

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
Frank T. Manning
Bud Nicola
Margaret Pageler
Alonzo Plough

BOH Staff:

Maggie Moran

**KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**September 19, 2003
City Council Chambers**

Members Present: Richard Conlin, Dow Constantine, Carolyn Edmonds, Ava Frisinger, Larry Gossett, David Hutchinson, David Irons, Kathy Lambert, Frankie Manning, Bud Nicola, Margaret Pageler

Members Absent: George Counts, Jan Drago, and Steve Hammond

Staff: Alonzo Plough, Maggie Moran, Craig Page, and Jane McKenzie

- I. Subject Call To Order**
The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Chair, Carolyn Edmonds
- II. Subject Announcement of Alternates**
No Alternates.
- III. Subject Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2003**
Chair Edmonds called for a review of the minutes. Dr. Nicola pointed out what appeared to be an error on page 9 under the subject matter - pertussis. Correction noted and amended.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of July 18th as amended. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.
- IV. Subject General Public Comments**
[Editor's Note: Public comments included as transcribed. There were technical difficulties with the audio equipment in the City Council Chamber which resulted in an incomplete transcription of the public comments.]

Bob Gillespie:

""Thank you, Madam Chair. This is real interesting. I can't say that I've been this far away _____. I actually have some good news to say so maybe _____ a little closer to the Board. Bob Gillespie, I represent Rabanco. I understand that you have a stakeholder process underway and we have received more than adequate information. And we're beginning the process now _____ that you _____. It's going to take a lot of time and I invite you to let the staff _____ to make sure that we make direct connect with all of you so _____. The one thing I do want to _____ in this issue _____ is the issue of intermodal transfer facilities which our State rules exhibit now _____. And I don't speak for the Board of Health staff, the Prosecuting Attorney's office, but I get the sense that that _____ carried through _____. There's adequate oversight of these facilities, _____ exhibit. But I'm mainly here to let you know that we are willing to be a more active part of this process and that we would like to hear from you _____ comments _____."

George Sidles:

"Good morning. I'm George Sidles with the Washington State Department of Ecology, _____ Manager for the _____ and Financial Assistance Program. And I'm here to provide support to the Board and to staff in their work on behalf of our partnership with local health departments' regulation of some of these activities. And we'll be here for the remainder of _____ and process _____ coming on. And I want to just take a moment today to introduce myself, Peter Christianson, also of _____, who's _____ presentation _____ rule of State law. And _____ disposal of that Board of Health and their _____. And I will leave a card for both Peter and I here for your staff and if there is anything that we can _____ to assist you by providing _____ your support, please don't hesitate to call on us."

V. Subject Chair's Report

Request for Letter of Support

Chair Edmonds requested that Dr. Plough speak to the request for a letter of support from the Board of Health. Dr. Plough stated that the letter of support was for a grant application to the Centers for Disease Control to fund a collaborative between the UW School of Public Health Community Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Plough stated that the grant opportunity was the first such opportunity to develop "Academic Public Health Departments". Dr. Plough stated that the requested \$100,000 would support the ongoing activities of the Department and the University and position both organizations for a much larger funding opportunity by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Chair Edmonds called for a motion to direct the Board Chair to write a letter of support for the Department's grant application to the CDC. The motion was made, seconded and adopted.

WSAC Legislative Steering Committee

Chair Edmonds recently attended the Washington State Association of Counties Legislative Steering Committee in Wenatchee. She stated that the Committee adopted the policy position for Public Health and added that there would be a subcommittee formed to investigate different options for public health funding.

ASTHO/NACCHO Annual Conference

Chair Edmonds attended the Joint Conference of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) and the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) in Phoenix, Arizona. She reported on one session she attended wherein the Medical Director for General Electric and the Chancellor from UC-Berkeley talked about their respective responses to the SARS outbreak. Chair Edmonds noted that the featured speakers' learned a number of lessons in their relative responses namely the importance of partnerships and not making decisions in isolation. Chair Edmonds invited Dr. Plough and Board Member Nicola to comment on their experiences at the conference.

Dr. Alonzo Plough stated that he and a number of other Department staff made presentations. Dr. Plough stated that he was appointed the Chair of the NACCHO Metro Forum - the forum for large metropolitan county health departments. He stated that the Forum had a private meeting with Julie Gerberding of the CDC to discuss funding issues between CDC and large metropolitan counties.

