

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, March 17, 2006
King County Council Chambers
MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Members Present: Sally Clark; George Counts; Reagan Dunn; Bob Ferguson; Ava Frisinger; Larry Gossett; David Hutchinson; Frankie Manning; Kathy Lambert; Bud Nicola; Tom Rasmussen; Julia Patterson

Members Absent: Richard Conlin; Pete von Reichbauer

Staff: Dorothy Teeter, Kathy Uhlorn, and Jane McKenzie

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 AM by Chair Patterson.

2. Announcement of Alternates

No alternates were present.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the February 2006 meeting were approved.

4. General Public Comments

None

5. Chair's Report

The Board designated Board members Larry Gossett, Dave Hutchinson, Richard Conlin, and Dr. George Counts as Board Vice Chairs.

Chair Patterson reported the following to the Board:

- A Board retreat has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 19th, 2006, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the 40th floor of the Key Tower, downtown Seattle. The Board will discuss:
 - The Public Health Operational Master Plan policy framework
 - Restructuring the Board
 - Updating the Board of Health Code and instituting a process to keep it updated

- Public Health Week is going to occur during the first week of April. This year's focus will be walking and healthy lifestyles. Daily walks will be scheduled each weekday, a different path each day. Chair Patterson asked that the times and locations of assembly for these walks be provided to Board members.
- The Public Health Operational Master Plan (PHOMP) Steering Committee is going to meet to review white papers that Milne & Associates, the PHOMP consultants, have prepared regarding:
 - The roles and the definition of health departments in major metropolitan areas
 - The policy environment that impacts the way the Department operates
 - Stakeholder Report
- Chair Patterson asked that Board members receive a synopsis of each Steering Committee meeting.

6. Board Member Updates

Board Member Gossett updated the Board on the town hall meeting on February 27th at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME). The meeting included a panel discussion around factors contributing to health disparities and was attended by over 200 community members. The panel included Dr. Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer, Washington State Department of Health; Dr. James Krieger, Chief, Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit, Public Health – Seattle & King County; Dr. Clarence Spigner, Associate Professor, University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine; and Ralph Forquera, Executive Director, Seattle Indian Health Board. The panel was moderated by Dr. Carey Jackson, Medical Director, Refugee Clinic, Harborview Medical Center.

Board member Counts reported that he and Board member Nicola attended the Department's Environmental Health Services Division Annual Conference on March 15th. The conference, entitled "Preparing Our Future in Environmental Public Health," addressed, among other topics, staff career enhancement and emerging technologies in environmental public health.

Board member Rasmussen provided an update on the City of Seattle's Healthy Communities Initiative Policy Guide. In March 2006 the Seattle City Council approved a resolution adopting the Healthy Communities Initiative Policy Guide and goals for public health investments, with an overall objective that the people of Seattle be the healthiest of any major city in the nation.

Board member Manning updated the Board on a partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Veterans' Administration (VA). The VA and DHHS have created community partnerships in Boston and Seattle. May 13, 2006 has been selected as the kickoff date for the effort in Seattle, to coincide with the Columbia City Walk. Board members are encouraged to attend. Attendees will be joined by the Secretary of the VA, the Secretary of DHHS and possibly the U.S. Surgeon General. Chair Patterson asked that staff make sure all Board members are made aware of the date of this event.

7. Director's Report

Ms. Teeter reported the following:

- February 28th the Department held a press conference about pandemic flu planning and collaboration with its health care system partners. There will be a full meeting of this group on March 22nd.

- Enforcement of Initiative 901, the anti-smoking initiative, continues to go very well. Smoking is now prohibited in bus shelters and so far there have been no complaints related to enforcement. The Department is continuing with its educational and supportive approach for those having difficulty with meeting the Initiative's requirements.
- The Department's Environmental Health Services Division Annual Conference took place on March 15th. Ms. Teeter wanted to acknowledge attendance at the conference by Board members Counts and Nicola.
- February 17th the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 10, Office of Women's Health, hosted a forum called "The Plight of the Older Black Woman." This forum focused on issues faced by isolated and elderly African-Americans. This forum was a collaborative effort with the University of Washington School Of Social Work, Catholic Community Services, the Alzheimer's Association, and was initiated by the Mayor's Council on African American Elder and Catholic Community Services African American Elders Programs.
- March 16th the Department and Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center issued a press release warning of risks posed by Magnetix toys. If children swallow multiple toys/magnets, the magnets can stick together and pinch a child's intestines. This has been the cause of death of one child and has caused serious injury to another.

