

KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

Regular Meeting

December 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Commissioner Josh Brown at 11:20 a.m.

MINUTES

Mayor Patty Lent moved and Commissioner Rob Gelder seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the November 5, 2013, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The contracts on the consent agenda included:

- Contract 1199: Washington State Department of Ecology, Centennial Clean Water Grant: Port Orchard Passage Restoration Phase 2
- Contract 1196: Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Food Safety Consultation
- Contract 967, Amendment B: Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Legal Services

Commissioner Gelder moved and Mayor Lent seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the contracts update and warrant and Electronic Funds Transfer register. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Scott Lindquist, Health Officer, informed the Board that no flu has been reported in the county so far this season. He encouraged any Board members who have not yet received their flu vaccination to do so. Lindquist deferred the remainder of his report to the opiates discussion later in the Board meeting.

Mr. Scott Daniels, Administrator, reported that the Health District has been invited to join Kitsap County's review team as it begins work to update its Comprehensive Plan due in 2016. Daniels told the Board that the District welcomes this opportunity and would be glad to assist the cities in the review process for their comprehensive plan updates, which are also due in 2016.

Daniels next introduced Mr. Brad Banks, Managing Director of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials which represents the 35 local public health jurisdictions in the State of Washington and is also as an affiliate of the Washington State Association of Counties. Mr. Banks addressed the Board, summarizing the problems surrounding the issue of federal Medicaid Administrative MATCH. Since 2011, Banks explained that this program has been the center of complex negotiations between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS), the federal agency with oversight over these funds; Washington State's Health Care Authority; and local public health jurisdictions (LHJs), represented by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from six LHJs across the state. Banks then acknowledged the work of Ms. Leslie Hopkins, representing the Kitsap Public Health District on the LHJ Steering Committee. Over time, Banks said Ms. Hopkins has assumed a leadership role

within the Steering Committee. In recognition of and in thanks for her work on behalf of LHJs across the state, Banks presented Ms. Hopkins with an award. The Board stood in applause.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mayor Becky Erickson reported that the Finance and Operations Committee reviewed the Health District's 2014 Budget at their last meeting and reported that the budget is in "good shape" moving into 2014. Mr. Daniels then walked the Board through the highlights of the budget memo included in the Board's packet. In response to a question about the long-term sustainability of the budget, Mr. Daniels responded that he believes the budget is sustainable, but the District will need to continue to be creative in seeking out new funding sources to sustain budget priorities.

RESOLUTION 2013-12: APPROVING THE 2014 KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT BUDGET

Mayor Tim Matthes moved and Mayor Erickson seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2013-12: Approving the 2014 Kitsap Public Health District Budget. There were brief comments in support of the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

MEANS FOR CHANGE'S NOTICE OF LIABILITY

Mr. Daniels directed the Board's attention to the Means for Change's Notice of Liability included in the packet. He explained that this notice was sent to an extensive list of elected and public health officials and officials at other agencies throughout the State of Washington. The Notice of Liability references a claim of serious public health concerns related to the use of radio frequency radiation exposure through the use of wireless technology in the State of Washington. Whether or not there is merit to this claim, the Health District asked the Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's office to review the notice to determine any potential liability for the Board and to report to the Board on their findings. Ms. Shelley Kneip, Senior Prosecuting Attorney, reported that upon review, it was their opinion that elected officials are protected from any potential liability as a result of a failure to act on this notice by the mechanism of legislative immunity for discretionary acts as allowed by Washington law. This immunity protects elected officials from liability in the event of a civil suit. Dr. Lindquist assured the Board that exposure to radio frequency radiation has been an area of considerable research that has not resulted in any conclusive evidence that the use of cell phones results in an increased risk of cancer or other health effects.

OPIATE ADDICTION IN KITSAP COUNTY

Dr. Lindquist reported that the use of opiates and opiate addiction is an increasing burden for the medical community in the county. Lindquist commented that the problem of opiate addiction was brought to the fore for public health earlier this year when a provider in the north end of the county was disbarred for inappropriately prescribing opiates. This created a crisis in the community as the Health District worked to find local providers to take this provider's patients, so that his patients did not flood the emergency rooms of local hospitals. This is in contrast to local jurisdictions which may see the primary problem of opiate use as a problem of needles left in the community, or as a law enforcement issue.

Lindquist then reviewed the science surrounding syringe exchange programs, such as the Health District's, and remarked that these programs are one strategy to reduce the harm caused by intravenous drug use in the community. Dr. Lindquist introduced Ms. Johanna Hanssen-Keller, the District's public health nurse who is the primary point of contact with needle users in the District's syringe exchange program. Ms. Hanssen-Keller described the program and explained that the District operates a one-to-one exchange of a used needle for a new needle. Lindquist expanded on this saying syringe exchange programs do not promote drug use in the community and are in fact very effective in reducing the incidence of blood-borne infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B and C. Syringe exchange programs also provide an opportunity for District staff to work with addicts to get them into treatment.

Dr. Lindquist then asked Mr. Monte Levine, a member of the community who has been very active on this issue, to comment to the Board. Mr. Levine told the Board that it is important that needle users be treated respectfully for syringe exchange programs to be effective. He said that this in turn builds trust in the needle-using community which results in fewer discarded needles being found in the environment.


Lindquist concluded by reminding the Board that needle use in the community has such pervasive impacts for law enforcement, the healthcare community, public health, and local jurisdictions that the Health District, in collaboration with Doug Washburn at the County, are proposing that the Health District and the county jointly sponsor an "Opiate Summit" in 2014. The goal of the summit will be to work on a collective impact strategy to begin to tackle this issue. A discussion followed. Following the discussion, there was a consensus and support by the Board for the Health District to move forward to plan an Opiate Summit.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting was adjourned at 12:16.m.



Mayor Patty Lent, Chair
Kitsap Public Health Board



Scott Daniels
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Commissioner Josh Brown; Mayor Becky Erickson; Commissioner Charlotte Garrido (arriving at 11:57); Commissioner Rob Gelder; Mayor Patty Lent; Mayor Tim Matthes*

Board Members Absent: *Council Member Sarah Blossom*

Staff Present: *Scott Daniels, Administrator; Kerry Dobbelaere, Program Manager, Clinical Services Program; Katie Eilers, Assistant Director, Community Health Division; Keith Grellner, Director, Environmental Health Division; Johanna Hanssen-Keller, Public Health Nurse, Clinical Services Program; Leslie Hopkins, Management Analyst, Administration; Scott Lindquist, Health Officer; Maureen Murphy, Human Resources Manager; Suzanne Plemmons, Director, Community Health Division; Lacey Rhoades, Confidential Secretary, Administration;*

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Shelley Rose, *Public Health Educator, Health Promotion Program*; Jim Zimny, *Program Manager, Food and Living Environment Program*

Public Present: Monte Levine, *self*