

Carolyn Edmonds, *Board of Health Chair*

BOH Members:

Richard Conlin
George W. Counts
Jan Drago
Carolyn Edmonds
Ava Frisinger
Larry Gossett
Steve Hammond
David Hutchinson
David Irons
Kathy Lambert
Frankie T. Manning
Bud Nicola
Julia Patterson
Alonzo Plough
Tom Rasmussen

BOH Staff:

Wendy Roark

**King County Board of Health
Friday, June 11, 2004
King County Council Chambers
MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

Members Present: Carolyn Edmonds, George Counts, David Irons, Steve Hammond, Richard Conlin, David Hutchinson, Larry Gossett, Frankie Manning, Bud Nicola, and Kathy Lambert

Members Absent: Julia Patterson, Tom Rasmussen, Jan Drago, and Ava Frisinger

Staff: Alonzo Plough and Lisa Werlech

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

Chair Edmonds: No alternates present.

III. Subject Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 21, 2004. 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 informed the Board that the obesity forum is scheduled for September 15, 2004 at Shoreline Conference Center. This will be a morning half-day event involving school districts, food industry representatives, nutritionists, health care providers, and other stakeholders. Chair Edmonds encouraged Board members' active participation in this forum.

Chair Edmonds stated that on June 3, 2004, the State Court of Appeals lifted the emergency stay on the Pierce County smoking ban. Chair Edmonds expressed disappointment by this turn of events, but she stated that Pierce County continues to challenge the State law prohibiting smoking bans.

Chair Edmonds stated that there had been no State Board of Health meeting last month, so there are no updates.

VI. Subject Board Members' Updates

Board Member Conlin updated the Board regarding "Bike Summer," a statewide program intended to promote bicycling. The kick off event is sponsored by the City of Seattle and several bicycling organizations; the program's website, bikesummer.org, contains more information.

Board Member Conlin also informed the Board that the City Council is working on regulations regarding operating motorized scooters and hopes to have the ordinance passed by early next month. This ordinance will regulate where these vehicles can be ridden, as well as establish minimum age requirement for operators. Board Member Conlin also requested the Board of Health consider expanding the current helmet ordinance to include operators of these vehicles. Chair Edmonds responded that she and Dr. Plough have discussed putting this issue on a future Board of Health agenda.

VII. Subject Director's Report

Dr. Plough recounted a meeting in Chicago to debrief the Health Department's experiences at Topoff 2. Various emergency management representatives from Seattle, Chicago, London and Los Angeles discussed bioterrorism preparedness and the need for coordinated work in preparation of the Topoff 3 exercise in London. Dr. Plough informed the Board that this was an interesting and challenging forum due to the fact that our region is further along in coordination around bioterrorism than some of the other areas, particularly related to cooperation between police and fire.

Dr. Plough informed the Board that there have not been any outbreaks, issues, or CDC alerts on a local or national level.

VIII. Subject Rulemaking – Title 12 Public Water System Regulation & Title 13 On-site Sewage Regulations

Chair Edmonds informed the Board that this agenda item is deferred until next month. The subcommittee working on this issue has requested more time to evaluate the proposal.

IX. Subject Local Hazardous Waste

Dr. Plough informed the Board that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) involves jurisdictions throughout King County: suburban cities; Seattle-King County Public Health; King County Department of Natural Resources; Water & Land Resources; and City of Seattle Public Utilities. This program is a regional collaboration that operates under a mandate and fee structure established by the King County Board of Health.

Daryl Grigsby, Director of King County Water & Land Resources Division, explained that LHWMP is a regional partnership that works to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County by helping citizens, businesses, and government

reduce the threat posed by the use, shortage and disposal of hazardous materials. Partners include the 37 suburban cities within King County, the King County Water & Land Resources Division, Seattle and King County Public Health, Seattle Public Utilities, and King County Solid Waste. Program oversight is provided by a body called the Management Coordination Committee comprised of senior representatives from each of the partner agencies. Mr. Grigsby introduced members of the committee who were in attendance: Mr. Tim Croll from Seattle Public Utilities; Dr. Ngozi Oleru, Public Health – Seattle & King County; Mr. Jeff Gaisford, Solid Waste Division; Chair is the Mayor of Renton, Kathy Keolker-Wheeler, mayor of Renton and the LHWMP Committee Chair. Mr. Grigsby also introduced Mr. Ken Armstrong, who is the Program Administrator

Every year, King County businesses and residents produce 36,000 tons of toxic, corrosive, ignitable, and reactive hazardous waste; 25% of the hazardous waste produced comes from small businesses and households. LHWMP works with area residents and business owners to help them reduce use of hazardous products, use up products, recycle what is not used, and properly store and dispose of excess hazardous materials.

According to Jeff Neuner, King County residents may bring hazardous materials to the program's three fixed facilities (one facility is located in Factoria and the other two are in Seattle). The program also operates a mobile collection service, the Wastemobile, which operates in suburban cities and in unincorporated sections of the King County. Last year, the Wastemobile visited 32 locations typically operating three days a week for two weeks at each site. The program also helps suburban cities operate local collection events that target special wastes, such as used oil, antifreeze, auto batteries, etc. Another component of the program is the Re-use Store, which promotes re-using common household materials by diverting some of the materials collected and making them available to the public at no cost. The program also provides a pick-up service for homebound residents.

