

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
999 Third Avenue, Suite 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104-4039

Carolyn Edmonds, *Board of Health Chair*

BOH Members:

Richard Conlin
Dow Constantine
George W. Counts
Jan Drago
Carolyn Edmonds
Ava Frisinger
Larry Gossett
Steve Hammond
David Hutchinson
David Irons
Kathy Lambert
Frankie T. Manning
Bud Nicola
Margaret Pageler
Alonzo Plough

BOH Staff:

Maggie Moran

**King County Board of Health
Friday, December 19, 2003
Boards and Commissions Room,
Seattle City Hall
MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

Members Present: George Counts, Carolyn Edmonds, Ava Frisinger, David Irons, Kathy Lambert, Frankie Manning, Bud Nicola, Richard Conlin, Dow Constantine, Jan Drago, Margaret Pageler, and David Hutchinson

Members Absent: Larry Gossett, Steve Hammond

Staff: Alonzo Plough and Maggie Moran

I. Subject Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Board Chair, Carolyn Edmonds

II. Subject Announcement of Alternates
There were no alternates in attendance.

III. Subject Approval of Minutes
A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 21, 2003. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

IV. Subject General Public Comments
There were no public comments.

V. Subject Chair's Report
Chair Edmonds reported on her second article "The Pump Handle" as published in the *Courthouse Journal*. Chair Edmonds stated that the article focused on the Local Boards of Health project conducted by the State Board of Health, wherein State Board of Health members traveled to meet with local Boards throughout the State. Chair Edmonds noted that thus far the State Board had met with 14 local Boards. Chair Edmonds stated that a joint meeting with the King County Board and the State Board was tentatively planned for summer of 2004.

Chair Edmonds shared highlights of the November State Board of Health meeting. She noted that the Board had approved a recommendation to

support the Department of Ecology's plan to reduce environment health risks. Chair Edmonds added that the Board also discussed legislative issues - funding, access to health care, model food code, health disparities, full funding of the tobacco prevention and control plan and children's environmental health. Chair Edmonds also noted that the State Board received a briefing from Susan Johnson about Kids Get Care - Public Health Seattle & King County.

Chair Edmonds invited Board Members to share their impressions of the Health Policy Analysis Program's Annual Legislative Conference. Board Member Nicola shared that one of the issues that the group discussed was access to care. He stated that many participants felt like they were warping back in time, because they had been talking about these problems for 20 years and not much had changed.

Board Member Manning commented that the issue of access was broader than just being able to get into the door, but also the ability to pay for services and the types of services that people really must have. Board Member Manning stated that there was some discussion about the IOM study around changing the health care system in the 21st Century, and the need to have certain kinds of chronic disease management. She added that the real issue that came out of the conference was the whole issue of preventative care. She stated that the keynote speaker at lunch highlighted the need to have Public Health as the centerpiece of what we do into the future.

Chair Edmonds reported that an Ad Hoc Selection Committee was formed to develop and present a slate of officers for the Board's consideration at the January 23rd meeting. The committee members included: Board Member Drago, Board Member Gossett, and Board Member Hutchinson.

VI. Subject Board Member's Updates

Board Member Conlin announced that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded a grant to "Feet First" a Seattle based organization to work on promoting walking and walkable environments in the Seattle area. He noted that Public Health would be one the partners as well as a number of other organizations. Board Member Conlin stated that the focus, under the Active Living By Design umbrella, would be on public education and awareness campaigns and addressing actions that could be taken by public agencies to promote more walking and more walkable environments.

Chair Edmonds honored Council Member Pageler for her service to the King County Board of Health by reading a joint proclamation from the King County Executive and the Mayor of Seattle. Council Members Conlin and Drago both spoke on behalf of the Seattle City Council, they read a proclamation from the Seattle City Council that chronicled Council Member Pageler's contributions to the City Council as well as thanking her for her dedication and tireless work on behalf of Public Health.

VII. Subject Director's Report

Dr. Plough announced that Public Health – Seattle & King County's Healthy Homes Project was one of seven recipients of Health and Human Services, Secretary Thompson's Innovation and Prevention awards. The project provided the national model in community collaboration to reduce asthma in low-income housing led by Dr. Jim Krieger. Public Health – Seattle & King County was the single award winner in the public sector category.

Public Health – Seattle & King County was selected as one of five national centers for excellence in Public Health preparedness and received a \$1.8 million award over three years. Public Health will serve as the local Health Department, Center of Excellence for Public Health Preparedness, with responsibilities to work with CDC in disseminating best practices throughout all of Federal Region Ten.

