



KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
999 Third Avenue, Suite 1200
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Carolyn Edmonds, *Board of Health Chair*

BOH Members:

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

BOH Staff:

Kathleen Uhlorn

King County Board of Health
Friday, May 20, 2005
King County Council Chambers
MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Members Present: Richard Conlin; George Counts; Steve Hammond; David Huchinson; David Irons; Kathy Lambert; Julia Patterson; Tom Rasmussen; Carolyn Edmonds

Members Absent: Jan Drago; Ava Frisinger; Larry Gossett; Frankie Manning; Bud Nicola

Staff: Alonzo Plough and Jane McKenzie

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM by Board Chair, Carolyn Edmonds.

2. Announcement of Alternates

Chair Edmonds indicated there were no alternates present.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not approved as a quorum was not present.

4. General Public Comments

Chair Edmonds acknowledged Kathy Keolker-Wheeler, Mayor, City of Renton. Chair Edmonds also acknowledged Steve Conway, State Representative, Tacoma and Secretary/Treasurer of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Local 81, who was accompanied by Mr. Tim Faylen, with the union's apprenticeship program, began his testimony. The apprenticeship program is nationally recognized and has continued at the request of all the state's major grocers. Mr. Conway testified in favor of the meat licensing requirement, which is unique to King County, because it results in improved consumer safety. Mr. Conway noted that some argue that the U.S. Department of Agriculture standards and federal oversight should eliminate the need for meat cutter licensing, however, he pointed out that federal oversight has waned over time. Mr. Conway said that the increased number of perishable goods from foreign produce markets also supports the need for continuation of the meat cutter licensure requirement. Mr. Faylen testified, based on decades of his personal experience as a meat-cutter, that King County's meat licensure requirement has created a cleaner environment and better product compare to a lot of areas in the rest of the state.

Mr. Cliff Finch, from the Washington Food Industry (WFI) also testified. Mr. Finch noted his group's long-standing, close-working relationship with the UFCW and emphasized the WFI's commitment to food safety. Mr. Finch noted that the Washington State Food Code is the finest state food code with regard to scientific bases for requirements and appeared in opposition to the licensure requirement for meat cutters and meat wrappers. Mr. Cliff added that he has been unable to find a scientific justification for such a requirement, which would create an inconsistency between King County and the rest of the nation. Such inconsistency was discouraged by the Food and Drug Administration when the State Board of Health adopted the federal food code.

Kit O'Neil, member of a Northeast Seattle community group, the Northeast District Council, and the City University Community Advisory Committee also testified. Ms. O'Neil stated that the community questioned the proposed location of a new laboratory and presented an article describing an independent oversight panel operating in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ms. O'Neil asked that this type of panel be considered in oversight of the proposed laboratory and other private Seattle firms.

5. Chair's Report

Board member Hutchinson moved to put the minutes for the March 18th and April 15th meetings before the Board. The minutes were adopted without opposition.

Chair Edmonds announced Kathy Uhlorn's appointment to the position of Board of Health Administrator.

Chair Edmonds updated the Board on the King County Overweight Prevention Initiative Forum held last week at the Shoreline Center. The successful conference was attended by over 150 policymakers, health care professionals, and transportation planners and serves as a beginning to move King County citizens toward healthier lifestyles. Board member Counts, a conference attendee, echoed Chair Edmonds and added that he was looking forward to the next one, reportedly scheduled in six months. Board member Hutchinson, a conference attendee, concurred, adding that the focus on health and land use in the Mayor of Seattle's speech will be before the Suburban Cities Policy Committee on Wednesday. State passage of a land use law addressing the inclusion of walking and biking facilities also brings this issue to the forefront.

Board member Conlin, another attendee, mentioned the high quality of the recommendations at the Forum and asked that these be presented at the next Board meeting. Chair Edmonds supported this request. Board member Conlin added that he announced the mobile vending ordinance at the Forum, which had passed in the Seattle City Council the following Monday. The ordinance requires mobile food vendors to be at least 1,000 feet from schools. Per Board member Conlin, an editorial appeared in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer seemingly trivializing this legislation; Board member Conlin requested the Board or the Health Department respond to this editorial in some manner, a suggestion supported by the rest of Board.

