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**Health Department**  
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TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**March 3, 2010**

**3629 So. "D" St., Tacoma, WA 98418-6813  
(253) 798-2899 / FAX - (253) 798-7627**

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These minutes are not verbatim. Recorded tapes are available upon request.

Chair Dick Muri called the regular BOH meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. with Board Member Pat McCarthy; Board Member Patricia Johnson, representing the Pierce County (PC) Cities & Towns Association; Board Member Jake Fey; Vice-Chair Marilyn Strickland; Board Member Barbara Gelman; and, Board Member Terry Lee, present. Also present were Health Department (HD) staff, Attorney Greg Jacoby from McGavick Graves PS, and the public. Board Member Rebecca A. Sullivan, MD, was excused.

**RECOGNITION OF FORMER BOH MEMBER**

Rick Talbert was unable to attend today's meeting due to illness.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE**

Clark Waffle, MD, Medical Program Director for EMS Services in PC, reported.

Patient Care Protocols - We have just tweaked them. We are awaiting the American Health Association's new set of recommendations to be incorporated in EMS's when they arrive sometime between July – October 2010. We will review them to stay current and to provide state-of-the-art patient transport.

Electronic Protocols – We are working to ensure security and management of them. Hopefully, this might save us \$7,000 - \$12,000 in publishing costs to provide for everyone in PC.

H1N1 – EMS provided services when the outbreak occurred in the summer and the fall, H1N1 concluded this spring, and we stand ready to address H1N1 should it return.

Cardiac Transport Protocols – The State of Washington is coming up with protocols on new ways of transporting patients presenting with chest pain to the proper center. In PC, we are working on innovative ways to make that better for patients. The transports need to be high quality care and more expeditious.

Rapid Recovery Center – This psychiatric resource is now on-line. The Crisis Triage Center closed October 2009, and we have been without an emergent crisis psychiatric resource. We have worked out some of the bugs (changing phone numbers, etc.), and it is working out well for us.

**COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC [Not relating to a specific agenda item]**

Pamela Larkin, small business owner of a restaurant in PC, commented she feels the fines and fees imposed for not paying the health renewal fee for a permit on the February 1<sup>st</sup> due date are unfair,

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unreasonable, and illegal. Ms. Larkin missed the February 1<sup>st</sup> due date for renewing her establishment's health permit and must now pay an additional 50 per cent of the principle due within a grace period of one week to pay the entire amount or proceedings would begin to close her establishment for non compliance. She asked that the process be re-thought.

Chair Muri said perhaps this could be discussed at a future BOH special meeting / study session and someone would get back to Ms. Larkin.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Board Member Gelman, the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**Resolution No. 2010-4225—AUTHORIZATION TO: (1) RESCIND BOARD OF HEALTH RESOLUTION No. 88-1056; (2) ENACT THE REVISED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGULATION, TO BE KNOWN AS CHAPTER 4 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CODE - REGULATIONS OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT; AND, (3) ENACT THE CONTAMINATED PROPERTY REGULATION (ALSO KNOWN AS CLANDESTINE DRUG LABS) TO BE KNOWN AS CHAPTER 5 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CODE - REGULATIONS OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.** The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Gelman.

Brad Harp, Environmental Health (EH) Liaison, said the UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) REGULATION was first developed in 1987. The current UST REGULATION revision has two major changes: (1) Existing documents say the HD will clean-up and address UST to the satisfaction of the Health Officer. The first UST REGULATION that came into effect in the State of Washington predates the state regulation by five years, that language no longer exists, and we now have a document that people can read and follow a prescribed measure about what needs to happen. (2) The second major change provides the HD with more authority to go after UST that are consistently leaking or have contamination problems. A wide variety of community folks were consulted in putting this revised Regulation together.

Mr. Harp said the CONTAMINATED PROPERTY REGULATION (CPR), known as Clandestine Drug Labs (CDL), is something the HD has been doing for over 15 years acting under state regulations and guidance from the Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH) that no longer funds the program. We created a local Regulation for guidance that people can read and follow a prescribed measure about what needs to happen. In this document, we are adopting some local remediation guidelines that contain a provision for us to have some oversight of contractors to ensure the CPR is followed properly, the clean-up job is done properly, and the needs of clients and the public health are served.

Board Member McCarthy asked at what point the HD becomes involved. Mr. Harp replied law enforcement calls us at the same time they are notified. We want to have them on-site to ensure we do not run into problems during the clean up with people who are on the property. Mainly we get calls from law enforcement, but we do receive calls from landlords, tenants, motels, and storage units, etc. also.

