

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2020
1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. **COMMISSIONERS EDNA J. FUND and ROBERT C. JACKSON**, were in attendance. **COMMISSIONER GARY STAMPER** arrived at 2:11. **CHAIRMAN FUND** determined a quorum, called the meeting to order, and proceeded with the flag salute. **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** moved to approve the Minutes from September 14, 2020, **COMMISSIONER FUND** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

ATTENDEES:

County Staff:

JP Anderson
Dr. Rachel Wood
John Abplanalp
Erik Martin
Amber Smith
Becky Butler
Sandi Andrus
Dave Peterson

Community:

Lindsey Pollock
Claudia Yaw (The Chronicle)
Dr. Alan Melnick via Zoom
Matt Patten via Zoom
3 other community members via Zoom

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Corbin addressed the Board of Health by thanking Dr. Wood and all of the team who have worked during this COVID Pandemic. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Wood for working tirelessly for opening the schools safely and as quickly as possible.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

H. Res #101220.1 Approve Consolidated Contract Amendment #16 between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Health

JP Anderson stated this amendment adds \$2,224,766 to the Consolidated Contract bringing the total agreement to \$5,096,766. \$430,148 is added to the Disease Control

& Health Statistics BITV CI/COVID-19 to provide funding to ensure adequate culturally and linguistically responsive testing, investigation, and contact tracing resources to limit the spread of disease.

JP and **John Abplanalp** summarized the Emergency Preparedness & Response PHEP program which is adding \$36,742 to this amendment. Emergency Preparedness & Response COVID-19 Local Cares receives \$1,589,600 to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID19 disease outbreak.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program had no fund changes, only Statements of Work. Foundational Public Health Services received extra funding of \$166,824 to address Hepatitis C and revise deliverables. DOH also plans to extend some of these funds into 2021. WIC Nutrition Program received an increase of \$1,480.

JP presented a power point compiled by Dave Peterson, Accounting Manager, on *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)*. Four of these grants end on December 30, 2020, two go into 2021 and two into 2022. Some of the funds will be used to pay salaries, professional services, and miscellaneous items. Valley View did not spend as much funding as anticipated in contact tracing so professional services spending is less than anticipated. Mathematica, which is a company that does contact tracing and is funded by the State, has offered their capacity through the end of 2020.

JP explained the possibility of using some of our allocated funds to reimburse some businesses, schools, etc., for PPEs they had to purchase or other adjustments they may have needed to make due to COVID. **JP** will follow up to see if that is something other LHJ's may be doing. **Becky Butler** added that a lot of the salary since March 2020 could be eligible for reimbursement because all public health and public safety employees are substantially dedicated to the COVID response. Going forward, they could allocate additional eligible costs through the Consolidated Contract amendment.

JP added that the State may be looking at redistributing the funds that are not spent by December. **Commissioner Jackson** asked if **JP** had been in contact with any businesses to see what they may need reimbursed and **Commissioner Fund** added that they would also need to make sure they have not been reimbursed by another funding source. **Becky** added that although we could not fund them through next year, we might be able to purchase PPEs in advance to help get them into next year.

Commissioner Fund asked how we can increase funding for testing. **JP** stated he is working with other agencies to see how they can increase locations for testing and make tests more available. **Commissioner Fund** asked about the possibility of using TeleHealth to make sources available and will ask them to contact **JP**.

Becky reported the Commissioners are looking at a utility assistance program that is outside programs already available through the Community Action Council. She asked if the PHSS could take on a rental or mortgage assistance program to provide rental assistance that is different from those distributed through CAC. **JP** will check to see if anyone is using their LHJ allocation for rental assistance. **Commissioner Fund** asked

about the Cold Weather Shelter. JP replied it is a night by night shelter funded through Department of Commerce which will open on November 1. This will be paid for through grants and not be staffed by volunteers.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (PHSS) ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Matt Patten, member of the Public Health & Social Services Advisory Board, gave a summary of the last meeting held on October 1, 2020. Topics discussed at the last meeting were COVID-19 and children returning to schools. Mossyrock School District had a student test positive for COVID the first day back to in-school learning and a good lesson was learned from that and how it was handled. The night-by-night shelter was discussed. An RFP that had been put out several months ago regarding coordinated entry and the Housing Essential Needs Program was put on hold due to COVID but is now needing to move forward which was approved by the Advisory Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

JP gave a brief update on when and how to open schools in the County. They will be looking at indicators and monitoring transmissions in the schools. **Dr. Wood** added that there is still a concern of staff-to-staff transmission and the likelihood that children could transmit COVID to school staff. Children are a priority and it is very important that they follow social distancing and masking in order to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID in the educational settings. **Commissioner Fund** asked if there are any schools in the County who are not using the hybrid method. JP replied there are some schools who were able to maintain very small class sizes without the hybrid model although some have reached out and requested a variation on that.

JP introduced Dr. Alan Melnick, Health Officer of Clark County. JP asked Dr. Melnick what makes a good Health Officer and what they do for the Board of Health. **Dr. Melnick** responded that the BOH needs someone with technical skills who can work well with a team. He listed many good qualities such as one who listens and communicates really well, works closely with the Public Health Director and team and Board of Health. Communication piece is very important. The Health Officer works with external partners so it is important that they are able to work with others and collaborate. They also need to have a knowledge of environmental health. They need to have flexibility and an understanding of when to use their statutory powers so it is important that they work well with the Prosecuting Attorneys.

Commissioner Jackson asked what things are being done in Cowlitz County in the schools to safely reopen and have distance learning. **Dr. Melnick** explained he and his Deputy Health Officer cover five counties and that they meet with school superintendents

every week. They determined they would look at the metrics every three consecutive weeks and if they were in the high range, they would continue remote learning except for the special needs students. They also agreed if they were three weeks at a moderate level, they would move towards in-person training. They gave recommendations to the schools together with the superintendents. They also provide a weekly updated school data report on their websites. It is tougher to open up and then close again so they are using a careful approach.

JP asked what he sees strategically for Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) and what going forward looks like from an LHJ perspective. **Dr. Melnick** stated we are fortunate to have strong Boards of Health and LHJ systems where we can work at the local level. He feels there needs to be a lot of communication with the State. There needs to be a strong association of Public Health Officials and we need to be at the table to have a say in terms of how the funding for COVID-19 is allocated so that local LHJs get an adequate share of funding to carry out the work we do.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m., on Monday, October 12, 2020. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2020 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