

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2021

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, [June 14, 2021](#), at 1:40 p.m. The start of the meeting was delayed due to technical difficulties. **COMMISSIONERS SEAN SWOPE, LINDSEY R. POLLOCK, DVM, and GARY STAMPER** were in attendance. **CHAIRMAN POLLOCK** determined a quorum, called the meeting to order, and proceeded with the flag salute. Sandi Andrus read the ZOOM guidelines. Those present in the Hearing Room introduced themselves. Dr. Melnick joined by ZOOM and introduced himself. **COMMISSIONER SWOPE** moved to approve the Minutes from [May 10, 2021](#), **COMMISSIONER STAMPER** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTENDEES:

County Staff:

JP Anderson
Dr. Alan Melnick
John Abplanalp
Erik Martin
Rieva Lester
Sandi Andrus
Becky Butler

Bill Teitzel
Alison Puckett
Meja Handlen
Amber Smith
Lara McRea
Sara Sons

Community:

Linda Williams
Chronicle Reporter
Nic - KELA
Edna Fund

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHANGES IN AGENDA

Commissioner Swope made a motion to amend the agenda by adding one Consent Agenda Item, Health Resolution #061421.1. **Commissioner Stamper** seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The agenda posted on the internet erroneously omitted the Health Resolution whereas the agenda sent to the BOH via email contained the complete agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

H. Res #061421.1 Approve Amendment #20 to the Consolidated Contract, #CLH18251, between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Health

John Abplanalp gave a summary of this amendment. It impacts two areas of the WIC program. They received an additional amount of \$42,486 and eliminated one of the deliverables that had previously been met.

Commissioner Pollock asked to approve the consent items. Motion approved 3-0.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (PHSS) ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Linda Williams, member of the Public Health & Social Services Advisory Board, reported that items discussed at the last meeting on June 3, 2021 will be discussed here at the BOH meeting by JP Anderson and she had nothing more to add.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

JP stated the PHSS Department is working to fill a number of positions which are at various stages including the positions the Department will be able to create using the expanded lab capacity grant. Currently, there is an open position for a Health Educator, which is an 18-month project position to engage schools, pediatricians, and State and Federal funders to develop services impacting youth and their behavioral health needs. Interviews are scheduled tomorrow for a Customer Service Representative. Interviews were held for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to replace Ed Mund who is retiring. Recruitment is ongoing for two Animal Shelter positions.

All employees will be back to working in the office as of July 6.

Bill Teitzel gave a report on the EPA and the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) who are conducting a clean-up operation starting today west of Onalaska, the Onalaska Wood Energy property. They are removing 75,000 gallons of a wood liquor, a by-product of pyrolysis that they conducted over the last several years that still remains on the site. A concern is if that material should be released, that could likely upset the Onalaska Waste Water plant significantly. They should be there working through the first week or two of July to get that cleaned up. DOE will probably send the cost of the clean up to the property owner. **Commissioner Stamper** asked to clarify if this was all one property. Bill explained there used to be Butteville Lumber, which is separate property from the old Alexander Mill, which is the main area they are focusing on.

JP recommended reporting Lewis County's COVID-19 numbers by referring people to the State database and systems. Every positive case we get goes through the State systems first so our data is shared later. We should continue to maintain our process for confirming COVID-related deaths.

John Abplanalp gave a COVID-19 update on PowerPoint. The information used was from the State website which we will now refer people to. The date of information is the date the person reported positive rather than the date we receive the information which makes it more accurate. The Rate of Newly Diagnosed Cases shows the rates for all of the counties within

the State and shows that Lewis County is significantly higher than the state average. There was a technical problem getting the slides to show to those joining by Zoom. Completed vaccination by counties shows Lewis County is at 32% of people fully vaccinated with the average for the State at about 47% as of June 12. John reported that mobile vaccination clinic sites have been available throughout the County and have been staffed by the National Guard, Arbor Health, and Birds Eye Medical. The DOH Isolation & Quarantine Center showed 13 people in isolation or quarantine at the facility. **JP** added that he intended to invite DOH to attend today's BOH but missed sending out the invitation. He will follow up with Mr. Clifford and invite him to next month's update.

Commissioner Swope asked Dr. Melnick about the comparison between the CDC and the State regarding summer camp guidelines and about rapid antigen tests. JP will set up a call between the three of them to review the guidelines.

Dr. Melnick urged people to get vaccinated; these vaccinations have been studied in extensive clinical trials and have been found to be safe and effective. He pointed out that during the two-week period ending May 9, the 14-day hospitalization admission rate in unvaccinated people age 45-64 was 21 times higher than the admission rate in the same age group of those fully vaccinated. In the 65 and older group, the rate in those unvaccinated was 13 times the rate of those fully vaccinated. The rate of cases of vaccine breakthrough (people fully vaccinated who become infected) is a very small fraction of a percent of those who have been vaccinated. The vaccines are preventing hospital admission and the rate of infection of those who have been fully vaccinated are exceedingly low.

JP discussed Bill 1152 which appears to be moving forward. We have an Advisory Board that operates under its own bylaws so it appears we will not need to have an expanded Board of Health but he will keep an eye on this and keep the Board up-to-date.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m., on Monday, [June 14, 2021](#). The next public meeting will be held on Monday, [July 12, 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

ATTEST:

Sean D. Swope, Vice Chair

Sandi Andrus, Clerk of the BOH

Gary Stamper, Member