Vice-Chair Strickland asked how many properties the HD cleaned up last year. Mr. Harp replied in 2001 – 2002, 160 drug labs; 2006, 100 – 120; 2006 – 2008, 40 (law came into effect restricting the purchase of products to cook Meth); and in 2009, 20 – 25. We have daily interaction concerning sites needing clean up or calls from people saying people have returned to a property and are cooking Meth again.

Board Member Fey asked if there is a requirement of how deep in the ground the UST must be. Mr. Harp replied no, it is dependent upon how you want to configure your site. Board Member Fey asked if there is

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a requirement that gas stations change out UST. Mr. Harp replied that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started back in the late 1980s and frequently comes out with a requirement that UST have to be replaced, mostly in conjunction with a sale of property.

Board Member Lee asked if the underground storage of hazardous materials is permitted by the HD. Mr. Harp replied the storage of the tank and placement is permitted by the Washington State Department of Ecology (WSDOE), who has both recording and construction requirements. The WSDOE notifies us if there is a leak into the environment or if the tank needs to come out of the ground. We then ensure the tank is removed and taken to a proper disposal place and any contamination is cleaned up properly.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Resolution No. 2010-4226—AUTHORIZATION TO: (1) RESCIND BOARD OF HEALTH RESOLUTION NO. 89-1082; AND, (2) ENACT THE REVISED INFECTIOUS WASTE REGULATION, TO BE KNOWN AS CHAPTER 6 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CODE - REGULATIONS OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.** The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Gelman.

John Sherman, EH Liaison, said the BOH began addressing infectious waste in PC in 1985. In 1989, we generated a Regulation to address how facilities in PC were managing their infectious waste. Infectious waste is capable of causing infectious diseases—from syringes, etc.—and has historically caused problems and exposure for people working in the medical / dental community, people working in those maintenance departments, and working in the landfill. In 1994, the BOH adopted a slightly revised INFECTIOUS WASTE REGULATION, which has not changed in over 20 years. This revised Regulation has consolidated previous sections, updated formatting, is clearer for execution, and better serves the needs of our community and HD staff. The Infectious Waste Program remains a fee-based, permit-driven program and addresses approximately 800 facilities in PC. This process has been completed with advice from many stakeholders, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) comment process, notification of all 800 facilities of this pending revised Regulation, and it has been posted on the HD's website.

Chair Muri asked if there is a Washington State Regulation the HD must follow. Mr. Sherman replied this HD is the only HD in the state he is aware of that has a robust Infectious Waste Program. There is a placeholder in Washington State's Solid Waste Regulation regarding infectious waste.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Resolution No. 2010-4227—Authorization to contract with COMCAST Spotlight, Inc., for \$59,000, for Advertising Space and Production of Commercial Spots Services, March 4, 2010 through December 31, 2010.** The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Gelman.

Mr. Marek thanked Mr. Harp, Mr. Sherman, staff, and the stakeholders the time and effort they have put into these Regulations, and Attorney Greg Jacoby from McGavick Graves PS for his legal review.

Approval of this Resolution will allow us to contract with COMCAST to develop and air television ads for two programs within Environmental Health—Tacoma Smelter Plume Project (TSP) and the Food & Community Safety Program (F&CS). Within the F&CS Program, they would be providing ads to enhance our Hand Washing Campaign. Within the TSP Project, we would work to educate people in PC on how to reduce their exposure to arsenic and lead in the soil associated with the old Tacoma Smelter that left a large plume. Mr. Marek said we have worked with COMCAST in the past, we have a good working relationship with them, and we look forward to working with them in the future.

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Board Member Lee asked what COMCAST focused on in 2009 for the HD. Mr. Marek replied the Prevention Priorities Program and the Dirt Alert Program.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Resolution No. 2009-4228—Authorization to accept \$160,000 from the Washington State Department of Ecology and to amend fund and cost center 103-308 (Site Hazard Assessment), from \$485,087 to \$645,087, for 2010.** The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Gelman.

Mr. DiBiase, EH Assistant Division Director, said this Resolution is part of a current contract with WSDOE for the work we do in Tacoma related to contamination from the former Tacoma Smelter. The WSDOE received money from some bankruptcy settlement hearings related to the ASARCO bankruptcy fund. They would like to take future action in Tacoma-PC related to protecting the public from exposure to contamination in the soil and to clean up some of the soil. We will contract with a consultant to conduct a feasibility study to look at possible local actions that can be taken and remedies put in place to help better protect the public. We will provide an opportunity for local community members to provide input into the development of an action plan that will serve as a guide for clean up.

Board Member Lee asked if the action plan would have to be completed by the end of 2011 and if funds were available to implement the action plan. Mr. DiBiase replied not the action plan itself but this portion of the contract would need to be completed by June 30, 2011 unless the HD receives an extension from the WSDOE. There are funds available to implement the action plan.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Resolution No. 2009-4229—Authorization to accept \$38,000 from the City of Tacoma for the Neighborhood Energy Efficiency and Wood Smoke Reduction Program and to amend fund and cost center 103-340 (Wood Smoke Reduction), from \$62,300 to \$100,300, March 4, 2010 through December 31, 2010.** The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Gelman.

