



Tacoma | Pierce County
Health Department
Healthier. Safer. Smarter.
tpchd.org

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Special Meeting / Study Session Minutes

March 17, 2010

**Board of Health (BOH)
Members Present:**

Chair Dick Muri; Barbara Gelman; Terry Lee; Alternate Ron Lucas, representing the Pierce County (PC) Cities & Towns Association; and, Rebecca A. Sullivan, MD

Staff Present:

Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH, Director of Health; Laurie A. Jinkins, Deputy Director of Health; Frank DiBiase, Environmental Health (EH) Assistant Division Director; Cindan Gizzi, Community Assessment Manager; Marcy Kulland, Business Manager; Steve Marek, EH Division Director; David Vance, Strengthening Families Division Director; and, Joby Winans, Public Information Officer (PIO) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (PHEPR) Manager

Guest Present:

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Chair Muri called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH, Director of Health, said at the April 15, 2009 BOH Special Meeting / Study Session, in one of the first steps in our SP process, BOH Members participated in a brainstorming session about what makes a community healthy. We combined that information with similar information from an all-staff brainstorm to more accurately define components of and measures for our:

VISION – Healthy People in Healthy Communities

MISSION – To safeguard and enhance the health of the communities of Pierce County

CORE VALUES – Integrity, Respect, and Leadership

Dr. Chen said we have looked at where we were in the PAST, where we are NOW, and where we want to be in the FUTURE. In regard to SP, we have: Built on past planning; Remained committed to our Mission; Incorporated ideas from national public health groups; Used the LogFrame to organize our thinking; and Expanded the process to include more people.

We ask ourselves four critical strategic questions: (1) What are we trying to accomplish and why? (2) How will we measure success? (3) What other conditions must exist? (4) How do we get there?

Board of Health Special Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2010

Page 2

GOAL Healthy people in healthy communities.
PURPOSE Health of Pierce County (PC) communities is safeguarded and enhanced.
OUTCOMES Based on Ten Essential Public Health Services + Two.
INPUTS How TPCHD will produce outcomes.

Ten Essential Public Health Services + 2

(1) Monitor Health Status; (2) Assure a Competent Workforce; (3) Inform, Educate, and Empower; (4) Mobilize Community Partnerships; (5) Develop Policies and Plans; (6) Enforce Laws and Regulations; (7) Link People to Needed Services / Assure Care; (8) Diagnose and Investigate; (9) Evaluate Health Services (10) Research; (11) Quality Culture; and, (12) Integrated and Effective Policies / Procedures

IF we accomplish our 10+2 Outcomes, THEN we will safeguard and enhance the health of PC communities; IF we safeguard and enhance the health of PC communities, THEN we will see healthy people in healthy communities; If inputs, then Outcomes; If Outcomes, then Purpose; and, If Purpose, then Goal, which answers the question: What are we trying to accomplish and why?

Next Steps in Strategic Planning

Staff have been introduced to and engaged in the process; Share LogFrame with community partners; Analyze demographic trends; Develop comprehensive Strategic Plan and share it with community partners; BOH approve Strategic Plan; and, Develop action plans based on Strategic Plan.

Dr. Chen said Cindan Gizzi, Community Assessment Manager, and Sally Perkins from Practical Solutions, are leading SP efforts. Today, we will talk about environmental scan, which is the next step in our SP process.

Ms. Perkins reminded the BOH Members of Dr. Chen's email sent to them on March 11, 2010 reiterating to them that the Health Department (HD) wants to engage them in each major step of the SP process. They were informed that during this meeting we would like to hear their thoughts about the following:

From your perspective as a BOH Member (and elected official or community representative), what issues do you see having a major impact on public health in Pierce County (PC) in the next three to five years? This can include your observations about policy implications, what you are hearing from your constituents or other community leaders, budget trends, how trends in education and jobs might affect residents' health, what public health issues you think will be emerging in PC, etc. We want to hear what you believe are some of the major factors that could impact both the overall health of PC residents and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

General Discussion Issues

Cost for Public Health to Both the People and the Provider; PC Not Keeping up with Health Benefits; Need Health Care Reform; Demographics of People Using Emergency Rooms; Federal Action (increased regulations, costs, etc.); Education Impacts Poverty and Health Care (Can we graduate more and better?); Childhood Obesity and Diabetes; Increased Gambling will Impact Families; Federal Funding has Decreased by 30 – 50%; Less Money Per Capita; Medium Age of Population Getting Older and Their Health is More Critical; Mental Health; More and More People Cannot Access Primary Care; and, Smoking Rates.

