

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2020

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2020, at 1:31 p.m. **COMMISSIONERS EDNA J. FUND, ROBERT C. JACKSON, and GARY STAMPER** were in attendance. **CHAIRMAN FUND** determined a quorum, called the meeting to order, and proceeded with the flag salute. Sandi Andrus read the ZOOM guidelines. Commissioner Fund asked that "Introductions" be added to the agenda for the next Board of Health. **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** moved to approve the Minutes from October 12, 2020, **COMMISSIONER STAMPER** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTENDEES:

County Staff:

JP Anderson
Dr. Rachel Wood
John Abplanalp
Erik Martin
Sandi Andrus

Community:

Dr. Lindsey Pollock
Claudia Yaw (The Chronicle)
9 attendees through ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda items.

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (PHSS)
ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE**

JP gave a summary of the last meeting held on November 5, 2020. A discussion and update of COVID-19 was presented. The advisory board was asked to try to attend a Board of Health meeting in 2021 in order to get to know the new commissioners. A motion was made by the Advisory Board to forward three names to the BOCC for reappointments for the next three years. JP will get those names to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

JP suggested using the Board of Health more to give updates on COVID-19. **Commissioner Fund** agreed the Board of Health is a good place to report on COVID-19 but also wants updates to continue at other meetings. **JP** explained the policy group that meets weekly to lay out a communication plan and provide direction to the department. This plan will then be brought to the Commissioners to look at and make adjustments.

Commissioner Jackson stated he has not seen any numbers on this flu season yet. **Dr. Wood** reported that we are not seeing it yet in our area. **Dr. Caserta**, pediatrician, joined in by ZOOM, stated they have seen some in her office. **JP** has a Mayors' meeting on Friday and will share the material prepared for that meeting with the Commissioners. **Allison Puckett**, joining by Zoom, stated DOH has a website that will list all the flu cases throughout the week. This is the fourth week of the influenza season so the cases aren't as high as they will be later on.

JP explained there is an increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the State. **Dr. Wood** informed the Board that the State presented a report that the numbers of the virus are not as high in the elementary schools as expected. The cases appear to be coming from smaller groups and more intimate gatherings. There is concern over Thanksgiving and upcoming holidays and winter approaching.

Dr. Wood mentioned there are many vaccine candidates in development. Pfizer is one of those and the way the antibody will be carried into the body is through a molecule called MRNA. They stated they have seen 90% efficacy so far. They have inoculated 44,000 individuals with the first and second doses of that vaccine. They are waiting to see what happens when people are exposed to COVID and they have seen very good response. This is very preliminary data. We will have more information as more data comes in. There are two other vaccines being looked out that use a modified form of viral entity to get the vaccine to work in the human body.

Dr. Wood expressed her gratitude to the school work group that has been meeting weekly. Lewis County is in the forefront in Washington in getting their students back to school. The schools have been an amazing group of people to work with when there were positive cases reported in the school.

Some individuals on the Lewis County school group are attending the BOH through ZOOM and **JP** asked if they could share some of their insight and understanding with the BOH. **Dr. Jennifer Caserta** from NW Pediatrics stated NW Pediatrics is a resource to the schools that have opened and they are doing a good job. **Dr. Lisa Grant** also addressed the Board and thanked **Dr. Wood**, **JP**, and the work group for being such a value. It has helped them make better decisions and understanding the different information they have received. She requested that the Commissioners continue to support that group and the efforts of the group as they collaborate and make decisions. **Dr. Grant** added that they have been doing a virtual question and answer forum each Thursday for an hour. Some elementary and secondary principals and cabinet members respond to the questions and share information. The next one is November 19 from 5:30 to 6:30 and invited anyone who wants to, to join them.

Jeff Davis from Onalaska reiterated the health work group has been invaluable. He added the impact that having a vaccine would have on staff and students. **Dr. Caserta** affirmed the good work and effort that people have done has minimized the number of people that need to quarantine and invited people to maintain relationships with caution. They are learning that most cases in the schools are brought in through community exposure and not being spread among school attendees.

JP acknowledged all the work Sara Sons, Community Health Services and Contracts Coordinator, has done. **Sara** thanked the Commissioners and the work group for all their work. **Dr. Wood** also thanked Sara for her work.

Commissioner Fund stated she heard about a software that can reach someone by smartphone to inform them if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and should be checked. This is an opt-in, purely voluntary software. **Dr. Wood** added that they are piloting it in Seattle. They feel it will help with contact tracing and achieve the outcome of limiting the spread of the virus as quickly as possible.

JP spoke on the Rural Healthcare HRSA Grant. He attends the Community Health Partnership meetings monthly which is involved with Nurse Family Partnership and .1 of 1% to name a couple. They will be applying for a new project making Lewis County the fiscal agent for a consortium of healthcare providers in Lewis County. This would give the County up to four health care providers who would each get a .2 fte for a specialty medical provider who would come to our county. Cascade Mental Health Care and Valley View have both expressed interest in applying for the grant. Marylyne Kostick, epidemiologist, will be taking the lead on writing the grant. The application is due the first of December and JP will keep the Commissioners informed.

JP informed the BOH that he will be returning to the Incident Commander position for the COVID-19 emergency response and would like to see the Board of Health used to share that information.

JP explained the County continues to have a moratorium on temporary food permits although it is not a moratorium on permanent food permits or food truck permits.

JP updated the WIC program which has been receiving extensions from the State to do remote services. They recently received an extension into three months past the COVID-19 response.

JP reported there are meetings scheduled the next couple weeks regarding the Animal Shelter to meet with the AS committee, staff, and the architect. Jennifer has done a phenomenal job as the manager.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m., on Monday, November 9, 2020. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 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