

Carolyn Edmonds, *Board of Health Chair*

**BOH Members:**

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

**BOH Staff:**

Maggie Moran

**KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**November 21, 2003  
King County Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** George Counts, Carolyn Edmonds, Ava Frisinger, David Irons, Kathy Lambert, Frankie Manning, Bud Nicola Richard Conlin, Dow Constantine, Jan Drago, Larry Gossett, Steve Hammond

**Members Absent:** Margaret Pageler, David Hutchinson

**Staff:** Alonzo Plough, Maggie Moran, Jane McKenzie, and Ngozi Oleru

**I. Subject Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:42 a.m. by Board Chair, Carolyn Edmonds.

**II. Subject Announcement of Alternates**

No Alternates.

**III. Subject Approval of October 17, 2003 Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 17, 2003.  
M/S/A.

**IV. Subject General Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**V. Subject Resolution on Bioterrorism and Biological Disaster**

[taken out of order]

Dr. Plough explained that the intent of the resolution was to control the spread of SARS and other emerging infections. Dr. Plough stated that the likelihood of SARS reemerging was high. Dr. Plough stated that health care facilities and health care systems needed to be prepared to quickly identify and control the transmission of outbreaks. He noted that health care facilities accounted for a large proportion of cases and deaths. Dr. Plough stated that the Department asked health care facilities to adopt a universal respiratory

etiquette strategy to minimize the transmission of contagious respiratory diseased.

Dr. Plough stated that there would be education about respiratory etiquette, such as the importance of hand washing and wearing surgical masks in waiting rooms when warranted; education about disease transmission, and the necessity to manage the fear associated with such messages. Dr. Plough explained that the Health Department would be working with area hospitals and clinics to develop protocols and identify circumstances under which said protocols would be implemented. Dr. Plough noted that the Centers for Disease Control had recently issued guidelines about respiratory etiquette.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 03301. The motion was seconded and the board members voted unanimously to adopt.

#### **VI. Subject Title 10 Solid Waste Handling**

Dr. Ngozi Oleru Director of Environmental Health provided a status report on the Department activities and Board briefings that lead up to the adoption of a new Title 10.

Chair Edmonds asked for Title 10 subcommittee members to refresh the Board's memory regarding the issues of the proposed regulation.

Board Member Conlin reported that after several committee meetings the committee was satisfied with the careful analysis undertaken by staff.

Board Member Irons agreed that staff had provided good information. He added that the process undertaken by the State had provided a good foundation for local implementation

Board Member Lambert inquired about the process to obtain permits from the Army Corps of Engineers. Board Member Lambert was unable to find the specific reference; therefore Department staff indicated they would follow up with Board Member Lambert at a later date.

Chair Edmonds opened the Public Hearing.

#### **Public Hearing - Title 10 Solid Waste Handling Regulations.**

*[Editor's note: Public Testimony was included verbatim.]*

**Bob Gillespie** *"Thank you, Madam Chairman. Good morning, board members. Bob Gillespie, I represent Rabanco companies. And I'll start by saying that we believe that we were accorded a great deal of input in the*

*process. In fact, I think the Staff had to nudge us a few times to get going to review the proposed regulations to make sure they got our comments in, we got our comments in, which we finally did. We have two issues in the whole process – one was the intermodal transfer facility exemption, and then of course the fee increases. Now we don't take fee increases lightly and those of you who serve on the Metropolitan King County Council know that because we've been battling this issue with the Regional Direct Rate. But we've taken a look and met with Staff and heard what their justification is for these fee increases, and we understand it. I mean, do we endorse it? No, we don't endorse it, but we're not, you know, vehemently opposed to it. We can see the reasons behind it, and this is one of those things that you just factor into the budget and either you account for it, as you know, if you have a business or been involved in one, you account for it in operating efficiencies or ultimately down the road you raise your prices. So that's the way we're going to deal with this, but I just want to reaffirm that Staff's been very good about approaching us on this one.*

*And the second issue is the intermodal transfer facility exemption, which I believe to be advice to the Prosecuting Attorney's office remains here. We support that and hope you'll act accordingly. Happy to answer any questions."*

Chair Edmonds invited Jerry Bartlett to address the Board.

