

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**

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

### **Roll call**

- George Counts
- Carolyn Edmonds
- Ava Frisinger
- Larry Gossett
- David Hutchinson
- Kathy Lambert
- Frankie Manning
- Bud Nicola
- Margaret Pageler

### **Members absent:**

- Richard Conlin
- Dow Constantine
- Jan Drago
- David Irons
- Kent Pullen

### **Staff present:**

- Alonzo Plough
- Maggie Moran
- Craig Page
- Jane McKenzie

### **Call to order**

Chair Edmonds called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

### **Announcement of Alternates**

No alternates in attendance.

## **Approval of January 24, 2003 Minutes**

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 24th. The motion passed.

## **General Public Comments**

No general public comments.

## **Chair's Report**

Chair Edmonds reported on her visit to Washington, DC with other members of the Metropolitan King County Council. Chair Edmonds reported that she had conveyed the following messages to the Congressional delegation:

1. The County needed assistance with the unfunded mandate related to Homeland Security and Homeland Defense, and particularly related to the federal mandate related to smallpox vaccination planning and implementation.
2. Without forthcoming federal assistance, many local health jurisdictions would be forced to reduce services in core program areas.
3. When defining first responders as part of the Homeland Security effort, it was absolutely paramount that Public Health be considered a first responder.

Chair Edmonds noted that the Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn from the 8th District was appointed Vice Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Homeland Security. She added that Congressman Dicks would also be serving on that Committee.

Board Member Lambert concurred with Chair Edmonds' report and stated that she felt the meetings in DC were very productive. She added that it would be advantageous to periodically remind the federal delegation about issues of interest to King County and specifically the Board of Health.

Chair Carolyn Edmonds reported out on her meeting with Representative Eileen Cody, Chair of the House Health Care Committee. Chair Edmonds stated that she was very confident of Representative Cody's support for public health funding.

Chair Edmonds reported out on her meeting with University of Washington Students enrolled in a policy class on the Bothell Campus. She stated the focus of her presentation was on public health funding.

Chair Edmonds stated that the State Board of Health had not met in February and therefore she did not have a report on their activities.

## **Director's Report**

### **Bioterrorism Planning and Preparedness Update**

Dr. Plough reported that the smallpox vaccination program was underway statewide. He stated that a small number of Public Health professionals from around the State had received the vaccination. Dr. Plough stated that those public health professionals who had already received the vaccination would then staff the smallpox vaccination clinics in

communities across the state in order to vaccinate other Public Health response workers and hospital response teams.

Dr. Plough noted that the national dialogue had centered on the need to move forward to vaccinate ten million additional workers. He stated that there was general consensus amongst local public health professionals that attention should be directed to post-exposure planning and capacity building.

Dr. Plough stated that the Department would soon be implementing the King County based vaccination program of hospital first responders. He stated that the Department was still awaiting clarification related to the compensation issues that were before the U.S. Congress, and that the outcome of those discussions would be very important in order to secure hospital cooperation. Additionally, Dr. Plough stated that the Department also awaited word from Congress on the issue of compensation to local Public Health Departments for the unfunded work that has been done related to smallpox planning and preparedness. Dr. Plough stated that the Department presented data on the costs associated with smallpox vaccination. He noted that the Department had incurred a cost of about \$177 per vaccinated person. This amount included planning and screening costs in addition to the actual vaccination. He noted that that figure was quite different than the \$12 to \$14 estimated by the CDC.

Board Member Lambert inquired about the anticipated number of people expected to develop smallpox as a result of the vaccination.

Dr. Plough responded that there was no chance of developing smallpox, because the vaccine was similar to the virus but not the same. He stated that the complications are related to the vaccinia, which is the particular agent used. He stated that the national figures on complication rates suggest that two to three out of one million persons vaccinated would have some kind of serious complications, which were generally defined as, generalized vaccinia - a spread from the inoculation site throughout the body - or some neurological complications. He added that approximately one in three would experience some pain and discomfort. Dr. Plough stated that they were very concerned about the spread of contact from the vaccine site to other individuals. He added that that was why they had invested so much in the preliminary screening and training. He described specific situations that represented contraindications for vaccination, such as a child under the age of two in the household or employment wherein the individual would have contact with individuals that were contraindicated for smallpox vaccination.

