

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2021

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 1:33 p.m. **COMMISSIONERS SEAN SWOPE, LINDSEY M. 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 in attendance introduced themselves. **COMMISSIONER SWOPE** moved to approve the Minutes from February 8, 2021, **COMMISSIONER STAMPER** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTENDEES:

County Staff:

JP Anderson
Dr. Steve Krager
John Abplanalp
Lee Wlazlak
Sara Sons
Becky Butler

Bill Teitzel
Jennifer Teitzel
Sandi Andrus
Amber Smith
Erik Martin
Katie Conradi

Community:

Chronicle Reporter

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

H. Res #030821.1 Approve Agreement between Washington DSHS and Lewis County Board of Health as the Governing Body of the Local Health Jurisdiction for Data Security Requirements of all contracts with DSHS from October 15, 2020 to June 30, 2023

JP Anderson gave a summary of the agreement with DSHS. Lewis County IT department has worked to make sure all of the data security requirements have been met with regards to agreements we have with DSHS.

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

ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

JP gave a summary of the last meeting held on [March 4, 2021](#). The meeting was held via ZOOM. They received an update on COVID and information on an RFP for Childhood Development that Sara Sons presented. JP also briefed them on a request for a regional IMO (Incident Management Organization). This would come through the Consolidated Contract.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

JP spoke about the vaccine count through the State Dashboard and looking for a current update. We have had a lot of clinics since the number was updated and he feels the number will go up substantially in the next week. He will be watching the numbers of vaccines that people outside our county have accessed. There is broad accessibility through the website and more people who are tech savvy will become eligible.

Commissioner Swope asked how the mobile clinic with Twin Transit and United Way is working. **JP** reported it is working well. Our allocations went up dramatically in the past week. Bird's Eye has been providing large scale vaccination clinics at the fairgrounds and they are looking at lowering the age to 65. Many people are signing up with Bird's Eye. Last Saturday's clinic was able to clear the wait list and everyone on the list was called back and scheduled. **John** added that people who are eligible and utilize the hotline are able to be scheduled in real time into an upcoming clinic.

Dr. Krager spoke about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine being approved for emergency use authorization by the FDA last week. Washington will be receiving some of this vaccine in the next couple weeks. This vaccine is just as good as or better than Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at 93% effective in preventing hospitalization and 100% effective in preventing death. He encouraged people to take this vaccine if it is offered to them; the best vaccine is the one being offered at that moment.

Dr. Krager stated the CDC revamped their guidelines for what is safe to do once you have been fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated means two weeks after the second dose of the two-dose vaccine or two weeks after the one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Someone fully vaccinated will be less likely to spread COVID-19 but there is a possibility that someone could be an asymptomatic carrier and potentially affect other people. It is OK to gather with people outside your household if people are fully vaccinated. If you are gathering with another household that is not fully vaccinated, keep that to one household and make sure there is no one who may be at risk for severe COVID-19. The CDC is stating that it is OK to meet with people outside your home without masks if everyone has been vaccinated. **Dr. Krager** stated the faster we get the vaccines into people, the faster we can return to normalcy.

JP reported on the new Animal Shelter building using community-donated funds. SHKS is the firm they are working with for the new building and they have already presented some recommendations and are working with Doug Carey on the planning. More to come on the timeline and possibility of more fundraising.

JP explained some concerning reports they have been hearing in the community regarding people being approached by someone representing themselves as someone they can surrender stray animals to. RCW 16-54-030 outlines who can take in and collect funds for stray animals. Unless they are working with PHSS or the Sheriff's Office, they are not one of those entities who can represent themselves as taking stray animals and charging for that. We have Code Enforcement officers out and will be following up on this. We will also issue a press release to the community. **Jennifer Teitzel** added that if any Animal Shelter staff responds to a private residence, they will always have proper ID and will be in a clearly marked Lewis County vehicle and it will have been prearranged with the home owner with law enforcement's knowledge. At no time does our staff enter private gates especially locked ones after hours without proper identification. We would like to reassure the public to be diligent when receiving or finding stray animals and to contact the animal shelter and report it for their own protection.

Bill Teitzel stated that environmental services deals with kennels and follows requirements by the Lewis County Code when doing kennel inspections. We are concerned with the health of the animals and that kennel owners are following requirements. We will get involved in this and investigate as we go. If someone loses an animal and it is at the Animal Shelter, they will get it back but if it is in someone else's backyard or kennel, then it is hard to find.

Commissioner Stamper informed Bill that his job in helping animals is appreciated. He also expressed his frustration in people who have abused animals being able to have those animals returned to them.

JP stated that animals are not put down at our shelter unless they are a danger or to relieve them of their misery. We take great care of the animals we receive. **Jennifer** added that the Shelter only euthanizes if legally obligated as determined by a judge or if it is the only humane option to treat medical conditions. We do not euthanize for overcrowding or extended period of stay. We have great partnerships with other humane societies and other rescue groups and we transfer within those boundaries. **Commissioner Pollock** added her appreciation for what they do at the Shelter and knows that it is a challenging environment.

JP stated that the COVID-19 vaccine operations is now just a normal part of operations and we are receiving great support from Emergency Management. **JP** expressed his appreciation to have Dr. Krager on staff. They both met this morning with school superintendents and pediatricians. As they have more meetings and begin to discuss behavior and mental health implications, **JP** will share the information with the Board of Health and Commissioners and will invite Commissioner Pollock to those meetings as she has expressed interest in attending.

JP stated PHSS would like to resume doing temporary food permits and begin issuing them on April 1 assuming events planned for the near future will occur. If a State law arises that inhibits the events, we will be willing to issue a refund if canceled.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m., on Monday, [March 8, 2021](#). The next public meeting will be held on Monday, [April 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