Ms. Teeter introduced Mr. Lorenzo Hines, the Department's newly hired Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Teeter and Chair Patterson said that they would discuss the best mechanism for reporting jail deaths in the County. Board member Rasmussen indicated that he is interested in the circumstances surrounding deaths in the jail because he wants to ensure appropriate measures are being taken for the health of those in custody. Board member Clark added that reports to the Board should include the inmate's condition at time of arrival, the services that were in place and those that would optimally have been in place in evaluating the quality of jail health services.

8. Administrator's Report

Ms. Uhlorn noted that the new food pyramid information, requested by Board member Lambert at February's meeting, was in today's meeting materials. Also included were samples of the food pyramid in different languages (a sample of materials used by the REACH Program to assist clients in managing their diabetes).

9. Public Health Operational Master Plan (PHOMP) Update

Toni Rezab, PHOMP Project Manager, King County Office of Management and Budget; Carrie S. Cihak, Council Staff, King County Council; and Kathy Uhlorn, Board Administrator, Public Health – Seattle & King County presented an update to the Board.

Ms. Rezab pointed out that the PHOMP website was up and running and will continue to be updated. (The website address is <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/publichealthmasterplan>).

Ms. Cihak discussed the three categories (for purposes of the PHOMP) of public health services:

- Population-based services (services that protect the health of the entire community, like restaurant inspections and pandemic influenza planning).

- Targeted services (services that promote/protect the health of specific groups, like children with asthma or maternal and child health programs).
- Individual health services (individual health care, i.e. when you go to see your doctor) to people on a sliding scale.

The Board and the King County Council have chosen to undertake the PHOMP in order to ensure continued public health services in an environment of decreased funding. The project includes two phases:

- Phase I—the King County Board of Health and the King County Council will adopt broad policy framework for the delivery of public health services; this will likely be presented in July 2006 to both bodies; adoption of this framework completes Phase I.
- Phase II—services will be evaluated in order to ensure services are delivered in a manner consistent with the policy framework developed in Phase I.

Ms. Rezab recapped the PHOMP process completed thus far:

- In the 2005 budget, the King County Council included a proviso for the Public Health Operational Master Plan.
- In spring of 2005, both the Board of Health and the County Council adopted a Public Health Operational Master Plan Work Plan, which outlines the project's scope, timeline, structure, budget, and selection criteria for an independent public health expert consulting firm to assist with the development of the PHOMP.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP), based on the adopted Work Plan, was developed resulting in four proposals. Milne & Associates was chosen as the PHOMP consultant.
- In winter of 2005, Milne & Associates began its work on the PHOMP.

The PHOMP RFP required:

- A review of public health practice in other jurisdictions.
- A review of the Department's practices.
- Input from community partners and stakeholders.

As a part of this review the consultants are preparing four white papers addressing:

- The purpose and role of a Public Health authority in a major metropolitan region.
- The policy environment (i.e. the mandates and needs) within which King County currently operates.
- The health environment paper, looking at previous models and future predictions of public health practice.
- The funding streams for public health services.

The white papers will be presented to the PHOMP Steering Committee. Once the committee has accepted the white papers, they will be presented to the Board of Health and King County Council for feedback and review. Once this is completed, a draft framework will be developed by May or June to guide public health service delivery. After the Steering Committee adopts this framework, it will be transmitted by the Executive to both the Board of Health and the King County Council for consideration, review, and adoption.

Ms. Uhlorn detailed the review process undertaken by the PHOMP consultants. The consultants were charged with establishing a comparison of Major Metropolitan Health Departments (MMHDs) serving regions of similar size and complexity to King County. The consultants initially selected 15 MMHDs, which the PHOMP Steering Committee narrowed to five – Miami-Dade, Florida; Nassau, New York; Davidson County, Tennessee; Alameda, California; and Columbus, Ohio.

Board member Rasmussen asked if immigrant population percentages were a factor in the selection of the five (5) MMHDs. Ms. Cihak replied this was a significant consideration by the Steering Committee and the consultants.

Chair Patterson suggested that the consultants research the immigrant population percentage in each of the MMHDs and report back, in response to Board member concerns. In addition, a request was made for projections on the growth of this group over the next few years.

Board member Gossett asked whether the consultant team was ethnically or culturally diverse. Ms. Rezab replied that she would find out and report back to the Board.

Ms. Uhlorn continued with the next steps that the consultants took—gathering information about the Department; obtaining stakeholder input and participation from various groups (including Board of Health members, elected officials, selected County and City department heads, Department employees, public health/health care experts, and community partners/clients). Overall the consultants interviewed over 200 stakeholders in 33 different meetings.

Board Member Hutchinson asked whether the Organization of Suburban Cities was involved in this process. Ms. Rezab replied in the affirmative and that representatives from some cities attended stakeholder meetings. Board member Hutchinson requested a list of the participating cities and suggested that the consultants involve the Organization of Suburban Cities in the process (rather than inviting the cities independently).