Mr. DiBiase said this resolution complements the resolution he brought before the BOH Members in January to accept money from PC to enact a Neighborhood Energy Efficiency and Wood Smoke Reduction Program to improve air quality in PC and to make homes more energy efficient.

Chair Muri asked the number of days Tacoma has been in non attainment status. Mr. DiBiase replied he did receive the notification from the Clean Air Agency, was not certain about the exact number of days, and he would get that information to the BOH Members.

Board Member Fey, Clean Air Agency Board, said they were informed there has been no forward progress, and it may involve more serious strategies or regulating if people can use wood stoves at all.

Board Member Strickland asked if we were not in compliance because not enough people converted. Board Member Fey replied there was a process through the WSDOE and the EPA made a declaration that we were at a non attainment level. Many people have converted through this program, but the level of pollutants in the air is not changing and we are still not compliant. Mr. DiBiase said there is limited funding available in terms of the number of change outs that would need to occur to effect a change.

Board Member McCarthy is disappointed that we are still waiting for stimulus dollars to be released in order for us to be able to do some of the conversion necessary to effect a change. PC has a plan in place. Board Member Fey feels the amount of time it is taking to get the stimulus dollars is disappointing.

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Mr. Marek said HD staff met recently with the PC Sustainability Manager, City of Tacoma, and others to talk about strategies and how we should be approaching the WSDOE to correct this problem here in PC.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Resolution No. 2009-4230—Authorization to contract with Desautel Hege Communications and Gilmore Research Group, for \$108,650, to analyze who chose to receive H1N1 vaccine and who chose not to, to analyze barriers to vaccination, and to develop media messages, March 4, 2010 through May 15, 2010.** The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Gelman.

Joby Winans, Public Information Officer (PIO) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (PHEPR) Manager, said we have federal funds available to locally find out who and who did not get vaccinated, how that decision was made, and the kinds of media messages that are needed to get more people vaccinated. We conducted a bid process and received three good proposals. Eight different people in the HD looked at this proposal. We agreed to contract with Desautel Hege Communications and Gilmore Research Group. On a diverse population across the community, they will conduct a written survey, telephone survey, and focus groups to find out why they did or did not get vaccinated.

Board Member Lee asked if the BOH Members could expect that research to be shared with them, as they all represent constituent bases in PC. If there are some unique situations within some population groups or locations, it would be beneficial to know. Ms. Winans replied yes, and if this is approved and plans begin to be developed, input from BOH Members would be welcomed.

Board Member McCarthy asked if this money was left over or designated for this kind of evaluation after the fact. Ms. Winans replied this money was designated for the HD for H1N1. Board Member McCarthy recommended that some of the money might be allotted as justified to improving the cramped work space of the Communicable Disease Control staff working on H1N1 activities.

Board Member Strickland commended the HD for taking this proactive approach to find out why community members arrived at the choices they did.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Resolution No. 2010-4231—Authorization to add 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for the Injury and Violence Prevention Program, increasing the aggregate Health Department FTEs from 273.06 to 274.06.** The Clerk read the title into the record. Vice-Chair Strickland moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Gelman.

David Vance, Strengthening Families Division Director, said Board Member Johnson is representing the BOH on a transition committee for a youth violence prevention program that has been in the HD for 13 plus years in partnership with the PC Juvenile Court. The Positive Steps Program has been effective in reducing youth violence and fostering a number of different partnerships and spin-off programs that have helped to address gang activity, youth violence, and other related kind of issues in PC. We will look at our violence prevention efforts and combine them with some of our injury prevention efforts in Mr. Marek's area. We pioneered using evidence-based programs with youth violence prevention programs. The first six months, this position will analyze the data, the trends of injury and violence, and then do research around what is the most effective research-based, evidence-based program to tackle that issue. We will be coming back to the BOH with that report to help develop the program for the future.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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### DIRECTOR OF HEALTH COMMENTS - (Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH, Director of Health)

Dr. Chen said our thoughts are with Alternate BOH Member Lucas who is recovering from emergency knee surgery and for former BOH Member Rick Talbert who is ill.

**Domestic Violence (DV) Update.** Ann Eft, Director, PC Commission Against DV (CADV), said the CADV has recently changed its focus from helping to develop DV services in PC to focusing on prevention using a public health model. The CADV prepared a paper, *DV Prevention, Murder is NOT an Accident* to: (1) Examine the social ill to be prevented, i.e. fatalities and injuries on individuals by family members; and, (2) Introduce the CADV plan, *Challenging the Paradigm: Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence*, which will be presented to the PC Council and communities in the spring of 2010.