Board Member Lambert asked Mr. Neuner how the program prevents accidents to staff handling hazardous materials.

According to Mr. Neuner, program staff telephonically inform the public how to pack and segregate materials to minimize injurious exposures. Staff is well trained in hazards recognition and wear personal protective devices.

Lauren Cole, from King County Solid Waste, indicated the LHWMP goal is to reduce risk to human health and the environment by focusing on the proper storage and disposal of household toxic materials. Several strategies have been implemented including a Board of Health ban on mercury thermometers, designing a convenient fluorescent lamp recycling program, encouraging the use of safer cleaning products, and establishing a regional pesticide committee.

Dave Waddell, from King County Water & Land Resources, described services provided to regional schools by helping children and teachers reduce their use of hazardous materials, properly managing hazardous materials, and improving school safety. These efforts include a “hazards on the homefront” curriculum to educate students on the dangers of hazardous materials, as well as the use of safer products. Another aspect of the program’s work with schools is an effort to remove stockpiles of old, and potentially dangerous, laboratory chemicals. This project was called “rehab the lab” and had four major components: identify and remove old and unstable hazardous lab chemicals; assess all hazardous waste-related activities throughout the school; convince schools to adopt at least four practices that increase safety and reduce pollution; and assess school-wide hazardous material policies and practices.

Mike Kaufmann, from Public Health – Seattle & King County, discussed services LHWMP provides to King County businesses: operating a passive waste exchange called the Industrial Materials Exchange; offering financial incentives for properly managing hazardous waste, recognizing businesses publicly for adopting pollution prevention practices; and operating a business waste line for questions regarding hazardous waste. LHWMP coordinates and staffs the Interagency Regulatory Analysis Committee, which consists of representatives from local, state and federal government agencies who work to resolve regulatory conflicts and contradictions.

Ken Armstrong, LHWMP Administrator, outlined plans to improve and enhance the work of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, which includes a recently completed internal audit and strategic planning process. LHWMP intends to expand and adjust collection services to better meet the needs of partner cities, focusing outreach and assistance on under-served population groups, and targeting resources on regional priorities such as mercury, pesticides, and harsh cleaning products. LHWMP will continue to advocate for product stewardship programs. Through these efforts, manufacturers and retailers will assume greater responsibility for bearing costs associated with collecting, recycling, and disposing of the products that they make and sell. Mr. Armstrong stated that LHWMP will continue working closely with the Board and other legislative bodies to address issues through regulatory or legislative change.

X. Subject Secondhand Smoke in the Workplace

Roger Valdez, Program Manager, King County Tobacco Prevention Program, informed the Board that over 3,000 studies have shown a link between second hand smoke and disease. Second hand smoke is a health hazard and there is no safe level of exposure. Consequently, regulating smoking in public areas is warranted to ensure that employees are protected from the negative health effects. This approach has been taken by other jurisdictions in the state and in the country. Public Health – Seattle & King County’s mission is to “achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout King County by providing public health services which promote health and prevent disease.” In furtherance of this goal, the Tobacco Prevention Program assembled health science information supporting measures to reduce, and eventually eliminate, secondhand smoke exposure in the hospitality industry.

According to research conducted by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon, nicotine levels measured in ten Vancouver, British Columbia pubs demonstrated that non-smoking sections do not provide substantial reduction of risk.

A University of California study among hospitality workers indicated that the cancer rate among bartenders is greater than the cancer rate among other high risk occupations such as fire fighters, cooks, dry cleaners, and plumbers. One fourth of the study participants (23%) indicated that smoking was allowed in their immediate work areas and these participants were exposed to second hand smoke at work on average three hours per day. Three fourths of the study participants (74%) believed that second hand smoke was “very harmful.” Sixty-three percent of participants preferred working in a smoke-free environment, whereas, 22% had no opinion.

The demographics of 185 study participants exposed to second hand smoke revealed:

- 54% female;
- Mean age = 45;
- 65% were born outside the United States;
- 77% are non-white;
- 58% low English competency; 20% are smokers;
- Worked in the hospitality industry an average of 12 years.

According to the State of California *Employment Development Department Labor Force Statistics*, smoking bans did not negatively impact the number of individuals employed in eating and drinking establishments in California. In fact, taxable sales in eating and drinking establishments increased 30% in 7 years. Similarly, King County data suggests a potentially positive impact in attendance in bars after a ban. Between 1993 and 2002, the combined effects of increased city and state taxes on tobacco products, mandated smoke-free workplaces, and free nicotine patch programs contributed to a decline (over 100,000 fewer smokers) in smoking in New York City.

Mr. Valdez concluded his presentation by referring Board of Health members to the multiple resources enclosed in the materials distributed for today’s meeting and thanked the Board for it’s active interest in second hand smoke health issues.

XI. Subject Adjournment

Chair Edmonds adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

CAROLYN EDMONDS, CHAIR

DATE