Dr. Plough reported that the nation had essentially run out of a supply of the conventional flu vaccine. Dr. Plough stated that in order to control the spread of influenza it was really important to educate the public about appropriate hygiene practices. Dr. Plough stated that Public Health – Seattle & King County in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Health had announced a "Cover your Cough" campaign. Dr. Plough stated that he would like the Board to consider in January ways that this messaging could be more aggressively disseminated through bus boards and signage in public restrooms.

Dr. Plough gave an update on the "Isolation and Quarantine" conference sponsored by Public Health – Seattle & King County. He stated that there were over 300 individuals from all over the State of Washington. Fire, police and hospital first responders were the majority of the attendees. Dr. Plough stated that the SARS example was used to talk about how public health needed to develop partnerships that could strengthen preparedness for SARS or any other large-scale infection. Dr. Plough stated that representatives from the CDC's Quarantine's Office provided an excellent

presentation on the CDC efforts and the Chief Legal Officer from the Toronto Health Department provided a briefing on how SARS was managed during the Toronto outbreak in spring of 2003.

Dr. Plough reported that the Pierce County Board of Health passed a resolution that would regulate and prohibit smoking in public places. Dr. Plough stated that the King County Board of Health in the past had taken a different tact to aggressively work with the State Legislature to repeal the preemption bill due to advice from the Prosecuting Attorney that such a legal course would not be advantageous to the Board.

Board Member Lambert suggested the Board send Jim Krieger a letter congratulating him on receiving the Innovation and Prevention award from Secretary Thompson. She also stated that she was interested in seeing a list of accomplishments of the program.

A discussion ensued about the certification requirements for health care providers providing flu shots. Board Member Lambert questioned what the certification requirements were. Board Member Manning shared that the number of “free standing flu shot clinics” had made her question the credentials of the person giving vaccines in this setting, such as at Costco or the local pharmacy.

Dr. Plough stated there were a number of troubling things around the supply, the distribution, and the monitoring of flu clinics. He said that Public Health – Seattle & King County in their role with private licensed health providers and clinics had lots of protocols on vaccine storage temperatures. Board Member Lambert agreed that the oversight of vaccine distribution and delivery was one that the Board should work on in the next year. She also expressed concern that during an epidemic or other crisis there was a group of individuals who could swing into action in addition to health professionals to ensure that mass vaccination could be mobilized. She also questioned if there was an Internet site where a private citizen could check the credentials of an individual who was offering vaccinations.

Dr. Plough said that he would look into how an individual could check the credentials of someone offering vaccinations. He also said that as the Board would see during the preparedness presentation for truly emergency mass vaccination responses there were mass vaccination plans and decentralized clinic structures that would be mobilized by Public Health – Seattle & King County.

VII. Subject 2004 Legislative Session Briefing

Tom Bristow, a member of the Government Relations Team for King County gave a briefing on the 2004 legislative session scheduled to run from January 12th through March 11th.

Mr. Bristow shared that the primary election issue would probably be the largest issue before the legislature in 2004. He also shared that Governor Locke released the supplemental budget yesterday; a budget at or less than 1% addition to state spending. \$23 billion over the biennium was the total amount.

Mr. Bristow shared that the Board of Health's agenda typically mirrored by the County's agenda when it came to legislative issues. Congress increased the federal match for Medicaid which reduced the need for State funds by about 2%. He added that the State intended to use those savings to fund amongst other things an opiate substitution and a Native American encounter services increase of about \$3 million statewide. He stated that there currently was a waiting list for several of the drug programs and it was estimated that it took about a million and half-dollars to eliminate the waiting list for Medicaid eligibles.

Board Member Nicola inquired about the outlook for Public Health funding this year.

Mr. Bristow replied that the backfill was funded for the biennium, through to June of '95. He stated that in January of '05 there was half a year of funding for King County. Mr. Bristow stated that there was a threat of losing millions of dollars if the Legislature in the '05 session didn't appropriate the backfill. He stated that during the 2004 session he and his colleagues would be working hard to maintain the appropriation by reminding folks about the importance of Public Health.

Board Member Drago questioned whether or not prescription drug coverage was an issue that had been recognized by the King County Board of Health during the legislative session.