### **School Inspection Fees/Report on Stakeholder meetings**

Chair Edmonds noted that at a previous meeting, the Board had deferred action on school inspection fees due to concerns on the part of the school districts and had directed the Department to go back and work with the stakeholders on the fee package. She stated that the Department has completed that assignment and would be reporting out on their findings. Chair Edmonds pointed out that the issue of school inspection fees was listed as an action item and required a majority of the City of Seattle members to be present. She added that in the absence of adequate representation from the City of Seattle, the Board might need to defer action yet again. She invited staff to deliver their report and indicated she would hold the public hearing as planned.

Phil Holmes, Assistant Director of Environmental Health, recapped the previous briefing of the Board. He stated that at the November Board of Health meeting the Board adopted fee changes for food service establishments, meat shops, waste water permits and water

recreation facility permits, and deferred action on fees for school plan reviews and school inspections because of testimony provided by school representatives. He added that the school districts' concerns stemmed from perceived areas of duplication of services. As directed by the Board, the Department assembled stakeholders representing school districts in King County, school administrators, risk managers and risk manager pools, and building departments as well as representatives from Public Health. Mr. Holmes directed the Board to their Board packets that contained a summary of stakeholder meetings. Mr. Holmes directed the Board's attention to one document that described common goals and outcomes for the plan review process and the inspection of schools, and areas of duplication or areas where school risk managers were capable of providing a summary report to the Health Department, thereby reducing the Health Department's role and corresponding costs associated with the service. Mr. Holmes also indicated that the Board packets contained information about the relevant legal mandates for Public Health in review of school plans, and descriptions of other agencies that could satisfy those legal requirements.

Mr. Holmes stated that the outcome of the stakeholder meetings was to focus on the minimum requirements Public Health would need to perform in order to comply with the regulations and satisfy that the health and safety of the school students, workers and visitors in the schools were maintained. Mr. Holmes stated that the agreement with the school stakeholders would result in approximately \$300 to \$400 savings per plan per school that would then be submitted to the Health Department for review. Mr. Holmes also added that the stakeholder meetings were anticipated to continue as a partnership between King County Public Health and the schools in King County. He added that those ongoing discussions could then lend a common voice to the State Department of Health and the State Board of Health in their pending deliberations related to the revision of the State regulations.

Board Member Lambert challenged and asked questions related to the required 3-foot parameter on the outside wall within classrooms. [See page 2, Subsection 5, Occupied Zone State regulation]

Ms. Eileen Hennessey, Environmental Health staff, responded that the referenced perimeters allowed for the movement of air.

Board Member Lambert asked if that meant that no desks were to be placed within that three-foot perimeter to which Ms. Hennessey responded that that was the intent.

Board Member Lambert responded that in some classrooms, due to student enrollment, it proved impossible to maintain that perimeter free of desks. She also stated her concerns about traffic vehicle patterns as referenced on page 2, second line down under Building Department. She noted that a comment regarding an agreement not to review had been inserted. She expressed concern regarding this decision.

Ms. Hennessey responded that in regards to traffic vehicle patterns, that item would continue to be reviewed by the Building Department. She added that their decision not to review meant that the Health Department would not review it, unless specifically requested by the school district or OSPI, so as to avoid duplication.

Board Member Lambert indicated that she was concerned about the noise generated by heating and ventilation equipment and the lighting and sun levels in classrooms and had noted that the Department had "agreed to review in principal."

Ms. Hennessey stated that the Department had reviewed what Public Health was mandated to inspect and review. She stated that the Building Department as part of the plan review reviewed mechanical issues and that there were prior agreements that the Building Department would review those items. Insofar as noise, she stated that a lot of the noise level complaints would be addressed in the "periodic inspection programs" rather than in the "plan review". She added that the stakeholder group would be revisiting the issue of noise levels in the coming year.

Chair Edmonds acknowledged Board Member Nicola:

Board Member Nicola inquired about the proposed state regulatory review and how broad the review would be.

Mr. Holmes responded that it would be the Department's intent to work with school representatives in King County to have a common voice when King County was asked to participate in the State regulatory review process.

Board Member Nicola asked for clarification regarding the information contained in the Board packet related to assignment of responsibility.

Ms. Hennessey responded that related to pedestrian traffic patterns of children, that those issues were being addressed under a guidance document that was jointly prepared by Office of Superintendents of Schools, and the State Department of Health. She added that the traffic patterns and the car-bus flows from the street to the school were being addressed by the Building Department. She added that the Department's regular inspection programs did the periodic inspections and would address this too if the Department received concurrence from the stakeholders. She stated that the school risk managers also reviewed that area and it had been agreed that they would continue to review it.

