

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2019

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. **COMMISSIONERS EDNA J. FUND and ROBERT C. JACKSON** were in attendance. **COMMISSIONER GARY STAMPER** arrived at 1:39 p.m. **CHAIRMAN FUND** determined a quorum, called the meeting to order, and proceeded with the flag salute. **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** moved to approve the Minutes from January 14, 2019, **COMMISSIONER FUND** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

ATTENDEES:

County Staff:

Danette York
Dr. Rachel Wood

Community:

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the consent items, **Commissioner Fund** seconded.

H. Res #021119.1 Appointing an alternate local health officer for Lewis County until a change is authorized by the Board of Health

Danette summarized the resolution which appoints an alternate health officer in the absence or incapacity of Dr. Wood. This health officer would be qualified in accordance with the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through 70.05.055 to hold the office of local health officer in Washington. Those allowed to appoint the health officer in the absence of Dr. Wood are Dr. Wood, Director of PHSS, the Lewis County Manager, or Chair or other member of the Board of Health of Lewis County.

Commissioner Fund asked to approve the consent items. Motion approved 2-0.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (PHSS) ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Danette reported on the PHSS Advisory Board. They were scheduled to meet February 7, 2019 but it was canceled. Their one agenda item was shared through an email regarding approving \$70,000 for the Developmental Disabilities RFP. Each member voted to approve it. The Commissioners will be receiving a recommendation for that RFP before it goes out to the public.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Dr. Wood provided handouts to the BOH and gave a report on the epidemiologic curve of the measles cases in Washington. The incubation period for the measles is 21 days. Most commonly, cases occur around day 10 after exposure. One dose of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is 93% to 94% effective. Two doses are 97% to 98% effective. There are pockets of populations in the US where people are unimmunized. Although it was declared eradicated from the US in 2000, we have had intermittent outbreaks of measles because it is usually imported from other countries. The R0 (Are Not) rate for measles is between 12 and 18 as opposed to influenza which is 2. Ebola also has an R0 of 18. This means that for every person with the measles who is around those who are susceptible, 90% of those people will get the measles. It is a very serious infectious disease. Symptoms: may get a fever that goes up to 103 degrees, a runny nose (coryza), cough, and red watery eyes about 10 days after exposure. Unfortunately, these symptoms could look like a lot of other things. About three days later, they get a rash and feel very sick. The germs hang around for two hours after someone who is contagious has been in the room.

Commissioner Stamper arrived at 1:39 p.m.

Dr. Wood stated the staff in Clark and King Counties are getting calls from medical providers inquiring about the disease which is very contagious. People are getting concerned and scared about this outbreak. In Clark County, Dr. Melnick, Clark County Health Officer, has had to exclude people from school and work based on their susceptibility to measles. So far, there have been 53 people contract measles in Clark County and one in King County. We have shipped two specimens to the State from people in Lewis County but fortunately, both were negative.

A discussion was held regarding parents who do not immunize their children. **Dr. Wood** stated that a child is considered in compliance if they are immunized or have registered a valid exemption. The State DOH has a website where one may check the school districts and find out the percentage of children who are in compliance. Lewis County has higher compliance rates than Thurston County. There are three types of exemptions: medical, religious, and philosophical. A Bill was introduced recently to remove the philosophical exemption. The states which have the highest immunization rates have an exemption for only medical. **Danette** added that Washington State made the philosophical requirement stricter a few years ago. The parent had to be counseled by a physician or medical provider who had to sign off saying the person was counseled regarding vaccinations.

Dr. Wood informed the Commissioners that on average, about 300 children receive the MMR each month. In January 2019, it jumped to 1000 so parents are getting their children in for immunizations. She stated that of the 54 people with measles, 46 – 47 were not immunized and 6 or 7 are unverified. One had received only one MMR vaccination. Some are listed as unverified because they may have been immunized overseas and we have no way of verifying how good the vaccine was, how well refrigerated, etc.

Dr. Wood remarked that if Lewis County gets a confirmed case and there are susceptible people in the schools, she would exclude them from school 7 days after their first exposure to 21 days after their last exposure. If a person finds out within 72 hours that they were exposed, they may get the first MMR but they would not be able to go back to school until the 21 days have passed. They would still follow up with a second MMR 28 days after the first one.

Danette added that the DOH sent a letter stating local health officers have the authority to exclude students from school who are susceptible and not immunized. If parents disagree with this decision, they can fight it on their own.

Danette stated that the PHSS staff is using a project code to track their time spent on measles. Dr. Weisman, Secretary of Health, stated that Clark County has spent approximately \$200,000 on their work with the measles. When all of the counties are considered, it has cost about \$700,000 towards this measles outbreak.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m., on Monday, February 11, 2019. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, March 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,

Gary Stamper, Vice Chair

Sandi Andrus
Clerk of the Board of Health

Robert C. Jackson, Member