Chair Edmonds noted that at the conclusion of the legislative session, public health was funded for another two years. A joint resolution was passed establishing a select committee on public health funding, a first step for the Legislature to examine costs of providing public health services throughout the state. Chair Edmonds reported Dr. Alonzo Plough's departure from the Health Department. Dr. Plough added that he had accepted the position as Vice President for the California Endowment, a foundation focusing on health care access; health disparities based on socio-economic factors; and cultural competency in health care. The California Endowment provides \$400 million annually in funding for community driven initiatives to reduce these problems. Dr. Plough concluded by saying that accepting the position was a difficult decision and that he greatly appreciated all the support and congeniality he received over his tenure with the Health Department.

Board members Hammond and Conlin extended their appreciation for Dr. Plough's service. Dr. Plough informed the Board that this would be his last Board meeting, adding that the King County Council would be hosting a reception for him on May 31st at about 1:00 PM. Chair Edmonds agreed to forward any information about the festivities to all the members of the Board. Chair Edmonds and former Board of Health member Karen VanDusen presented Dr. Plough with a certificate of recognition from the Board.

Chair Edmonds reported that the Seattle City Council won the walking challenge. *(This comment is out of sequence and was actually announced prior to the presentation by the Environmental Health Division).*

6. Board Member Updates

None.

7. Director's Report

Dr. Plough reported an increasing trend in syphilis cases—from 76 in 2003 to 140 in 2004. Dr. Bob Wood and others in the HIV Program will make a presentation to the Board next month regarding some of the risk factors that may be driving this trend. A decrease in TB cases has been observed; down to 133 new cases from 155 in 2004. Dr. Plough commended Dr. Masa Narita and Health Department staff for their great work with the area's vulnerable populations.

A mass medication dispensing drill occurred on April 30th, allowing the Department to model mass distribution of antibiotics to 12,500 people in 30 hours at the mass dispensing centers in Bellevue.

Executive Sims issued his Health and Wellness Challenge to King County's work force on May 18th and committed to creating a "Culture of Wellness" in the workplace.

The federal Bioterrorism Agreement for funding all of the Department's bioterrorism activities now reflects the important role in response that metropolitan health departments play. The funding

allocation to large urban areas has increased and this is positive not only for King County but also the adjacent Puget Sound counties as well.

The Department hosted 50 of the county's largest health jurisdictions at a conference last week sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Association of City and County Health Officers (NACCHO) where best practice models were shared. Board member Lambert raised a question about disease outbreak statistics and asked that gonorrhea, syphilis and chlamydia be discussed in next month's meeting. Dr. Plough noted that Dr. Matthew Golden, Acting Director of the Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Program, is scheduled to join Dr. Wood next month and will present information on the diseases.

Board member Rasmussen inquired about reports the Health Department provided to the Seattle Mayor and County Executive. Ms. Uhlorn indicated that in an effort to disseminate information she would like to send the Department's press releases to all Board members. Chair Edmonds and Dr. Plough supported this suggestion and Board member Patterson requested any additional information to help members stay informed. Dr. Plough ensured members they would get any monthly reports the Department prepares on disease outbreaks.

8. Rulemaking: Local Hazardous Waste Fees (Action Item)

Chair Edmonds introduced the item for rulemaking and Ken Armstrong, Administrator for the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, briefly summarized the pending legislation. Mr. Armstrong noted that the pending legislation related to a fee increase for the program and proceeded to summarize previous presentations made to the Board. Board member Hutchinson moved for approval of Rule and Regulation 05-02 and proposed that fees be reviewed every five years. Board member Hutchinson indicated that he was on the subcommittee for this issue as well as Board member Nicola, and Board member Hammond. Board member Hutchinson said that residential and commercial rates have not been raised since 1991 and 1995, respectively, and that the proposed adjustment would sustain the program through fiscal year 2009-2010. The subcommittee members unanimously agreed to support this fee increase as justified and reasonable.

Dr. Counts seconded the motion for approval.

Board member Hammond thanked subcommittee members for their time and Mr. Armstrong for responding to his specific concerns.

Board member Irons asked about the Program's reserves. Mr. Armstrong explained that reserves were built up over the past 10 years, but when services expanded in the year 2000, the Program was expending more revenue than it was taking in. The accumulation of such a balance will not occur in the future. Board member Irons noted that based on Mr. Armstrong's comments, the citizens of King County are receiving services for the fees that they are paying.

Chair Edmonds opened the public hearing period. No one appeared to testify and Chair Edmonds closed the public hearing.

Ms. Uhlorn called the roll:

Board members Conlin, Counts, Hammond, Hutchinson, Irons, Lambert, Patterson, Rasmussen and Chair Edmonds voted for adoption. No members opposed the motion. The rule passed with the required majority.

