

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

May 10, 2021

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, [May 11, 2021](#), at 1:33 p.m. **COMMISSIONERS SEAN D. 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 and those joining by Zoom introduced themselves. **COMMISSIONER STAMPER** moved to approve the Minutes from [April 12, 2021](#), **COMMISSIONER SWOPE** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**ATTENDEES:**

**County Staff:**

JP Anderson  
Dr. Steven Krager  
John Abplanalp  
Meja Handlen  
Sandi Andrus

Sara Sons  
Amber Smith  
Alison Puckett  
Erik Martin

**Community:**

Nic - KELA  
Chronicle Reporter  
Matt Patten  
Edna Fund  
Frank Corbin

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

**Matt Patten**, chair of the Public Health & Social Services Advisory Board, gave a summary of the last meeting held on [May 6, 2021](#). They made two recommendations at that meeting to send to the BOH including an RFP for projects totaling up to \$75,000 and one to approve another Developmental Disabilities provider, Summit Center for Child Development. They also supported the idea of a position for Child Wellness and Recovery to track some of the funds coming from a federal grant. They also gave their support to the project the County is working on with Reliable Enterprises regarding permits for housing.

**PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

**John Abplanalp**, Public Health & Social Services Deputy Director, presented a Power point presentation updating COVID-19 (attached). He showed the number of cases diagnosed per

day. Rates recently went down but are heading back up again. Hospitalization rates are also going up on average of one per day. A graph of all 39 counties in the State showed case rates per 100,000 from April 16 – April 29. This showed our county's rate was a little over 230 cases per 100,000 that puts us about in the middle of the other Washington counties. Percentage of people who have initiated vaccination shows Lewis County is at 31% with those 65 and older being the highest vaccinated.

**Dr. Krager** stated there is still a good amount of those who are in the higher risk category who are not vaccinated. It is important for all age groups to get vaccinated for their own health and to prevent transmission to other at-risk age groups who are not vaccinated. There are still variants out there.

**Dr. Krager** acknowledged some people's reluctance to get vaccinated. He encouraged people to talk to trusted healthcare providers to get their concerns addressed. The vaccine protects individuals from both types of infections – getting symptoms of COVID-19, as well as being infected with it but being asymptomatic. They have very good data of people both vaccinated and unvaccinated. He wants to alleviate people's concerns about "Emergency Authorization" which is different from the approval that other vaccines have gone through. It is a different process but this pathway was created to quickly approve a safe and effective vaccine in the middle of a medical emergency by cutting through red tape and regulations to be able to approve things quicker. This still has rigorous testing and makes sure it is effective before it goes out. He is confident in these vaccines and they are incredibly safe and effective. The benefits of the vaccines far outweigh any risks.

**Dr. Krager** addressed long-term side effects. We have about a year's worth of data at this point. With every vaccine we have used in the past, we have not had long-term side effects that have shown up two months after a vaccine. We would not expect this to be any different with the COVID-19 vaccine. It uses our immune system in a very similar way that other vaccines work. We have a good track record of vaccine safety data over the last 70 years showing after two months, the risk of any sort of side effect from the vaccine is zero. We do know there are a lot of known risks of COVID-19, both immediate and potential long-term side effects.

**JP** presented information on "why I got vaccinated" campaign that school groups, physicians, PHSS, and others are working on to get information out to explain why people are getting the COVID vaccination. This is a positive, feel-good campaign and more information will be coming out about this soon.

**Commissioner Swope** spoke on the Lakeview Quarantine Center and possibly sending a letter in opposition to it. The location of this center would be in Lewis County but would not be for county residents but for people outside of Lewis County. People would be transported in but not necessarily transported back out. Those quarantined would have temptation all around as there are many places to visit and purchase food and could potentially spread COVID. This could also negatively affect our economy. **Commissioner Stamper** stated he has received concerns from citizens regarding this situation and one concern is that we are working hard to get the COVID-19 infection rates down and wonders whether the State has safeguards in place and a plan. People quarantined at the motel could possibly wander off. The State did not collaborate with the County or the City on this decision. We need to send a letter to the Governor and State Department of Health in opposition to this and try to get some explanation of why this is occurring and whether this is happening in other counties. This would impact our county in a negative way. **Commissioner Pollock** added that we do

not have the medical capacity or infrastructure to handle the amount of people who might quarantine here.

**Commissioner Swope** stated the administration staff is working on a letter that the PA's office will review. **Amber Smith** reported that she has been researching this matter to find out what Lewis County is able to do statutorily. The LHJ (Local Health Jurisdiction) has the specific control over prevention and spread of any dangerous public health issues so this would normally fall under our jurisdiction. For the Secretary of Health to step in, it would require an emergency or if the safety of public health demands it. They would take on the duties of the LHJ when failing or refusing to address an issue or requesting outside assistance from the State. This is specifically enumerated in statute that if an involuntary quarantine or isolation occurs, that comes from an LHJ's health officer or by petitioning the court. Lewis County is not the appropriate place to have this facility. If there are international travelers, the area around Sea-Tac, Pierce County, or even Snohomish County would be better than transporting people over two hours to a facility as it is here. This is an LHJ issue. It looks like the State does not have the authority to do this. Amber offered her help to anyone drafting the letter.