Chair Edmonds concluded the Board discussion and opened the public hearing.

## **Public Hearing**

### **Denise Stifarm:**

925 - 4th Avenue, Seattle. I'm here today on behalf of the King County School Coalition and we wanted to thank both the Board of Health and the Health Department staff for working collaboratively through these issues and recognizing that there were redundancies that should be addressed. As the staff has reported, we met with them twice and we have a continuing commitment to continue meeting with the relevant members to continue discussing these issues. One thing I just wanted to point out on the chart is every item that is listed here is reviewed at some point in the process by either the Building Department, the Health Department, the school district risk manager, and also the insurer of the school districts who have a very sophisticated method of review because they are the entity that is ultimately responsible. And I think that in our discussions we were able to identify efficiencies and ways to just streamline the process and to better inform both sides of the issues. So just wanted to thank the staff for that and thank the Health Department for recognizing that.

Chair Carolyn Edmonds deferred action on the school inspection fees until March due to a lack of a Seattle special majority. She indicated that she would hold the public comment period open until the March meeting in the event those public members wished to testify.

### **Introduction of new Health Professional Members:**

Chair Edmonds announced that she wanted to divert from the agenda in order to introduce the new health professional members. A round of introductions ensued.

### **Briefing on proposed Mercury Fever Thermometer Sales Ban**

Dr. Plough stated that a panel had been convened to brief the Board on an important effort undertaken by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program and the Washington Toxic Coalition to reduce mercury in the environment. Dr. Plough introduced the panelists who included Ken Armstrong, Program Administrator for Local Hazardous Waste, Dr. Steven Gilbert, Director of the Institute for Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders and Brandie Smith, from the Washington State Toxics Coalition.

Mr. Armstrong introduced himself and stated that he was before the Board to request Board action to ban the future sale of mercury fever thermometers in King County. Mr. Armstrong provided background on the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, a regional partnership of local governments that manage hazardous waste generated by households and businesses, government and non-profits. He stated that the program's partners included the City of Seattle Public Utilities, King County Solid Waste Division, Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, King County Water and Land Resources Divisions and the Suburban Cities in King County.

Mr. Armstrong stated that efforts to reduce the amount of mercury that entered the environment and the subsequent impact that it had on human health were a focus of government agencies at all levels - federal, state and local. He added that of special concern was the increasing level of mercury found in fish and more importantly in women of childbearing age.

Mr. Armstrong stated that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program staff conducted research into the sources of mercury in King County. He added that they had also developed estimates regarding the potential amount of mercury that was released each year from consumer products and materials. He said that their findings and recommendations were contained in a "Mercury in King County" report published in November 2002. Mr. Armstrong stated that one of the common sources of mercury in King County was mercury fever thermometers which when broken posed a direct threat to human health and could harm the environment if not disposed of properly. A conservative estimate based on surveys conducted by program staff indicated that there were more than 300,000 mercury fever thermometers, or about 336 pounds of mercury in King County. Other estimates indicated that there might be as much as 780 pounds of mercury in King County from mercury fever thermometers. When those thermometers broke, people could inhale mercury vapor and/or absorb mercury through their skin. Poison control centers around the nation reported that there were about 15,000 calls relating to broken thermometers each year - an indication of the extent of the problem.

Mr. Armstrong stated that although a ban on future sale of mercury thermometers would not address the problems associated with thermometers already owned and in use, it would have an immediate and positive affect on human health by halting the introduction of new mercury in this form into the region. He added that a sales ban would also compliment and support efforts by the program to take mercury fever thermometers out of circulation. He cited the example of the mercury thermometer exchange program that was initiated in early February that to date had collected more than 12,000 mercury fever thermometers.

Mr. Armstrong stated that a sales ban on mercury fever thermometers in King County would not negatively impact consumers or the public, as there were non-mercury alternatives, which were affordable, reliable and readily available such as digital thermometers. He added that a sales ban on mercury fever thermometers would not have any impact on regional retailers as many retailers as a matter of corporate policy have terminated their sales of these thermometers. Mr. Armstrong stated that several national retailers such as Albertson's, Drugstore.com, K-Mart, Target, Toys R Us, Babies R Us and Wal-Mart no longer sold mercury fever thermometers. He noted that locally, Bartells and seven other retail pharmacies had also stopped selling mercury fever thermometers.

