

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2019

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, January 14, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. **COMMISSIONERS EDNA J. FUND and ROBERT C. JACKSON** were in attendance. **COMMISSIONER STAMPER** was excused. **CHAIRMAN JACKSON** determined a quorum, called the meeting to order, and proceeded with the flag salute. **COMMISSIONER FUND** moved to approve the Minutes from December 10, 2018, **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

ATTENDEES:

County Staff:

Danette York
Dr. Rachel Wood
JP Anderson
Sandi Andrus

Ed Mund
Isaac Wulff
Heidi Palmer

Community:

Nancy Keaton

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT ITEMS

- 1. H. Res #011419.1 Elect Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Health for 2019**
- 2. H. Res #011419.2 Approve Contract Amendment #1 between Lewis County and Thurston County for Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Services for 2019**
- 3. H. Res #011419.3 Approve Consolidated Contract Amendment #6 between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Health**

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve consent agenda items number one, two, and three. **Commissioner Jackson** seconded. **Commissioner Jackson** asked to approve the consent items. Motion approved 2-0.

Resolution #011419.1 appoints Commissioner Fund as the Chair and Commissioner Stamper as Vice Chair of the Board of Health for 2019. Commissioner Jackson passed the gavel to Commissioner Fund and she took over as the Chair of the Board of Health.

Danette gave a summary of the contract with Thurston County, H. Res #011419.2, which extends the period to provide Nurses for the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) services through December 31, 2019. There was no budget change to this so it will be \$309,822.25 for 2019 for 2.45 FTE.

Danette also gave a summary of the contract with Washington Department of Health (DOH), which is amendment #6 to the Consolidated Contract. This contract is from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020. This amendment affects four areas, Maternal & Child Health Block Grant, Office of Drinking Water Group A Program, Office of Immunization & Child Profile – Regional Representatives, and WIC Nutrition Program. This amendment increases the contract by \$56,704 for a revised maximum consideration of \$1,999,739.

Being unsure whether the previous motion covered all three resolutions, **Commissioner Fund** returned the gavel to Commissioner Jackson and made a motion again to approve consent agenda items number one, two, and three. **Commissioner Jackson** seconded. **Commissioner Jackson** asked to approve the consent items. Motion approved 2-0. Commissioner Jackson passed the gavel to Commissioner Fund, the newly elected Chair of the Board of Health for 2019.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (PHSS) ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Nancy Keaton, member of the Public Health & Social Services Advisory Board, gave a summary of the last meeting. At that meeting, the Housing committee reported that the contracts had been sent to the agencies for signature. The Animal Shelter committee reported that KMB Architects recommend the new building be built on the same property as the existing shelter. The Board of County Commissioners will need to approve this recommendation before moving forward. The current shelter will be kept for overflow needs and the updated septic system can be used for the new building. The cost has not yet been determined. Developmental Disabilities (DD) committee did not have a report but Sara Sons explained what the DD program does in the County.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Danette introduced Heidi Palmer, the new Community Outreach Worker – Veteran Benefits Specialist. **Heidi** gave a background of herself to the Board. She started with PHSS on January 1, 2019.

JP introduced Isaac Wulff, the new Community Health Services & Contracts Coordinator. **Isaac** gave a background of himself to the Board. Isaac started with PHSS on January 7, 2019. Danette added that this position is new to the Department.

JP also introduced Emily Killeen, a Community Health Services & Contracts Coordinator. **Emily** was hired on October 22, 2019 and her schedule did not allow her to attend a Board of Health meeting until now. Emily gave a background of herself.

JP gave a summary of how the CPWI (Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative) funds will help with projects and organizations in Centralia and Morton.

Danette gave an update on FPHS (Foundational Public Health Services). The Governor's budget provides \$22 million which is ongoing and will sustain what was developed with the initial one-time funding but would not expand it if his proposed budget were to be approved. WSALPHO, WSAC, and some other partners are asking for funding of \$100 million outside the joint budget packet. The focus will be on communicable disease, environmental health, and assessment if funding is approved. If the State ends up with only the \$22 million, we may have to drop one or more of those programs. Last year, Lewis County received approximately \$48,357 which allowed us to keep our Public Health Nurse, Donna Muller full time in communicable disease and provide hours for Ed Mund to work on a few projects including a community-wide health assessment.