**Jerry Bartlett** *"I'm Jerry Bartlett and I represent Cedar Grover Composting, 9010 East Marginal Way South, Seattle. We were involved with the process, with the State process with functional standards, and we are fully behind the implementation of these regulations by reference generally. We think that these regulations took a long time in the State process and we're very happy that the Public Health Department did not decide to rewrite these standards because we think that the implementation would have been probably additional years and additional comments. We participated in the State process for the last five years and are very encouraged that these were most of the issues that people had, and we think that these are good regulations and we are in favor of having them implemented as quickly as possible. In addition, we were involved with the stakeholder process as far as the additional fees. I think as the previous speaker indicated, it was kind of a shock at the increase, but after we sat down with staff and understood the reasoning behind that, particularly with composting facilities, historically have taken an awful lot of staff time to deal with issues, deal with permits, and we think that the capping of those fees is a very positive effort and we also think that those fees are reasonable based upon the amount of work that the staff has had to put in historically on composting issues. So we are, we understand the fee increases and we are in favor of those at this point in time and hope that composting facilities can be better players in the future and*

*hopefully have our fees reduced as future years will show that composting facilities have gained a lot of technology increases and we spent, you know, millions of dollars upgrading our facility. And we would believe that composting processes is not a guess, it's not a guesstimate anymore, and it's a pure science that has a good background. And we think that those fees may come down in the future based upon staff reallocation time, but at this point they are definitely the cost of essentially doing business in King County. Thank you."*

Chair Edmonds thanked Mr. Bartlett. There being no additional members of the public who wished to testify, Chair Edmonds closed the Public Hearing.

**Board Discussion:**

Board Member Conlin wanted to clarify that an administrative procedure would be in place to ensure reporting on waste types, quantities and origins, and also origin of income and waste materials for other composting facilities since this wasn't addressed in the proposed regulation.

Dr. Oleru stated that a letter had been sent to SPU to that effect

Board Member Lambert again raised the reference to the permit issued by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She stated her concern regarding assisting citizens with this process, as well as questioning what cost increases would be passed on to rate payers.

Dr. Oleru responded that the proposed regulations did not govern those permits.

Board Member Hammond asked for clarification regarding cost overrun fees. In particular the proviso for charging roughly a \$131. per hour cost overrun up to a cap of 50% of the fee.

Dr. Oleru clarified that the overrun fee was 50% of the hours of overrun.

Board Member Hammond stated that he had been assured that this would be a rare occurrence, and asked that the frequency of overrun charges be reported to the Board at a future point in time.

Dr. Oleru agreed to provide a report after six months or a year of data collection.

A motion was made to adopt Title 10 Solid Waste Handling Regulations. The motion was seconded.

Chair Edmonds called for a roll call vote. The results of the roll call were as follows:

Board Member Nicola. Aye.  
Board Member Conlin. Aye.  
Board Member Lambert. Aye.  
Board Member Constantine Aye.  
Board Member Hammond Aye.  
Board Member Gossett Aye.  
Board Member Irons Aye.  
Board Member Hutchinson [Absent]  
Board Member Frisinger Aye.  
Board Member Manning Aye.  
Board Member Pageler [Absent]  
Board Member Drago Aye.  
Chair Edmonds Aye.

The vote carried. Title 10 was adopted.

## ***VII. Subject Chairs Report***

Chair Edmonds reported that she would be authoring a regular column in the Washington Association County newsletter, the courthouse Journal. She stated that the column - "The Pump Handle" would provide her with an opportunity to spotlight emerging Public Health issues, such as the going effort to secure stable funding for Public Health.

Chair Edmonds also directed the Board to a letter she had written Peter Steinbrueck, President of the Seattle City Council regarding Public Health funding cuts. Chair Edmonds noted that subsequent conversations with her City and County colleagues had left her fairly optimistic about the status of public health funding in the next cycle.

Board Member Drago stated that the City's budget that was headed to the full Council included \$814,000 for restoration of community clinics funding as well as \$58,000 for the master home environmentalist. She stated that she hoped that the budget passed however she added that the City would need to revisit its' budget in light of the recent Supreme Court decision regarding streetlights. Board Member Drago stated that public health was the highest priority for the majority of Seattle City Council members. She stated that the Council wanted to ensure that health dollars stayed in health rather than being used to plug holes in the general budget.

Chair Edmonds reminded Board members of the December 2003 Washington Health Legislative conference scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>. Chair Edmonds commented that the annual conference provided good

information about emerging public health issues and provided an excellent opportunity to talk with State legislators.

Chair Edmonds introduced a short video of anti-tobacco advertising developed by the State Department of Health to help discourage teen smoking.

Chair Edmonds welcomed and introduced Tonya Block and Heather Pierce who were visiting from Cuyahoga County Health Department in Cleveland, Ohio. She invited the visitors to address the Board.