Mr. Armstrong stated that in banning the future sales of mercury fever thermometers, the Board of Health would be joining a growing number of jurisdictions that had already implemented such a ban. He added that related legislation was pending in Olympia.

Ms. Brandie Smith from the Washington Toxics Coalition urged the Board to take action on reducing mercury pollution by passing a ban on the sale of mercury fever thermometers. Ms. Smith described the general content of the proposed regulation including to whom the prohibition applied to and specific exemptions that would apply. She noted that approximately 20 local jurisdictions had enacted similar bans thus far. She stated that the Department of Ecology had selected mercury as the first bioaccumulative toxins in their new strategy to reduce and eliminate persistent chemicals from the environment. She stated that other chemicals in this area included dioxin and PCBs. She stated that the unique characteristics of those chemicals was that once they got into the environment, they stayed around for a long time and built up in the food chain and the human body and subsequently passed on to their offspring.

Ms. Smith noted that there were alternatives to mercury thermometers that were readily available and effective. In closing, Ms. Smith urged the Board to join other jurisdictions in taking action to protect the public and the environment from mercury pollution by banning the sale of mercury thermometers in King County.

Chair Edmonds asked if Ms. Smith knew the status of mercury related bills pending in the State Legislature.

Ms. Smith responded that the Senate bill had not moved and that a hearing was scheduled on the Companion House Bill. She added that in addition to thermometers the proposed bills included bans on other products including thermostats, novelty items and mercury switches in cars.

Mr. Steven Gilbert introduced himself. He stated that he had spent over 15 years at the Canadian Health Protection Branch doing research on low level effects of lead, mercury and some other compounds. He added that he then worked at the University of Washington as a faculty member and was currently working as the Director of the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders. He stated that he wanted to provide the Board with some information and background on the health effects of mercury. He stated that two important things had been learned from the research thus far; one, that some individuals were sensitive, and some were more sensitive to compounds than others, in this case children were very sensitive to mercury and lead. He added that the other issue was that low level exposures to these compounds could produce lifelong hazard and lifelong complications.

Dr. Gilbert reviewed his PowerPoint presentation with the Board. The following are highlights from Dr. Gilbert's presentation:

- Mercury vapor - goes into the atmosphere and the problem with that is that it moves into the water systems.
- Mercury is toxic and has had multiple uses: used on seed grain to kill fungus and bacteria. [Converts to methyl mercury and becomes more toxic because it bio accumulates in the food chain. Used in some creams, ie. Treatment for syphilis.
- Biggest source of mercury - mercury fever thermometers, mercury in automobiles
- Mercury exposure causes the same type of damage to the nervous system of kids as lead exposure and it has a lifelong effect. Significance because of increased sensitivity of children and women of childbearing age and the importance of protecting developmental nervous systems.
- In Washington State there's 30 areas, 10 waterways, that failed to meet water quality standards.
- Need to do everything we can to reduce mercury in the environment including a ban on fever thermometers.
- Opportunity to educate the public about health effects of mercury. Huge clean up risks and problems associated with thermometers and other mercury containing devices. Schools are particularly reluctant to replace these items, but risks associated with breakage are huge.

Board Member Pageler inquired about mercury in cars.

Dr. Gilbert responded that the issue was primarily related to the switches in automobiles. He stated that from an emissions standpoint, coal-fired plants and cement kilns produced mercury.

### **Board Discussion**

Board Member Pageler commented that the environment would be much better off if society addressed the way cars were produced and sold rather than having to remove the elements from the waste stream.

Board Member Manning inquired about blood pressure machines.

Ms. Smith responded that they had addressed blood pressure cuffs at the state level and would be interested in addressing this item at the County level. She indicated that they had elected to do so via a different track by talking to people and gathering more information and putting that information together in a comprehensive plan.

Mr. Armstrong indicated that his program worked with medical facilities, which were the most common users of manometers. He added that they had established medical industry round table that met on a regular basis. He stated that blood pressure cuffs were on their list. He stated that their work with clinics, hospitals and labs to phase out manometers and other mercury-containing measurement devices was a reasonable approach.

Board Member Counts asked about what steps had been taken in terms of educating the public regarding the health hazards of mercury.