Danette informed the Commissioners that Tuesday, January 15, at 1:30, is a hearing in the House for Tobacco 21. This moves the age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. Danette asked the Board if they want Lewis County to be signed in as support, against, or just ignore it. Danette added that this has been approved in other states and shows a decrease in the number of young people who smoke or vape. This Bill was on the last Legislative session and did not pass due to it affecting revenue. The Commissioners felt we should not do anything at this point. **Commissioner Fund** asked that this be placed on the agenda for discussion when Commissioner Stamper is also present.

Dr. Wood explained that Lewis County is part of a three-county informal group of infection prevention personnel that gathers periodically to look into problems with infectious diseases. Each year they follow perimeters including the number of visits to the emergency room with influenza-like illnesses (ILI), the number of influenza tests ordered by medical providers and the percentage positive, influenza admissions to the hospitals, influenza deaths, and also the number of school absenteeism. If absenteeism is greater than 10% and it is for a respiratory illness, that is also tracked. The reason for this is they want to mitigate how quickly the numbers go up to be able to respond and slow those numbers down.

Ed Mund, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, explained the pilot project PHSS is working on with DOH for a syndromic surveillance process using their system, RHINO (Rapid Health Information Network). This system is tied into a database and process structure that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) built approximately 10 years ago. Washington requires all hospitals to report data on emergency room visits in near real-time (24-48 hours from when they see the patient). We are using this data to get a picture of what is going on in six different deliverables we have for various emergency preparedness and FPHS grants.

Providing a chart on the screen, **Ed** was able to inform the Commissioners the number of patients who presented to Providence Centralia Hospital Emergency since mid-October with ILI symptoms and were seen, treated, and released or admitted as of this morning. In the past, we used information that may be months after the fact. This current information is from yesterday!

Dr. Wood added that the reason it is important to know in as real time as possible is that it gives us a jump on preventive measures. We don't usually know the efficacy of the flu vaccine until sometime by the end of February. There are now four choices for antiviral medications. The CDC recently approved a new medication.

Dr. Wood stated we are excited about the surveillance. There will be different perimeters and variables that we will be able to follow. **Ed** added that we can see data from Arbor Health Hospital, clinics in Randle and Packwood, Providence Centralia, and other clinics. One advantage to this is recommending hospital workers mask if they cannot or do not get the flu vaccine. Dr. Wood remarked that influenza numbers are up in Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties. Ed stated that he also tracks hospitals going on diversion, closing to ambulances and EMS. St. Peters, Capital Medical, and Providence Hospitals have closed and gone on divert more in the last week than in the last year mainly due to influenza.

Danette noted that just this morning PHSS received an email asking all hospitals to update their information in WATrac because several hospitals in Western Washington are needing to go on diversion due to being at surge capacity.

Ed provided more information about the RHINO project. This pilot has three elements to it: are we able to get data to specifically address our public health emergency preparedness deliverables, data that also addresses our FPHS deliverables, and are we able to institute a gate keeper role. There is a lot of information that is provided by RHINO but we do not have the staff to keep up with it all. Ed has set up "triggers" or queries that will inform him if a situation he has requested occurs. For example, if he queries the program to inform him whenever someone with measles has been confirmed, he will receive an email. This real-time surveillance allows us to take immediate action without having to sit and search for data.

Danette added that Ed was able to work with the State DOH so the next Consolidated Contract amendment will provide PHSS funding to do this project. Ed felt we were the only ones in the Country doing this and the pilot ends June 30, 2019.

Commissioner Jackson moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Fund** seconded, **Commissioner Fund** adjourned.


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m., on Monday, January 14, 2019. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

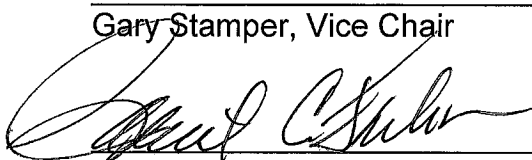
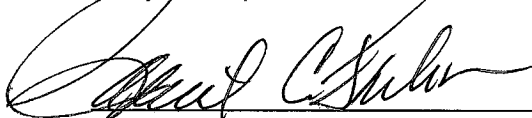
Please note that minutes from the Board of Health meetings are not verbatim. A tape of this meeting is available.

**BOARD OF HEALTH
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Edna J. Fund, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,


Sandi Andrus
Clerk of the Board of Health


Gary Stamper, Vice Chair

Robert C. Jackson, Member