**Tonya Block:** *"Well, we started out doing our first strategic planning process this year. Cuyahoga County has about 875,000 residents and our primary activities have traditionally been those mandated programs. Over the last 10 years or so we moved into community health and more school-based programming. But Heather actually came across your Website and we were so impressed we started running around the place saying, "Look at all these great things they're doing, we have to go there and check that out." These guys were certainly leading the way in a lot of areas. So primarily what we wanted to focus on was your organizational structure, various program areas outside of those traditional programs, your operations, and I was particularly interested in the Public Health Improvement Plan. So we're hoping that everything that we've learned here will help us with our strategic planning process and help us to expand the services that we offer to our residents. Actually every meeting that we went to yesterday ran over and Stacey, who was helping us keep our schedule moving, had to come in all the time and say, "Okay, you guys are out of time, you have to stop," because we just could not get enough information. And so I think that we probably would have done well to stay here a week, but we really appreciate all the help, everyone's been wonderful."*

#### **VIII. Subject Board Member's Updates**

Board Member Lambert shared a sentence from a newspaper article that she had found interesting. The sentence stated "The Medical Examiner investigated more accidental deaths, not counting traffic accident deaths, than in any other year since 1993. Out of 472 accidental deaths, 173 were from drugs and accidental poisoning. Drugs are what they suspected. The accidental poisoning they didn't suspect." She wondered what the Board of Health was doing to help citizens avoid accidental poisoning.

Chair Edmonds responded that this was a very good question and shared that she had encountered Mr. Yuk at a recent meeting in Lake Forest Park. She stated that she would like to invite Mr. Yuk to a Board meeting to discuss the Poison Control Center and his life long crusade to prevent accidental poisoning.

Dr. Plough stated that Public Health worked with Poison Control but wanted to point out that they used the Medical Examiner's Report every year as a road map to address preventable deaths. Dr. Plough stated that accidents were the number one cause of death in people 15 to 25 so he concurred that it would be good to get the Poison Control Center to speak to the Board.

**IX. Subject Director's Report**

Dr. Plough summarized the Department's involvement in the annual conference of the American Public Health Association. He stated that a summary of the papers presented would be shared with the Board at a future date.

Dr. Plough gave an example of a recent incident in Arlington, Virginia that spoke to the need for Public Health to remain vigilant. He stated that in Virginia a biological monitor had gone off in a post office and that air sampling had been undertaken. Prophylaxis was started although nothing definitive was ever found out. He stated that the December Board meeting would include a detailed briefing about Department planning, preparedness and response efforts related to natural disasters and biological and other threats.

Dr. Plough also brought up the Hepatitis A outbreak in Pennsylvania that stemmed from contaminated scallions in a Mexican restaurant. He stated that even though King County did a good job in the area of preventing food-borne outbreaks, he stated that there continued to be areas of vulnerability. He stated that the rapid spread of the outbreak as well as the fact that at least one death occurred from something as simple as a scallion reinforced the need to ensure food safety from farm field to the restaurant.

Dr. Plough reported no SARS, no West Nile virus, and no discoverable acts of terrorism in the Country.

Board Member Nicola inquired about the early influenza season.

Dr. Plough confirmed Washington state and the nation were experiencing early influenza which was not a good sign. Dr. Plough stated that the particular influenza bug was not included in this year's vaccine formula, however Public Health was still encouraging people to get a flu shot. He also reiterated that the vaccine was safe and did not cause the flu.

Board Member Counts asked Dr. Plough about the status of childhood immunization rates particularly pertussis. Previously discussed were the rise in the number of cases and the fall in immunization rates. He asked how the Department was proceeding?

Dr. Plough responded that there would be a presentation to the Board about childhood immunization tentatively scheduled for February 2004. Dr. Plough stated that the Department intended to address a number of questions and concerns raised by Board Member Counts in that briefing.

Board Member Lambert asked about the status of the TB outbreak in one of the high schools.

Dr. Plough replied that there has been a doubling of cases of TB cases in the homeless population and Public Health continued to investigate the cause for this. Dr. Plough stated that there had been two cases of TB in high schools in the county, but there haven't been any additional cases. Dr. Plough stated that tuberculosis was far more prevalent than they would have thought 10 or 15 years ago and was using quite a bit of Public Health's resources. He added that he was pleased to have emerging infections support money on the way because the Department was dealing with new things like SARS and old things like TB.

#### **X. Subject Mental Health Briefing**

Chair Edmonds introduced the panelists from the Mental Health and Health Care Coalition for Communities of Color:

- Dr. Charles Horne, Chair of the MHHC Coalition for Communities of Color and the CEO of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.
- Toni Russell, Executive Director of the African American Mental Health Professionals;
- Yoon Joon Han, Behavioral Health Program Director for the Asian Counseling and Referral Service;
- Constance Bown, business owner and member of the Coalition; and
- Estella Ortega, Director of Operations for El Centro de la Raza.

Dr. Horne introduced the panel presentation and indicated that the panelists would be covering issues addressed in the Surgeon General's Report on mental health. He also indicated that panelists would speak to the issue of cultural competencies in the Mental Health care work force, and provide some highlights from a report entitled "Bridging the Gap".

Dr. Horne stated that many people of color were dying on the vine from diabetes, heart attacks, and other kinds of diseases. He added that there were also a lot of mentally ill people who were incarcerated simply because professionals didn't know what else to do with them.