Successful primary prevention campaigns have utilized evidence-based principles to challenge and change community norms and attitudes around specific issues such as DV, tobacco cessation, increased use of booster and car seats, reduction of driving under the influence, and the use of safety belts.

#### Key Principles of Prevention

- Reframe the desired behavior as creating healthy relationships, which build healthy families and communities.
- Engage men, women, business leaders, educators, ethnic groups, the military, the Puyallup Tribe, older adults, etc. to create culturally diverse campaigns.
- Influence policy and legislation to change environment in which DV occurs and is accepted.
- Foster coalitions and networks to address the complex combination of social, economic, and personal factors that tolerate or promote violence.
- Encourage broader leadership by involving men and those not traditionally involved in social services.
- Ensure sustainability over time since changing attitudes and norms will take long-term efforts.

This Prevention Plan is to change the way that everyone in the community looks at, tolerates, accepts, or confronts violence in the community. Ms. Eft invited the BOH Members to attend *Run Like a Girl* on May 8, 2010 at Chambers Creek on the trail around the golf course.

Board Member Gelman was excused at 4:05 p.m.

**United Way (UW) Campaign and Photo.** David Vance, Co-Chair of the HD's 2010 UW Campaign, said a lot of our UW activities focus on St. Patrick's Day activities. The BOH Members had their photo taken in their *Live United* tee shirts. Mr. Vance said last year we exceeded our goal of \$15,000, and we think we can exceed our goal of \$20,000 this year. UW benefits our community, and many programs in the HD are major recipients of UW funds.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Muri said the BOH would now move into an Executive Session. The meeting recessed to Executive Session at 4:05 p.m., not to exceed fifteen minutes, to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. The meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

**Pandemic Status – H1N1 Update.** Nigel Turner, Communicable Disease Control Division Director said the HD has come out of Incident Command System (ICS) response to H1N1 after nearly a year. ICS is our federally compliant system that gives us designated roles to coordinate and work closely with emergency response organizations. Response is now under CD's normal responsibility in coordination with PHEPR led by Ms. Winans. We are ready as an agency, depending on the level of disease activity

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and community needs, to re-implement ICS. Our principle H1N1 work is continuing our surveillance activities. In February, there was one H1N1 case. To-date, there have been 126 hospitalized and 12 deaths. Mr. Turner said PC providers will be encouraged to vaccinate as long as they have vaccine.

Distributing seasonal flu vaccine early in the season has had a powerful effect on not seeing it thus far. We continue to distribute H1N1 vaccine, and we have been conducting and coordinating clinics with 128 through the HD. Our Wednesday clinics will continue through the end of March. It is important for anyone who has not to still receive a H1N1 vaccination. The H1N1 vaccine constituent will be incorporated into a fall seasonal flu vaccine. Vaccines are important, effective, and safe. We are stressing education with bus and TV ads. The BOH Members were shown examples of the videos, which will be posted on our website, [www.tpchd.org](http://www.tpchd.org). Our response after action review with feedback from HD staff and community members will help us to improve our plans and responses for future events.

Vice-Chair Strickland and BOH Member Fey were excused at 4:25 p.m.

Board Member McCarthy asked if we are prepared to make adjustments to do things better or differently if the feedback ascertained from the survey that Desautel Hege Communications and Gilmore Research Group will conduct suggests we should do so. Mr. Turner replied absolutely.

Chair Muri said we need to emphasize that the flu virus is a dead virus and people cannot get the flu from the flu shot, as some people refuse to get a flu shot for that very reason.

**Strategic Planning (SP).** Dr. Chen said SP is his number one priority. We have talked with and asked BOH Members for their feedback on what they feel exemplifies a *healthy community*. During our March 17, 2010 BOH special meeting / study session, we will be getting BOH Members' feedback on how the SP Committee has progressed. We will get input from HD staff and community members as well.

**World Water Day (WWD).** Dr. Chen said March 22, 2010 is WWD. We often take clean water for granted. In the world, 1.1 billion people do not have access to a reliable and clean water system. A shower uses about 2½ gallons per minute. The amount of water used to take a 5-minute shower could keep 25 people alive; a 10-minute shower could keep 50 people alive, which is basic fluid requirement.

### **COMMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

Board Member Johnson said the City of Buckley is excited that Lindquist Dental Clinic is opening up one day a week at Rainier School for low-income children 0 – 18 years old. This is the first time we have had those kinds of services up on the plateau and is a huge step forward for us. Services will also be available for the low-income children in Enumclaw.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon proper motion and second, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Cheryl J. Rexroat, Clerk, Board of Health

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Dick Muri, Chair, Board of Health

Date Signed: April 7, 2010