers around to areas in response to higher need. Lindquist noted that most counties have decided against declaring an emergency, including King, Pierce, Thurston, Clallam, and Jefferson Counties. He is aware that Lewis County and perhaps Clark and Kittitas may move forward to declare a state of emergency. The process that would be followed should the Board decide to declare an emergency would be for the Health Officer to recommend it to the County Commissioners who then have the authority to declare a state of emergency in the County. Dr. Lindquist recommended that the Board continue to monitor the H1N1 season as it develops and make a decision later in response to conditions if warranted.

A discussion followed among the Board members regarding this recommendation and also regarding the desirability of developing a more formal policy that outlines bench marks or standards to be met before the Board considers an action of this type. Following the discussion, there was a consensus of the Board's members to defer action at this time, see how this flu season unfolds, and to make an action in the future if conditions warrant.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2010

In response to Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council's (KRCC) request for the Board of Health's legislative priorities in 2010, Dr. Lindquist responded that the District's paramount legislative priority is to maintain and improve funding levels for public health. His immediate concern in this regard is that the Department of Health is facing a \$5 million deficit to contend with in 2010 which will impact the District. Commissioner Josh Brown outlined the challenges facing the County in light of current economic conditions, looking forward to the potential impacts in 2010 and forward of Initiative 1033 which is on the ballot in November. A brief discussion followed regarding current economic conditions and their impact on government funding.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.



Commissioner Steve Bauer, Chair
Kitsap County Board of Health



Scott W. Lindquist, MD, MPH
Director of Health

Board Members Present: *Commissioner Steve Bauer; Commissioner Josh Brown; Commissioner Charlotte Garrido; Mayor Kathryn Quade; Council Member Roy Runyon; Mayor Chris Snow; Council Member Dianne Robinson*

Board Members Absent: *Mayor Lary Coppola; Council Member Darlene Kordonowy; Mayor Pro Tem Cecil McConnell*

Staff Present: *Scott Daniels, Deputy Director; Pat Degracia, Health Educator, Health Promotion Program; Keith Grellner, Director Environmental Health; Leslie Hopkins, Special Projects Program Coordinator, Administration; Shelley Kneip, Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH, Health Officer; Akiko Miller, Nursing Student Intern, Seattle Pacific University; Suzanne Plemmons, Director, Community Health; Barb Smithson, Health Educator, Health Promotion; Liz Wilhelm, KTASC Coordinator*

Public Present: *Monte Levine, self; Gail Demo Smith, Teacher, Cottonwood Elementary School*