Board of Health Special Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2010

Page 3

BOH Members Share Their Perspective on the Question

Shortage of Doctors and Nurses / No Increase in Practitioners (retire early and are practicing under the umbrella of larger systems such as MultiCare, etc.); Specialists are More Expensive; Cuts to Medicare; Pay Cash for services and hospitals like the United Kingdom; Large Military Population with TRICARE (searching for medical care and services and finding it difficult to transition to and to locate doctors who accept TRICARE); Growing Concern About Immunizations (exemptions, safety); Partner with the Indian Nation; Need to Consolidate the Energy and Resources of the Many Smaller Coalitions / Groups; Older Population Healthier (70 + smarter about their health) than Some in their 50s and 60s (have more bad habits and are struggling more getting assistance to address their health).

BOH Members Exchange Ideas and Identify Common Themes

High Level of Interest in Puget Sound Partnership; Huge Pushback (distrust of government and information they provide—federal and state projected a H1N1 pandemic when we did not experience one and it is difficult for the public to determine the truth / accuracy of news reports); Improved Air Quality (use of propane and electrical is more efficient); Flood Control for Changing Weather Patterns; Updated Shoreline Master Plan (higher level of protection – much more restrictive than what is currently being used); Concerns about Clean Water Source (Green River, filtration and sterilization, and taxing bottled water); Failing Septic Systems (non-compliant are bootlegging systems to avoid regulation); and, Consolidation of Fire and Private Agencies for Efficiency (Fire services are still in the business of fire protection, but on a day-to-day basis are more EMS than fire suppression – fallout from Basic Life Support (BLS) – Advanced Life Support (ALS)).

People perceive PC to be a pristine, beautiful environment, and a good place to live. How do we keep it that way? The cost of living, urbanization, and growth have increased. There are limited resources with more people.

What do we have that pays for itself? How do we do that? When we talk about public health, are we proactive or reactive?

Important to Consider – How medical care will be financed and if it can provide the services needed.

Board Member Sullivan said everything that has been discussed today seems to fall into two categories:

(1) Health Care – Access / Cost / Delivery; and, (2) Environment – Cost and Trade-Offs (always an upside and a downside)

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department 2010 Adjusted Budget

Laurie Jinkins, Deputy Director of Health, gave a PowerPoint presentation, *2010 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS, March 17, 2010* Copies are available upon request from Cheryl Rexroat at crexroat@tpchd.org or (253) 798-2899.

Ms. Jinkins said the HD's 2010 Budget is a Mission-Driven Budget. The original 2010 Budget total was \$33,128,211. The Adjusted 2010 Budget total is \$36,030,048.

HD Funding – Use of Fund Balance: 7.4%; Fees & Miscellaneous Contributions: 28.4%; Federal: 22.7%; State: 25.5%; Pierce County: 10.1%; City of Tacoma: 4.6%; and, Operating Transfers: 1.3%. Non-Discretionary and Discretionary Funding were also depicted on the slide. There is a huge reduction to flexible dollars and in categorical dollars to the Strengthening Families Program.

Board of Health Special Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2010

Page 4

2010 Budget by Expenditure Type – Salaries: \$17,016,915, 47%; Benefits: \$6,259,090, 17%; Professional Services: \$7,599,310, 21%; Minor / Capital Equipment: \$871,137, 3%; All Other M&O: \$3,830,359, 11%; and, Operating Transfer: \$453,237, 1%.

Noteworthy Fiscal Items – Discretionary fund balance savings in 2009 was \$256,000; Used \$26,000 from 2009 savings to fill first quarter 2010 Health Pool reduction (received notice of another 1% reduction to flexible dollars from PC); Used \$510,000 carry-forward budget from the Information Technology fund to fund new financial system; Public Health Emergency funding increased by 1.7 million. We are trying to be as creative as we possibly can in using these funds.

Noteworthy Changes – Division restructuring continues with Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Tobacco Budgets transferred to Environmental Health. Dental, Ethnic Health, Health Equity, Coordinated School Health, and Injury and Violence Prevention Budgets have been transferred to Strengthening Families.

Continuing Challenges – Fee-based program revenues are flat; Discretionary dollars continue to be cut; Furlough Days – Are they a one-time solution?; Uncertain funding from state and federal government; and Infrastructure needs remain a wild card. We are looking at functionality and which programs can consolidate further and work together.

DIRECTION FROM BOH MEMBERS

- 1) The BOH Members thanked staff for an informative meeting, good presentations, and good work.
- 2) Chair Muri recommended that staff work to build up the HD's Fund Balance reserves.
- 3) Staff were asked to continue to consolidate and reorganize duties and to cross train employees.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Cheryl J. Rexroat, Clerk, Board of Health

Dick Muri, Chair, Board of Health

Date Signed: April 7, 2010