Board Member Nicola stated that he thought that the general tenor of the conference suggested health departments across the country were facing very challenging times due to SARS, West Nile, Monkey pox; all in the face of major budget cuts. He added that despite those challenges he found his colleagues to be pretty excited due to strong recognition that Public Health was of real value to people.

"New Steps to A Healthier Community" Grant Award

Chair Edmonds invited Dr. Plough to speak to a grant the Department received. Dr. Plough stated that he was proud that the Department was one of the recipients of the "New Steps to A Healthier U.S." Program. He stated that the grant award of \$1 million [first year funding of a 5-year grant] would fund cutting edge work in asthma, diabetes and obesity in areas that were highly impacted in King County. He stated that the participating communities were Renton, Highline, SeaTac, Burien, Tukwila, Des Moines, Normandy Park,

White Center and Boulevard Park which included a geographic area with about 250,000 residents. He stated that these communities were selected due to the health status data that showed a disproportionate number of risk factors and impacts, particularly in ethnic minority and low-income populations. Dr. Plough stated that the grant would fund community partners including the Lung Association, the Diabetes Association, community health clinics, churches, school districts and many other organizations. Dr. Plough stated that Washington State was the only state in the nation to receive both a large metro grant and a statewide grant.

VI. Subject Board Member Updates

Board Member Frisinger announced that the City of Issaquah would soon have its own walking map. She stated that the maps were an effort to get people out of their cars and to assume a healthier lifestyle.

VII. Subject Director's Report

- Department received a \$350,000 grant from the State Department of Ecology to help the Department improve customer service, efficiency and data systems that support the onsite septic program.
- No SARS cases in the USA. Report of a probable SARS case in Singapore suggests that SARS is here to stay. Higher probability of SARS re-emerging this fall making it difficult to differentiate SARS from influenza. Must remain vigilant about SARS.
- No cases of monkey pox.
- Tested hundreds of birds for West Nile; thus far no indication of the virus in King County. National map - small corner of the country that has yet to be affected including Washington State and Nevada.
- Bioterrorism planning and preparedness: a full briefing to the Board planned for November. Department will have the final numbers on the federal BT grant and Board will be briefed at that time on the entire program funded by the grant.
- Regarding Board questions as to the impact of state budget on Harborview Medical Center - serious and negative impacts on budget and the populations served by the Medical Center. Elimination of coverage for the medically indigent population, a stricter eligibility requirement for Medicaid beneficiaries and the reductions in enrollment and coverage for the basic health plan and adult dental, will result in reduced payments to Harborview. According to their estimations - \$23 million over the biennium. Some mitigation of disproportionate share dollars to hospitals that see a lot of charity and uncompensated care, however they will still see an \$8-\$10 million deficit reduction in payment for the biennium. Cuts will affect the working poor the hardest; compounded by a growing number of uninsured and underinsured people in Washington State.

In response to a question from Board Member Gossett about reason for the stated impacts, Dr. Scott Barnhart, Medical Director at Harborview addressed the Board.

Dr. Barnhart responded that the impacts would be on a number of fronts. He stated that the hospital was already running at 100% compared to area hospitals at a rate of 70%. He stated that 85% rate was considered efficient in the industry. He stated that they were seeing an increased number of the uninsured, a rate that has doubled since June. He stated that they were very active steps to look at ways they could run more efficiently. He added that the budget impacts represented a serious challenge to the entire community and that they would be reaching out not only to the Public Health Department, but also to other providers, hospitals, and clinics to assure that the communities needs were met.

VIII. Subject Food Service Advisory Committee Report

Dr. Ngozi Oleru, Chief of Environmental Health Division reported that the first Stakeholders Advisory Committee met following the Board meeting in July. She stated that two sub-committees were convened to look at two issues: 1- manager certification and self-inspection and 2- establishment of permanent categories. Both sub-committees had their initial meetings in August. A number of questions have arisen in discussions about the manager certification as a voluntary program such as:

- How would managers conduct a self-inspection?
- What kind of support would the Department provide?
- How would the manager certification program affect the number of visits and the corresponding fees?

Relative to the types of management training:

- What training programs would be used? I.e., existing programs?
- Would the County have its own program?
- What would be the relationship of self-inspection to what the Department already provided? [i.e. education visit vs. inspection visit]
- How long would a certification last?
- What about incentive programs?

