

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2021
1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County Washington, met in regular session on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. **COMMISSIONER LINDSEY R. POLLOCK, DVM**, was in attendance; **COMMISSIONER SEAN SWOPE** joined via ZOOM; **COMMISSIONER GARY STAMPER** was absent. **CHAIR POLLOCK** determined a quorum, called the meeting to order, and proceeded with the flag salute. The ZOOM guidelines were bypassed. **COMMISSIONER SWOPE** moved to approve the Minutes from August 9, 2021, and from the Emergency meeting held August 16, 2021. **COMMISSIONER POLLOCK** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

ATTENDEES:

County Staff:

JP Anderson
Dr. Steven Krager
John Abplanalp
Sandi Andrus
Tailor Arrington
Wes Rethwill
Andrew Logerwell
Matt Jaeger

Chris Panush
Alison Puckett
Meja Handlen
Steve Wohld
Sherri Dokken
Austin Majors
Erik Martin
Grace Jimenez

Community:

Claudia Yaw (The Chronicle)
Nic Scott (KELA)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Swope made a motion to approve the consent item, **Commissioner Pollock** seconded.

H. Res #091321.1 Approve Amendment #22 to the Consolidated Contract, #CLH18251, between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Health

JP Anderson gave a summary of the amendment which has an increase of \$203,124 for a total amount of \$7,818,175. This amendment impacts multiple areas of our work. A packet was provided to the board prior to the meeting for review.

Commissioner Pollock called for a vote. Motion approved 2-0.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

JP Anderson provided a Public Health update, including the following highlights:

- Information on Foundational Public Health Service dollars (FPHS) and a brief overview how Public Health might allocate those dollars.
- Provided an update on the Public Health building flood, intent is to have water lab functioning by the predicted two month timeframe (beginning of October).

Meja Handlen Reported that Heritage Restoration is working to get the lab and staff's work areas back up to capacity. Very hopeful that the two month, beginning of October, timeline is met.

JP continued:

- Gave a farewell to the Office Manager and Clerk of the Board Health, Sandi Andrus, as she retires at the end of the month.

Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, and Meja added their appreciation to Sandi

John Abplanalp provided a COVID19 update, including the following highlights:

- A slideshow presentation to Board of Health (BOH) reviewing updated COVID19 data (cases, hospitalization, and vaccinations).
- Lewis County's new COVID case rate was approximately two times the rate of the Washington state average.
- Lewis County is on the higher end of the state-wide average compared to other counties in the state for new COVID19 cases.
- Data going back to September 1st shows Lewis County as four times higher than the State average for COVID19 hospitalizations. Lewis County is still showing one of the highest ranks in the state for COVID19 hospitalizations compared to other Washington counties.
- The state average for vaccinations shows 55% vaccinated, Lewis County is currently at 39% vaccinated.
- Dating back to September 3rd, data shows an average of 180 new vaccinations administered per day. Immunization activity rate is not expected to change in Lewis County based on that new immunization administered rate.
- Today would be the last day to initiate the Pfizer vaccination series to individuals who want to be fully vaccinated by October 18th. Options for the Johnson & Johnson vaccines will hopefully remain available.

Dr. Krager provided a Health Officer update, including the following highlights:

- A PowerPoint presentation from the CDC summarizing booster vaccination efficacy against the new COVID19 variant and also showing how efficient the vaccine is as time has gone on.

Commissioner Swope asked to clarify which portion of the graph showed the Johnson & Johnson effectiveness.

Dr. Krager Said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is incorporated in the Tenforde and Rosenberg studies.

Dr. Krager continued:

- Summarized the effectiveness against hospitalizations and infection COVID19 booster doses have.
- Age plays a stronger role in vaccine effectiveness over time. Based on this data there is still talk about boosters in the high risk age group.
- Summarized examples of other adult vaccinations (not COVID19) that require boosters and their efficacy after each booster as time goes on.
- The Johnson & Johnson data for booster vaccines is lower than the other COVID19 vaccine booster data, due to the amount of boosters given so far.

Commissioner Swope asked about treatment options once an individual is diagnosed with COVID19 (vaccinated or unvaccinated). Asked a follow up question about monoclonal antibodies being available to hospitals as a treatment option.

Dr. Krager encourages healthy behavior for the patient once diagnosed with COVID19, which may mean seeking out the monoclonal antibody treatment. The data for the monoclonal treatment to patients in the high risk population is good. Hopes that this resource can be available to more patients.

JP mentioned there are local providers and clinics who have interest in providing those antibody treatments more information to come.

Dr. Krager mentioned that once clear guidance is determined, and local providers have a process for this treatment, patients who are COVID19 positive will be encouraged to seek out this monoclonal antibody treatment as soon as they are tested positive.

JP there continues to be weekly meetings with hospital partners. Once a process and guidance is solidified, work will be done to get monoclonal treatment information out to the public.

Commissioner Swope moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Pollock** seconded, **Commissioner Pollock** adjourned.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m., on Monday, September 13, 2021. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, October 11, 2021, 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**


Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair


Sean D. Swope, Vice Chair

ATTEST:


Taylor Arrington, Clerk of the BOH

Vacant, Member