Ms. Toni Russell gave a brief overview of a report by Dr. David Satcher the former Surgeon General. Ms. Toni Russell stated that in the Surgeon



General's report Dr. Satcher stated that ethnic matching of therapists with Asian Pacific Islander clients, especially those, who were less acculturated, had increased their use of mental health services. Ms. Toni Russell further stated that people in the lowest strata of income, education, and occupation were about two to three times more likely than those in the highest strata to have a mental disorder. She noted that Native American youth and adults suffered a disproportionate burden of mental health problems and disorders. For example, the suicide rate was 50% higher for Native Americans than the average national rate.

Ms Toni Russell provided statistics from the 2001 Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity Report inserted below:

**Demographic Factors:**

- Poverty – 22% of African Americans and 27% of Mexican Americans live in poverty, compared to 13% for all Americans

**High Needs Populations:**

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – 33-60 % of Central America refugees, 70% of SE Asian refugees, 25% of African American youth, 22% of American Indians, compared to 8% in the general U.S. population.
- Asian Americans are heavily represented among refugees.
- African Americans make up about 40% of the homeless population.
- State and Federal Incarceration – 50% of all prisoners are African American.

**Need for Mental Health Care<sup>1</sup>**

- Among the American Indian community rates of depression range from 10-30%.
- Latino youth experience proportionately more anxiety-related and delinquency problem behaviors, depression, and drug use than do non-Hispanic white youth.
- Asian Pacific Islanders have higher levels of depressive symptoms than do non-Hispanic white Americans.
- Between 1980-1995, the suicide rate among African Americans ages 10-14 increased 233%, compared to 120% for non-Hispanic white Americans.

**Availability of Mental Health Services<sup>1</sup>**

- Language
  - 50% of Asian Pacific Islanders and 40% of Hispanics have limited English speaking abilities.
- Available Staff
  - Of all the registered psychiatrists, 2% identify themselves as African American, 1% as Hispanic American.

- There are 29 Hispanic Americans, 70 Asian Pacific Islanders, and 101 American Indian mental health professionals for every 100,000 in their respective community. For non-Hispanic white providers it is 173 per 100,000.

#### **Access to Mental Health Services<sup>1</sup>**

- Lack of Insurance -
  - Hispanic – 37%
  - African American – 25%
  - Asian Pacific Islander – 21%
  - American Indian – 24%
  - Non-Hispanic white – 16%

#### **Use of Mental Health Services<sup>1</sup>**

- Less than 1/6 of African Americans receive needed mental health care, compared to 1/3 of all Americans.
- Among Hispanic Americans with a mental disorder, fewer than 1 in 11 contact mental health specialists.
- Only 17% of Asian Pacific Islanders experiencing problems seek care.

Ms. Yoon Joon Han talked about how cultural issues contributed to the disparity in mental health care for persons of color. She went on to state that cultural competency was defined as a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes and policies that came together in a system, agency or among professionals that enabled them to work effectively in close cultural situation. Ms. Yoon Joon Han stated that vulnerable, high-need populations in which people of color were over represented were known to have a high-need for mental health care. However, they often did not receive adequate services. She discussed specific action steps for cultural competency and the provision of quality service.

Ms. Estella Ortega gave a brief overview of a report prepared by the Mental Health Coalition for the Governor titled “Bridging the Gap.” She outlined the major recommendations included in the report.

Ms. Constance Bowen discussed the need for future collaborations and partnerships as well as public policy and funding priorities.

Dr. Horne concluded the presentation by thanking the Board for their time and informed them that the Coalition would like to offer their services to the Board to help meet the goals of the County.

#### **Board Discussion:**

Board Member Drago commended the Coalition on their work. She shared that King County and Seattle Municipal Court had developed a drug court and mental health court. She also had noticed that a many social service programs were now co-located in such places as the City’s Justice Center

and Opportunity Place. She added that such co-location eliminated one of the largest barriers to accessing services.

Board Member Conlin stated that what impressed upon him the most about the Coalition's presentation was the need for a comprehensive approach that dealt with both systemic issues - ie how people are treated within the system, as well as the individual issues of people becoming culturally competent. He added that cultural competency was something the system needed to emphasize and needed to extend throughout the community.

Council Member Conlin extended an invitation to the Coalition to the Seattle City Council in early 2004 to provide the same presentation as well as provide details on what the City could do to address the issues raised by the Coalition.

Chair Edmonds closed by restating her commitment to mental health issues and communities of color. She stated that the Board could advocate with the Legislature for additional mental health funding and support the recommendations the Coalition made to the Governor.

Chair Edmonds shared that Council Member Phillips, the Budget Chair in his budget striker that was presented to the Council yesterday included \$20,000 for mental health and health care outreach.

**XI. Subject Adjournment**

Chair Edmonds adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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CAROLYN EDMONDS, CHAIR

DATE