

Julia Patterson, *Board of Health Chair*

BOH Members:

Sally Clark
Richard Conlin
George Counts
Reagan Dunn
Bob Ferguson
Ava Frisinger
Larry Gossett
David Hutchinson
Kathy Lambert
Frankie Manning
Bud Nicola
Tom Rasmussen
Pete von Reichbauer

Public Health Director:

Dorothy Teeter, Interim
Director & Health Officer

BOH Staff:

Kathleen Uhlorn

King County Board of Health
Friday, December 15, 2006
King County Council Chambers
MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Members Present: Bob Ferguson; Larry Gossett; Bud Nicola; Julia Patterson; Sally Clark; Richard Conlin; George Counts; Frankie Manning; Tom Rasmussen.

Members Absent: Reagan Dunn; Ava Frisinger; David Hutchinson; Kathy Lambert; Pete von Reichbauer.

Staff: Dorothy Teeter; Kathy Uhlorn; Jane McKenzie

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM by Board Chair Patterson.

2. Announcement of Alternates

There were no alternate Boardmembers present.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the October 20, 2006 and October 27, 2006 meetings were approved.

4. General Public Comments

Written comments from Mr. John Worthington were distributed to Boardmembers encouraging the Board to support a pilot program for legal distribution of medical marijuana. Mr. Worthington also testified in support of medicinal marijuana.

Ms. Kristen Wurz from the American Heart Association testified on the health risks of trans fats.

5. Chair's Report

Board Chair Patterson reported that she and Boardmember Ferguson requested the King County Council to direct an audit of Jail Health Services. The council voted unanimously to direct the audit. Chair Patterson also announced the new Director of Public Health - Dr. David Fleming. Additionally, Chair Patterson reminded everyone that in 2007 the Board meetings will be held on the third Thursday of every month, from 1:30-4:00 pm in the King County Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.

6. Boardmember Updates

Boardmember Manning reported on recent State Board of Health activities, including the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.

Boardmember Clark reported on a project called "Climbing the Living Wage Ladder," which is a documentary highlighting the factors necessary to acquire a living wage job.

Boardmember Counts gave a status report on the HIV/AIDS Subcommittee of the Board of Health.

Boardmember Conlin requested the data from the Op/Ed piece included in the Director's report regarding health impact assessment.

7. Director's Report

Dorothy Teeter, Interim Director, reported on the following:

- A report and strategies to address health disparities will be completed and presented to the Board in 2007.
- A meeting at Seattle's City Hall on December 13, 2006 to discuss health impact assessments and the "built environment."
- Public Health collaborated with the Postal Service during a recent emergency preparedness drill to evaluate delivery of emergency medicines through the mail.
- Washington slipped from 14th in 2005 to 15th in the United Health Foundation's 2006 State Health Rankings.

8. Administrator's Report

Kathy Uhlorn, Board Administrator, updated the Board on follow-up items from prior meetings, and recent forums for elected officials regarding public health funding.

9. Resolution on 4410 (Action Item)

Chair Patterson summarized the findings and recommendations of the 4410 Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing, and introduced Resolution #06-05.

Resolution #06-05 supports the findings and recommendations of the 4410 Joint Select Committee. The Joint Select Committee concluded that the public health system in the state of Washington is under-funded by more than \$600 million each biennium, that there are major gaps in the public health system. The Committee recommended that there should be a stable, dedicated funding source for the public health system, and that the state should provide an additional \$100 million for public health during the next biennium. Resolution #06-05 also urges the Washington legislature to: 1) provide the initial investment of \$100 million for public health, distributed according to a fair distribution formula; 2) identify and establish a stable, dedicated funding source; and 3) allow flexible use of funding.

Kathy Uhlorn, Board Administrator, read Resolution #06-05 and presented it to the Board for adoption.

Boardmember Rasmussen inquired why the Committee recommended an investment of \$100 million when the public health system is under-funded by more than \$600 million.

Chair Patterson responded that the Committee believed \$100 million was an amount that could be successfully achieved in the legislature. Chair Patterson stated that she would entertain suggestions to amend Resolution #06-05, to make it clear that the state legislature should address the entire under-funded amount.

Boardmember Manning and Boardmember Nicola supported a strong statement in Resolution #06-05 addressing the full need for the public health system.

Chair Patterson directed Carrie S. Cihak, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst, King County Council and Tom Bristow, Government Relations Consultant, King County Council, to develop potential language that might be added to Resolution #06-05.

Ms. Cihak presented two different options to be added to the “Be it Resolved” statement “Urges the Washington Legislature to identify and establish a stable, dedicated funding source for the public health system; and.” The options presented:

- “which meets the need for \$300 million annually, as identified by the 4410 Joint Select Committee; and”
- “which will meet within five years the need for \$300 million annually as identified by the 4410 Joint Select Committee; and”

Boardmember Rasmussen and Boardmember Clark supported the first option to amend the Resolution. The Boardmembers voted unanimously to amend the “Be it Resolved” statement to read: “Urges the Washington Legislature to identify and establish a stable, dedicated funding source for the public health system which meets the need for \$300 million annually, as identified by the 4410 Joint Select Committee; and”

The Board then voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #06-05.