**JP** answered a question posed by Commissioner Stamper as to how this decision to place the quarantine site in Lewis County came about. DOH looked around Tumwater for a location but there was not one. The proximity to Tumwater is the reason they gave for looking at Lewis County. These would all be patients determined not to be in any county jurisdiction and considered international travelers in the jurisdiction of the State which has responsibility to find isolation and quarantine facilities. This would only be for the State of Washington and the people that fall under their jurisdiction. Currently, this is the only site like this in the State of Washington. **Commissioner Swope** stated that if it is for the State, it should be where the State Capitol and DOH are located, not in a different county.

**Commissioner Pollock** asked Amber if the situation arises where we feel our ability to deliver healthcare is adversely impacted by this facility, could the LHJ say that this is an adverse health event and take the necessary steps to relieve it. **Amber** stated she would have to look into that. We do not know whether the State plans to transport individuals to our local hospital putting the burden on them or to a hospital in Olympia.

**JP** spoke on equity issues around bringing something in that impacts the community.

**Commissioner Swope** added there was a statement last week where the Governor talked about how they could not force people to stay; that would be up to the local health providers to enforce the situation putting us in a tight spot. If someone walks off, that would be under the jurisdiction of the LHJ; they would not require someone to stay there. **JP** added that we do not have a practice or policy to cover that. Commissioner Swope felt Maple Lane would make more sense and be something they could put more resources into. **JP** will continue to advocate for the State to reconsider and let them know that a letter is forthcoming.

**Commissioner Stamper** stated that our County does not have international ports nor airports so did not feel international travelers should be isolated here. **Commissioner Pollock** added that it is not fair to quarantine international travelers in an area that does not have travel medicine specialists. **Amber** clarified that Seattle Tacoma International Airport is a port in Seattle. The people entering there are in the city of Seattle or King County. If they are entering in counties nearby, it would be appropriate for the State to work with those counties and their LHJs to make this work.

**JP** reported that the US Treasury began the process of creating a portal and avenue to go forward with some of our American Recovery Plan funds. **JP** is working on a PAF for a Childhood Wellness and Recovery Coordinator position for childhood wellness and the process of helping kids reintegrate into the community after spending so much time apart from it. **Commissioner Pollock** stated that the steps taken to control this pandemic have had a heavy adverse effect on people especially children and it is critical that we support the development of them for the future of Lewis County.

**JP** clarified that this person would not be a direct service provider but would be a contract coordinator. They will work with schools and their potential opportunities for grants and resources. There is a lot of need for this right now. This would also be a project position contingent on funding.

**Commissioner Swope made a motion** to proceed with a Childhood Wellness and Recovery Coordinated Position; **Commissioner Stamper** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**JP** reported that there are some children who are not attending school, have fallen off the map, and are not enrolled in any programs and they need help, support, and access to the resources available. This position would connect to all schools and touch bases with pediatricians to provide help for those kids we are trying to contact, support, and re-engage.

**Meja** spoke on the Developmental Disabilities Requests for Proposal (RFP) which is the process of putting out an allocation for funding where local agencies and providers apply. Three applicants applied and the recommendation from the Developmental Disabilities committee to the PHSS Advisory Board was to fund In-Tot Development Services for a nutrition program for \$12,000; Lewis County Autism Coalition for community engagement, community development, and workshops for \$28,200; a Link Coordinator and Neuro Diversity project for \$28,200; and the Youth Advocacy Center for \$6,940.

**Meja** explained the difference between the nutrition program and the Snap-Ed program. In-Tot Center is birth to 3 years old and works with children who are developmentally disabled and their families. They teach about specific nutritious ways to teach them how to cook and include vegetables.

**Commissioner Stamper** made a **motion** to approve the developmental disabilities RFP and RFQ. **Commissioner Swope** seconded. **Commissioner Pollock** acknowledged our ability to have a PHSS Advisory Board that brings information to the BOH which is very beneficial to us going forward. Motion Carried 3-0.

**Commissioner Stamper** stated there are many functions going on all over the County including the Packwood Flea Market, parades, etc., giving us an opportunity to position ourselves and show the State that we are doing everything we can to get people vaccinated by putting mobile vans at those sites. He suggested maybe the schools would allow something at the basketball games or other functions where we can promote trying to get everyone vaccinated.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m., on Monday, May 10, 2021. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, June 14, 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**

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Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair

ATTEST:

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Sean D. Swope, Vice Chair

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Sandi Andrus, Clerk of the BOH

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Gary Stamper, Member