Mr. Armstrong responded that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program had an ongoing educational effort. He noted mercury had risen to the top of their priority list and that they were working to raise public awareness about alternatives to mercury-containing



products. He mentioned the thermometer exchange program and the outreach conducted in schools, community fairs, and with businesses including dental offices and other businesses where mercury was part of its processes.

Board Member Lambert inquired about the safe disposal of mercury.

Mr. Armstrong responded that waste mobiles and hazardous waste collection facilities operated around the County. He added that hazardous waste should be packaged in accordance with existing State and federal transport requirements. He stated that mercury was unfortunately not recyclable and therefore the substance needed to be retired. As to how it was retired, he indicated that he could not address that but assured that handling, transport and collection of all mercury waste was handled in accordance with existing laws. Mr. Armstrong also stated that the program worked with dental offices in King County and that the County had established a new requirement that will take effect July 1st, for the discharge of mercury into County sewage system. Mr. Armstrong stated that the most effective way to reduce mercury entering the sewage system from dental offices was to install a separator and collector. He stated that a majority of the dental offices had already purchased and installed these separators.

Board Member Lambert inquired about fish advisories.

Ms. Smith responded that the Washington Toxics Coalition released a report months ago that discussed ways to improve fish advisories in Washington State. She added that her organization was attempting to identify ways that they could work with and educate the public about proposed state mercury legislation and ways to improve public alerts about fish consumption.

Dr. Plough responded that the Health Department did post notices near selected waterways. He added that these notices were translated into a number of different languages and served to alert nearby communities and individuals that fished to supplement their food sources from selected waterways. He stated that there was more that could be done such as encouraging health care providers to advise pregnant women about eliminating consumption of certain fish, such as tuna and swordfish, from their diets.

Board Member Pageler inquired about whether or not it was feasible to track regional water quality and whether or not there were adequate protections in place to prevent the escape of mercury into the environment.

Mr. Armstrong responded that perhaps the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program could put together a report to include: a comprehensive picture of the existing regulations, stage of implementation, an assessment of the current flow of mercury into the sewage system and estimates of future flow.

Board Member Pageler responded that such information would be beneficial to Seattle Public Utilities.

Dr. Plough inquired about light tubes and bulbs containing mercury.

Mr. Armstrong stated that the technology was evolving so that there was less mercury in lamps, but he added that there would always be some mercury in them. He stated that the impetus for developing and implementing a strategy was because they expected a spike in

the number of such devices entering the waste stream. He stated that on a national level the National Electronics Manufacturers Association had agreed to label fluorescent lamps indicating that they did contain mercury.

Board Member Hutchinson inquired about what he might do at the city level.

Ms. Smith stated that her organization was eager to work with local jurisdictions to help them figure out what their needs were and the best strategies to put in place. She stated that she would be willing to follow up with Board Member Hutchinson.

Board Member Nicola asked if the regulation were to be adopted by the Board, how would the Department propose to get the thermometers off the shelf.

Dr. Plough stated that that would be one of the issues that would have to be addressed. He added that the Department did not currently inspect retail establishments. He stated that he would not want inspections to be the leading edge of such a strategy. Instead he stated they would want to get compliance and cooperation from the relevant industries.

Chair Edmonds concluded that there was significant interest on the part of the Board to further investigate the health effects of mercury and the different strategies the Board could employ to reduce mercury in the waste stream. She requested that Board staff prepare the regulation and bring it forward to the Board.

### **2003 Legislative Session - Discussion**

Chair Edmonds announced that Wednesday, April 9th had been established for a "Public Health Lobby Day" in Olympia. She stated that the goal was to conduct extensive outreach in order to have a big turnout of stakeholders from across the public health arena, including private citizens, Local Boards of Health, Public Health officials, Labor representatives, and health care providers and consumers. She stated the purpose of the event was to showcase the services provided to citizens across the State.

Chair Edmonds also reported that the State Board of Health meeting on April 9th would include a public hearing on public health funding. She stated that the State Board intended to invite Legislators and stakeholders to tell their story about the importance of public health. Chair Edmonds encouraged all Board Members to get involved on Public Health Day in Olympia.