Board member Clark asked about the breadth of the service providers who attended the stakeholder meetings. Ms. Rezab replied that a number of small organizations were able to attend the meetings and provide input. Board member Clark asked whether translation services were requested/provided at any of these meetings. Ms. Rezab replied that translation services were not requested; Board member Clark was concerned that the lack of requests indicated that outreach/education for this process may not have been broad enough.

Ms. Rezab said that this concern could be addressed in Phase II of the PHOMP process.

Board member Rasmussen and Board member Hutchinson asked about the role the PHOMP would play in guiding mental health service delivery.

10. Board Work Plan for 2006

Chair Patterson began the discussion around the proposed Board Work Plan:

- Board member Nicola asked that presentations on the built environment and the Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute Project (and their work in researching children's health and the environment) be added to the work plan.

- Board member Rasmussen asked that the definition of goals and strategies for reducing HIV infection in King County be added to the work plan.
- Board member Hutchinson asked that an evaluation of mental health services be added to the work plan.
- Board member Rasmussen suggested that the plan be expanded to cover two years.
- Board Member Manning asked that the Board hold public forum meetings to engage the community as a part of the process.
- Board member Manning suggested the Board hold a public forum encouraging participation by youth in the community.
- Board member Manning suggested that the Board hold public forums during the evening, two to three times a year in order to engage the public as much as possible.
- Board member Nicola asked that the Department develop an on-going forum for obtaining public input and how the Board can best participate in such a process.
- Board member Clark suggested that the plan include environmental justice as a topic the Board should address.

Chair Patterson added that the Board of Health is meeting in alternate locations around the County (April in Lake Forest Park; May in Kent; June in Issaquah). The Board will prioritize topics at the retreat, planned for July. Chair Patterson asked that staff bring a two-year work plan to the Board next month, incorporating all the suggestions made.

11. Briefing: Health Disparities

Ms. Uhlorn introduced the panel of presenters: Mike Smyser, Epidemiologist, Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit; Dr. Charissa Fontinos, M.D., Medical Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County; Devon Love, Health Educator, Center for MultiCultural Health; and Dr. James Krieger, Chief, Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit.

Mr. Smyser noted some of the factors that contribute to health disparities and advocated for the development/implementation of more through data categories in the Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS) in State hospitals. Improved tracking would provide better statistical information to plan for the health care of the area's diverse patient population.

Chair Patterson asked Board member Clark to work with staff to develop language for inclusion in a letter to Secretary Selecky (State Department of Health) in support of Mr. Smyser's request. Once finalized, Board members would be able to sign the letter in support of this effort.

Dr. Fotinos discussed the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards, 14 standards that support a consistent approach to cultural and linguistic competence in health care. These standards were developed in 1997 by the Office of Minority Health (which has since been renamed the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities).

Ms. Love appeared on behalf of Cheza Garvin, REACH Principal Investigator, Public Health – Seattle & King County. Ms. Love described the services provided by the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Program. The REACH Program's efforts are focused on eliminating health disparities for diabetes patients in Seattle. REACH conducts outreach through agencies located in the Central District (the Center for MultiCultural Health),

International District (International Community Health Services), and South Park (Sea Mar Community Health Centers) areas of South Seattle. REACH works through multiple community agencies to deliver services focused in three specific communities of color in the area – African-Americans, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islander Americans, and the Latino/Hispanic population.

Dr. Krieger presented some of the work of the King County Asthma Forum and STEPS to a Healthier U.S.

Chair Patterson asked whether the Board wanted to direct the PHOMP consultants to take health disparities into consideration while completing their research.

Board member Manning said that health care disparities must be a consideration in the PHOMP.

Board member Counts agreed and added that the Board should provide clear direction to the consultants as to which factors contributing to health disparities that should be addressed in the PHOMP.

Ms. Cihak noted the Board will have an opportunity to define the mission and goals of the County's public health services and Department's roles and responsibilities in the policy framework presently being developed. In this policy framework, the Board can include a goal of reducing/eliminating health disparities. Once this policy framework is in place and Phase II (of the PHOMP) begins, implementation of services will be addressed. In Phase II, the Board will adopt very specific goals and develop a direct plan to address health disparities if it so chooses.

Board member Clark said that it would be difficult to go forward without having health disparities on the agenda from the very earliest point.

Board member Nicola added that he would be surprised if health disparities was not a major theme of the PHOMP.

Chair Patterson concluded with the observation that, based on Board input, one of the goals in the PHOMP is to eliminate health disparities.

12. Adjournment

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 12:13 PM.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

JULIA PATTERSON, CHAIR

DATE