David Foster the Chief State Lobbyist for the City of Seattle stated that the City agenda mirrored that of the Board of Health. He added that the agenda included such issues as tobacco prevention, AIDS early intervention programs, Hepatitis programs, and prescription drugs. He added that the

City would also be requesting that the Legislature allow cities, counties, and school districts to opt into the State prescription drug program that had been approved last year.

Chair Edmonds commented on the press release from the Governor's office that particularly mentioned funding for rural health and funding for enrollment slots for nurses which was going to have an indirect affect on Public Health and their ability to serve.

Board Member Hutchinson questioned the linkage between methadone treatment and jails.

Chair Edmonds responded that the Governor's budget proposed an additional \$3 million for opiate substitution. She assumed that could flow as the drug and alcohol substance abuse funds flowed to the local jurisdictions, so that it would be available both in and out of jails.

IX. Subject Public Health Preparedness and Response Briefing

Dorothy Teeter the Chief of Health Operations for Public Health – Seattle & King County explained that Public Health had always been a first responder whether related to weather, floods, earthquakes, hazardous materials, or power failures. Recent events such as September 11th and some of the emerging diseases such as SARS have highlighted the need for public health to be at the center of those strategies.

Ms. Teeters stated that King County was an incredibly diverse and complex arena to work within - 39 suburban and rural cities and communities, 1.8 million people swelling to 2.2 million daily, 50 to 60 spoken languages with 10 languages receiving translation assistance daily in clinics. She added that there were many agency partners for emergency preparedness including 19 hospitals, 27 Community Health Clinics, 7000 medical professionals, 30 ALS or BLS Fire Departments, and 29 law enforcement agencies.

Ms. Teeter stated that several things had precipitated the change in Public Health's role as a first responder such as the scale of threats as well as the diversity and frequency of hazards. She added that the implication of these changing circumstances included achieving closer alignment with first response partners; enhanced Public Health response capabilities; increased engagement with community based partners; sustainable training program

for Public Health staff; and secure, redundant two-way voice and data communications with response partners.

Michael Loehr, Emergency Manager for Public Health – Seattle & King County shared that Public Health was becoming more prepared through a three pronged approach. He stated that the Department's approach involved developing, maintaining, and balancing the three major factors of people, partnerships, and tools and systems.

Mr. Loehr stated that the Department was focused on the following key preparedness elements: addressing legal and policy issues; enhancing risk communication and education; enhancing emergency communications systems; hazard identification and surveillance; resource management; emergency planning; operational readiness; training and exercises; financial management; hazard mitigation; and community outreach.

Board Member Drago stated that she wanted to hear more about what partnerships had been developed due to funding being dependent upon developing a regional strategic plan.

Mr. Loehr stated that one of the keys to partnerships was simply working with key partners in various ways such as serving on planning committees and joint training.

Board Member Irons requested that in a future presentation more detail be given to explain exactly what being 100% prepared would look like, so that a more accurate picture of where we were today could be drawn.

Dr. Plough and Dorothy Teeter stated that the presentation was designed to give the Board an overview of the preparedness issue, and that they would be glad to provide additional detail at a briefing in 2004.

Board Member Lambert questioned whether quarantine laws allowed for quarantining someone with diplomatic immunity.

Dr. Plough shared that this came up in New York City when a foreign traveler needed to be involuntarily quarantined during SARS.

Board Member Conlin said that in times of fiscal difficulty training was the hardest hit with cuts, so he would be interested to hear how Public Health was not only planning on training but how this would be made a priority from

a financial standpoint. He offered the suggestion that Public Health be involved in the design of a major training facility, that was oriented towards the Fire Department, that the City was constructing.

Board Member Counts said that he hoped one of the community outreach action items was to work with media outlets so that in a crisis the public would know what Public Health wanted them to do.

Board Member Nicola asked what methodology was used when assessing the current level of Public Health Preparedness. If a national survey was used how does Public Health – Seattle & King County compare with other larger metro areas?

Mr. Loehr stated that a standard FEMA guidance document was applied.

Dr. Plough stated that NACCHO had some comparative data between large metro areas that could be shared with the Board during the follow-up presentation.

Board Member Pageler suggested using the Phone Company and their existing capacity to spread mass messaging during a crisis.

Board Member Manning stated that in an emergency all too often communication was what broke down, so she would like more detail surrounding the communication aspect of the preparedness plan. She also suggested using ham radio operators to help get the word out in a crisis.

X. Subject Adjournment

Chair Edmonds adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

CAROLYN EDMONDS, CHAIR

DATE