Chair Edmonds, in response to a question by Board Member Hutchinson, referenced Senate Bill 5920. She stated that SB 5920 was being promoted by the Tri Association that included the Washington Association of Cities, the Washington Association of Counties and the Washington Association of County Officials. She directed the Board to a copy of the bill contained in their packets. She noted that Senators West and Brown had introduced the Senate Bill. She added that there were a total of 15 sponsors; nine Republicans. She asked Tom Bristow, Government Relations Association for the County Council, to describe the content of the bill.

Mr. Bristow noted that a companion bill to SB 5920 had been introduced in the House -HB 2070 with bi-partisan sponsorship and reflecting a good balance of eastern and western Washington representatives. Mr. Bristow summarized SB 5920 and HB 2070 as follows:

- Referendum to the people for a 25-cent per \$1,000 valuation property tax. Vote would be held in November.

- Proceeds of fund distributed in a number of ways.
  - Replaces general fund contribution of local government based on year 1999.
  - Replaces current "backfill" that the State provided for the loss of the MVET.
  - One piece serves to equalize the revenues to each jurisdiction based on 70% of the average expenditure for public health across the State.
  - One piece guarantees that no county will receive less than 85% of the revenue generated in that county.
- Significantly increases funding for public health Statewide.
- Current annual local governments contributions = about \$60 million to public health, State's = \$25 million for a total of around \$85 million current expenditures.
- Proposal would generate \$142 million the first year.
- Subject to a slight increase limited by the recent initiative to 1% plus.

Chair Edmonds commented that if either or both bills passed, there would still remain a lot of work to raise public awareness as to why this issue was important.

Board Member Lambert inquired about the year selected for the distribution formula. She referenced page 2, section 4, subsection B, last line, where it stated that "Each Health Department or District shall receive a distribution based on the proportional share of funds appropriating it 2003 to 2005 by an operating budget." She wondered why it wouldn't have been better for King County to have the formula based on the '01/'03 budget because that amount was already known, whereas the '03/'05 amount was an unknown.

Chair Edmonds responded that the amendment probably referred to the \$48 million in the Governor's budget. She added that she thought that the assumption was that the \$48 million would stay in the Governor's budget. She stated that there appeared to be pretty strong support for that across the board and she didn't think that the \$48 million was much different than what they currently had.

Dr. Plough concurred with Chair Edmonds. He added that the reference amount was not related to the county or city contribution part.

Chair Edmonds clarified that it appeared that the \$48 million would be included because the new revenue generated would not be allocated for another year and if the referendum failed, Public Health would still need the money.

Board Member Lambert inquired section 7, line three, regarding the common schools and the State share of the taxing amount which was \$3.60. She asked if the State portion of the property tax allocated at the \$3.60 level would now be dropped because of financial reasons down to \$3.20. She understood that the 25 cents would be within the existing \$3.60.

Mr. Bristow responded that the computer system that generated the bills electronically did not produce them the way they appeared and thus underlines and strikeouts might not be visible on the hard copy. Mr. Bristow stated that 60 cents of tax was unavailable to the State and was the source of the referenced 25 cents. He added that the idea was that public health would not be competing with a fire district, or a sewer district for those funds.

Board Member Lambert summarized her understanding of the language. She stated that it appeared that what was done was to change the amount of the property tax under the 1 million law which was \$10.00 per \$1,000 assessed value, which was \$3.60 that went to the State. She added that because the State had been able to reduce that amount by their expenditures and they had reduced it so much that the initiatives had only grown at 1%,

there was unused space. She stated that the public health funding bills took out the unused space and allocated it in perpetuity, to public health.

Chair Edmonds and Mr. Bristow responded that Board Member Lambert was correct.

Mr. Bristow summarized his remarks by announcing the cut off dates for bills to be out of policy and fiscal committees. He noted that the Senate Bill had been referred to Ways and Means Committee and the House Bill had been referred to the House Health Care Committee and was expected to then be referred to the Finance Committee. Mr. Bristow added that neither bill had yet been scheduled for a hearing and probably would not be until the week before cut-off.

Chair Edmonds commented that she would be providing testimony on a bill to ban smoking in public places.

Board Member Pageler announced that the Association of Washington Cities had its Lobby Day in Olympia. She expressed encouragement that both the city and county associations were working in concert on the public health funding bills. She added that she did not underestimate the kind of work it would take to pass the bill and educate the voters on the issues. She applauded Chair Edmonds leadership on the issue of public health funding.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Edmonds adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Carolyn Edmonds, Chair