10. Reappointment of the Health Professional Boardmembers (Action Item)

Chair Patterson introduced each of the current health professional Boardmembers and asked them to discuss their experience and goals for their next term on the Board of Health.

Boardmember Counts stated that his particular perspective has been helpful to the Board, that he remains passionate and committed, and that the last four years as a Boardmember provided him a clear picture of the difficulties in addressing public health needs.

Boardmember Manning stated that she learned a lot about public health in King County during her four years as a Boardmember. She also commented on how few people understand what public health is, and that she remains committed to increasing understanding of public health.

Boardmember Nicola stated that he was encouraged the Board had become more active in speaking out and improving the public’s health during his last four years as a Boardmember.

Motions were introduced to reappoint the current health professional Boardmembers—Ray M. Nicola, MD, MHSA, FACPM; George W. Counts, MD; and Frankie Manning, RN, MA—to the King County Board of Health for a term of two years. The Board voted unanimously to reappoint each of the current health professional Boardmembers.

11. King County Budget Update

Carrie S. Cihak, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst, King County Council, presented an update on the 2007 public health budget recently adopted by the County Council. Ms. Cihak summarized the issues the County Council identified for analysis during its review of the Executives Proposed 2007 budget, and the associated outcomes in the budget adopted by the Council. The issue areas identified by the Council were:

1. Public Health Funding Crisis
2. Reductions to Critical Public Health Services
3. Potential Public Health Center Closures
4. 4410 Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing
5. Children's Health Initiative

12. Health Code Merger Process (Action Item)

Carrie S. Cihak, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst, King County Council briefly reviewed proposed Rule and Regulation #06-02, and #06-03, which incorporate the relevant health codes from the Seattle Municipal Code into the King County Code of the Board of Health.

Proposed Rule and Regulation #06-02 repeals five of the remaining Seattle Health Code provisions because those provisions are now covered by other laws and are therefore obsolete. Proposed Rule and Regulation #06-03 identifies and transmits to the Seattle City Council all of the health provisions in the Seattle Municipal code that could be repealed by the Seattle City Council, because those provisions are now covered by other laws. Additionally, proposed Rule and Regulation #06-03 readopts the entire Board of Health Code.

An affirmative vote from the majority of Boardmembers, as well as a majority of Seattle City Councilmembers, was required to adopt the regulations. Boardmembers voted unanimously to adopt the proposed regulations.

13. Health Risks of Trans Fat and Potential Strategies for KC BOH

Kathy Uhlorn, Board Administrator, introduced the panel of experts on trans fat, and described trans fats and why they were created. Ms. Uhlorn stated that trans fat is formed when liquid oils go through a chemical process to make them more solid, and the increased shelf-life of trans fats are very desirable to the food industry.

Robert H. Knopp, MD - Director, UW Northwest Lipid Research Clinic; and Chief, Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology & Nutrition, Harborview Medical Center, briefed the Board on the health risks of trans fat. Dr. Knopp stated that trans fats raise LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol), lower HDL cholesterol (good cholesterol), and promote oxidative and inflammatory stress. Thus, trans fats increase the risk of heart disease. Dr. Knopp also provided examples of trans fat in fast food items throughout the world, noting that in Denmark (a county that has banned trans

fat) McDonald's and KFC food items contained almost no trans fat, whereas in the United States the abundance of fast food items containing trans fats is very high.

Donna Oberg, RD, MPH - Nutrition Consultant, Public Health - Seattle & King County, briefed the Board on trans fats in the food supply. She explained that the majority trans fat in Americans' diets come from cakes, cookies, pies, crackers, bread, margarine, and fried potatoes. Ms. Oberg emphasized the importance of looking at nutrition labels to see how large a serving size is, and how many grams of trans fat are in one serving size. Ms. Oberg highlighted the American Heart Association's recommendation of no more than two grams of trans fat per day for a person on a 2,000 Calorie per day diet.

Erin MacDougall, PhD - Manager, Healthy Eating and Active Living, Public Health - Seattle & King County briefed the Board on initiatives in other communities to decrease consumption of trans fat. Dr. MacDougall explained that, currently, many chain restaurants (Wendy's, KFC, Chili's, Arby's, Burger King, Taco Bell) are voluntarily starting to use frying oils without trans fat or serve trans fat-free products (Starbucks). Dr. MacDougall also reviewed the New York City Board of Health's recent health code amendment requiring restaurants to eliminate trans fats. Dr. MacDougall presented several options for Board of Health intervention, including a campaign to educate consumers, restaurants, and food suppliers, and examples of regulations.

Boardmember Clark requested information on how the NYC and Chicago limits on fast food chains might also affect Seattle.

Boardmember Rasmussen requested that the Restaurant Industry also present at the next meeting.

Chair Patterson requested that the Director begin work on an educational campaign/public service announcement.

Chair Patterson requested that the PAO work with the Board on powers and legalities regarding trans fat.

14. Adjournment

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

JULIA PATTERSON, CHAIR

DATE