Chair Edmonds thanked the members of the subcommittee. Board member Hutchinson extended thanks to Kathy Keolker-Wheeler, Mayor of Renton. Mr. Armstrong thanked the subcommittee and the Board as a whole.

9. Operational Master Plan (Action Item)

Chair Edmonds moved on to a discussion of the Public Health Operational Master Plan (PH OMP). Chair Edmonds recapped the mandate for the plan and introduced the resolution. Chair Edmonds acknowledged Board member Patterson, Chair of the Law, Justice, and Human Services Committee of the King County Council, for the committee's "do pass" recommendation to the full King County Council. Chair Edmonds also acknowledged Dr. Plough and the many Health Department staff who assisted with this process.

Chair Edmonds introduced Carrie Cihak, King County Council Staff; Toni Rezab, Office of Management and Budget in the Executive's Office; Sarah Hopkins, Special Projects Manager for the Health Department; and Kathy Uhlorn, Board Administrator. Ms. Uhlorn began with an introduction to the work plan. Ms. Cihak continued by saying that a two-year intensive review of the Health Department would be completed.

The Department provides population-based services (e.g. restaurant inspections); services that protect and promote the health of very specific groups at risk for particular diseases (e.g. health care for the homeless); and individual health services that provide a safety net for those who otherwise lack access to health care (e.g. immunizations). Public health services are extremely important and as a result of this Operational Master Planning process it is hoped that the Department will find a way to meet its funding challenges in a strategic and rational way. The Council's Law, Safety and Human Services Committee also received a similar briefing.

Ms. Rezab continued the presentation by summarizing the work plan. Ms. Rezab indicated that the PH OMP is anticipated to take two years, after which the work group will present broad policies to assist in the prioritization and provision of public health services in King County to the Board. An in-depth review of the Department's functions and recommendations for long-term, stable funding also will be presented as well as a comparison with other metropolitan health departments.

Board member Rasmussen moved to approve Resolution 05-04, approving the work plan for the PH OMP. The motion was seconded by Board member Hutchinson.

Chair Edmonds asked Board member Patterson about comments in her committee's deliberations. Board member Patterson thanked Chair Edmonds for her leadership on the issue and indicated that the Law, Safety and Human Service Committee would be anxiously awaiting the results of the work plan.

Ms. Uhlorn called the roll:

Council members Conlin, Counts, Hammond, Hutchinson, Irons, Lambert, Patterson, Rasmussen and Chair Edmonds voted in favor of adopting the resolution. No opposition was noted. The resolution was adopted.

10. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Resolution (Action Item)

Chair Edmonds introduced the resolution. Dr. Steve Helgerson, Manager, Prevention Division presented the resolution.

Board member Counts asked for clarification on the need for such a resolution, as the Board and the Health Department are wholly committed to such preparation activities. Dr. Helgerson replied that such action by the Board's would prioritize the issue, bringing it to the attention of leaders around the County. Both Board member Conlin and Chair Edmonds suggested edits to the resolution. Board member Patterson asked how the various groups involved in such a large-scale preparation plan would be brought together. Dr. Plough indicated that multiple forums exist to convene the necessary organizations, but cooperation before the exposure is critical. This resolution would assist in encouraging the requisite cooperation. Board member Patterson inquired further about the response plan and Dr. Plough provided additional details.

Ms. Uhlorn called the roll:

Council members Conlin, Counts, Hammond, Hutchinson, Irons, Lambert, Patterson, Rasmussen and Chair Edmonds voted in favor of adopting the resolution and suggested amendments A-1 (i.e. change "should" to "are asked to") and A-2 (i.e. Authorizing the Preparation of a Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan). No opposition was noted. The amendment was adopted.

11. Briefing: University of Washington Biocontainment Laboratory

Chair Edmonds introduced Theresa Doherty, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs at the University of Washington; John Coulter, Executive Director of the University of Washington Health Services Administration and Associate Vice President for Medical Affairs; and Karen VanDusen, former Board of Health member and the Director of the University of Washington Environmental Health and Safety Department.