Regarding the permit category: The subcommittee reviewed information such as: the FDA risk category chart and considered how that might affect local establishments; reviewed how other counties and states categories; as well as performance standards and requirements.

Dr. Oleru stated that the Subcommittees reported to the Advisory Committee in early September upon which the Advisory Committee approved their continued effort and work plan. Dr. Oleru stated that the goal would be for the subcommittees to complete their work in time to be folded into the State

process for revising the Food Code. She stated that the Committee would welcome Board members' involvement in the food code review process.

IX. Subject Briefing: Budget Overview

Ms. Kathy Uhlorn, Chief Financial Officer, provided a brief overview of the budget preparation process and timelines. She stated that the budget was transmitted to Seattle in early September and will be transmitted to the Executive in mid October. She stated that until such time that the budget was transmitted from the Executive to the Council she was not at liberty to describe details of the Department budget. She stated that the October briefing to the Board would include said detail for 2004.

Ms. Uhlorn noted several budgetary challenges for the Department including changes in labor and retirement costs. She also noted that at the beginning of the budget process the Department knew that it would be making the third and final year commitment on the agreement with the City of Seattle through their general fund support of critical services. She added that for 2004 meeting there would be no general fund increase for Public Health services until said agreement was complete.

Board Member Pageler stated that the Mayor had proposed last year that Seattle withdraw its subsidy for community clinics and the City Council countered by stating that they would restore most of the money, but not all. She added that that decision was provisionally based on a review as to how that money was allocated. Board Member Pageler stated that a study was conducted and that the Mayor eventually bought into the commitment to the community clinic program and understood that there needed to be some subsidy. Board Member Pageler stated that they had a proposal before the Council to adjust the allocations over a two or three year period. She stated that she thought the analysis was helpful to the Council, but more important, helpful to the people at the bottom of the rung that did not have any other way to get health care except through community clinics.

X. Subject Title 10 - Solid Waste Handling

Chair Edmonds announced, that due to the complexity of the issues related to amendments to Title 10, the Board would receive briefings about Title 10 over the next several months, followed by a public hearing and Board vote tentatively planned for November.

The highlights of Dr. Oleru's presentation were as follows:

- Title 10 is the section of the Code that governs solid waste handling, including collection, transportation, treatment, recycling and disposal.

The stakeholders or players in the system include those who regulate and the industries that are regulated. Regulators include the State Department of Ecology, local Boards of Health and local health departments. Industries regulated by Title 10 includes both government and private industry - Seattle Public Utilities, King County Solid Waste and other City and County agencies and companies, and the private sector - i.e., composters, transfer stations.

- Local Health Departments must comply with the State mandate to adopt stated regulations by February of 2004.
- Department also intends to address some housekeeping issues such as:
 - Adopt State regulations that the Department had followed but had not formally adopted them into the local Code. [Chapter 173304 and 173351]
 - Code Merger items to continue reconciliation process between Seattle Municipal Code and the Code of the King County Board of Health.
 - Address some unique sections in Title 10 that were not covered in the State WAC that the Department would like to either retain or repeal.
- Background: 1985 - State Adoption of Ch. 173-304 WAC, Minimum Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling; 1993 - State adoption of Ch. 173-351 WAC, Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; 2003 - State adoption of Ch. 173-350 WAC, Solid Waste Handling Standards.
- Review of lengthy State stakeholder process. Review of King County Stakeholder process which included: staff training, individual and group meetings, review and comparison of Title 10 vis a vis 173-350; identification of mandated services; calculated cost of service delivery; reviewed the current fee structure and schedule vis a vis state mandates.
- King County fee structure has not been reviewed since 1991.
- Major issues to be presented to the Board in October: Code Merger Items, Biomedical Waste, Landfilling, Intermodals, Waste Management, Waste Screening, Unlawful Dumping, Beneficial Use Determination. Categorically Exempt Facilities (Facilities Submitting Notification and/or Reports), Collection/Transportation Vehicles, and Fees.

Requested the appointment of a Board subcommittee. A Board subcommittee was named: Dr. Bud Nicola, David Irons, Ava Frisinger and Richard Conlin. The subcommittee is to report back to full Board in October.

XI. Subject Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

CAROLYN EDMONDS, CHAIR

DATE