Mr. Coulter began by introducing Professor John Kemner, Assistant Director of the WWAMI Regional Center of Excellence. Dr. Kemner described the University of Washington's application to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, a \$25 million construction grant for a facility to conduct research on emerging infectious diseases and biodefense research. Dr. Kemner also emphasized the need for resources to combat both cases of the resurgence and deliberate re-emergence (i.e. cases where biological agents are intentionally used to harm the public) of infectious diseases. The grant application details the construction of a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL 3) research laboratory (to contain research on organisms that cause significant or fatal human disease for which there are treatments, but not necessarily vaccines). Based on funding restrictions and technical challenges, a BSL-3 laboratory cannot be modified into a BSL-4 laboratory (which would be designed for study with the most lethal and untreatable agents). Mr. Coulter then introduced himself and described his role in the process as Associate Vice President for Medical Affairs and the Executive Director of Health Sciences at the University of Washington. Mr. Coulter described the stakeholder process for this proposal and added that the University also is renovating the laboratories in the Health Sciences Building where research will be conducted should the University not be awarded this grant.

Board member Rasmussen queried which governmental entity has the expertise to monitor this type of construction. Mr. Coulter responded that the laboratory must meet CDC regulations and the State of Washington and the University of Washington have expertise in this area, having built a number of facilities on the University of Washington campus. Ms. VanDusen added that plans are submitted to the City of Seattle and the CDC and NIH will also be reviewing plans and construction.

Board member Conlin asked if the University intends to consolidate its multiple research labs from around campus into this one facility. Mr. Coulter responded that this true to a certain extent. Dr. Kemner added that such a facility would attract more research activity and be a draw to recruit more faculty. Ms. VanDusen indicated that research not requiring BSL-2 and 3 laboratories would likely remain in their present location. Mr. Coulter concluded by saying that even with this additional facility, there will still likely be a shortage of such research facilities.

Board member Conlin asked whether this facility would allow for better monitoring of research as work is consolidated. Mr. Coulter responded that the facility will allow better monitoring of research that requires a BSL-3 laboratory.

Board member Conlin asked about the site selection process. Mr. Coulter responded that a site has been selected in the grant application process, however the final decision is pending based on recommendations from the Board of Regents to the University President. The proposed site is south of the West Campus parking garage.

Chair Edmonds thanked the panel for its presentation and asked to be kept abreast of President Emmert's final decision.

12. Briefing: Environmental Health Food Code Changes and Fee Proposal

The sequence of this agenda item was changed during the course of the meeting.

Chair Edmonds introduced the presentation and turned it over to Board member Counts who detailed the subcommittee process. Barbara Wright, Assistant Division Director, Environmental Health Services, began the presentation. The Board received preliminary information related to the food code in January. Ms. Wright thanked the subcommittee members (board members Nicola, Counts and Rasmussen) for their work in this process. Ms. Wright introduced Rick Miklich, Manager, Food and Facilities Section, Environmental Health Services.

Mr. Miklich continued by describing the stakeholder process, noting that the most contentious issue was the retention of the meat cutter/wrapper licensing requirement. Mr. Miklich pointed out that the Division has actually implemented the new code requirements as of May 2nd, as mandated by the State.

(See Board member Count's Subcommittee report below)

13. Briefing: Environmental Health Unified Hourly Rate

Eunjoo Greenhouse, Senior Administrator, Environmental Health Services, continued the Division's presentation. The Board had received information on the Unified Hourly Rate in February. Ms. Greenhouse presented the proposed Division-wide hourly rate of \$149.78 and listed rates for other jurisdictions. The fees for the years 2005 through 2008 are covered in this proposal and Ms. Greenhouse noted that based on stakeholder input concerns arose based on the Division's plan to charge school kitchens and 501(c)(3) establishments the same rate as other facilities.

Board member Counts presented his subcommittee report. Board member Counts expressed appreciation to the Division and staff, and the subcommittee's strong support of the proposal. The subcommittee was sympathetic to concerns raised by school kitchens and 501(c)(3) organizations and recommended that the fees should be half of those proposed for other facilities. The subcommittee was divided with regard to the meat cutter/wrapper licensing requirement and recommended that requirements stay in place for an additional two years, during which time the Department and other agencies should gather and present data on the role of meat handling as a contributor to food-borne illness and consumer safety, comparing King County with other jurisdictions that do not have a meat cutter/wrapper licensing requirement.

Board member Rasmussen added that Board member Nicola found some research indicating that special training in food handling appeared to contribute to greater safety and fewer cases of food-borne illness.

Board member Counts added comments that Board member Nicola wanted reflected on the record.

Dr. Plough thanked the staff for their work.

14. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 12: 40 PM