

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 (joint meeting with the King County Council  
Law, Justice and Human Services Committee)**

**Friday, June 16, 2006**

**City of Issaquah Council Chambers**

**MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

Members Present: Sally Clark; Richard Conlin; George Counts; Bob Ferguson; Ava Frisinger; David Hutchinson; Frankie Manning; Bud Nicola; Tom Rasmussen; Julia Patterson.

Members Absent: Reagan Dunn; Larry Gossett; Kathy Lambert; Pete von Reichbauer.

Staff: Dorothy Teeter; Kathy Uhlorn; Jane McKenzie

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:42 AM by Board Chair Patterson. Anne Noris, Clerk of the King County Council, called the roll for the Board of Health and the King County Council Law, Justice, & Human Services Committee.

2. Announcement of Alternates

No alternates were present.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 2006 meeting were approved.

4. General Public Comments

None

5. Chair's Report

Board Chair Patterson reported the following:

- The Washington State Board of Health in cooperation with Public Health-Seattle & King County hosted a forum on public health and medical care issues on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Highline Community College. Members of the public attending the meeting raised several concerns about the high costs of health care and difficulties gaining access to high quality services. In addition, several attendees commented on health problems that have developed as a result of toxic mold in older elementary schools.
- Congressman Adam Smith was contacted about the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act. Board members Rasmussen, Manning, and Nicola reported following up in support of this legislation as well.

- Public Health – Seattle & King County (“Public Health”) has been conducting presentations to cities around the County on the “Health of King County” report (which was presented to the Board in February 2006).
- The Board retreat is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Wells Fargo Building in Seattle. The agenda will include an in-depth discussion about the Board’s role. A walk will be scheduled during one of the breaks. There will also be a discussion of the Public Health Operational Master Plan.
- The Annual Conference for the National Association of County and City Health Officials will be held on July 26-28 in San Antonio, TX. This meeting will include The Annual Conference for the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

Board Chair Patterson also asked Board members to continue to contact members of the Washington Congressional delegation regarding the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act.

Board Member Frisinger welcomed the Board to the City of Issaquah and encouraged Board members and the public to take in all that the City has to offer including the walking trails and the historic salmon hatchery and downtown area.

#### 6. Board Member Updates

Board Member Rasmussen thanked the Environmental Health Division of Public Health for working with his office to clean up a grease and oil barrel in downtown Seattle.

Board Member Manning provided information about the State Board of Health forum that was held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Board Member Manning added that one of the things that was emphasized here more than at other forum locations was the need to have aging included as a part of the State Board of Health Report.

Board Member Hutchinson reported that Kathy Uhlorn and Toni Rezab attended the Suburban Cities Public Issues Forum to discuss the Public Health Operational Master Plan (PHOMP).

#### 7. Director’s Report

Ms. Teeter reported the following:

- The reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act is before the U.S. Senate’s Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Chair of the Committee hopes to pass their version no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The House Energy and Commerce Committee may start drafting the House version of the bill the week of June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- No additional active TB cases were found at Kentlake High School. Of the 200 close contacts tested, 20 individuals had positive skin tests. Board Member Counts asked whether positive test results for the TB case at Kentlake Highschool were new converters (referring to a positive test based on new exposure rather than a positive test due to past exposure.) Ms. Teeter indicated that she would follow-up and get back to the Board.
- This is the beginning of Norovirus season with cruise ships so we can expect to see news of outbreaks in the media. The Norovirus creates an acute stomach influenza.
- Sylvia Feder and Roger Matheny, King County Medic One, and Dr. Mickey Eisenberg, EMS Medical Director, spoke to National Public Radio about their article published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* on withholding resuscitation when requested by a person with a

terminal condition. Ms. Teeter indicated that she would have copies for Board members at the next meeting.

- The State Board of Health voted to move to a name retention system for HIV/AIDS patients consistent with new CDC guidelines.
- Ms. Teeter will present the work that Public Health is doing with hospital and health care coalition preparedness in King County at the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (June 2006 in Monterey, CA) with the CEO and COO from Harborview Medical Center.

#### 8. Administrator's Report

Ms. Uhlorn updated the Board on items/issues raised at the last Board meeting. In this report

Ms. Uhlorn highlighted:

- The tour scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup> of Highpoint's Neighborhood House
- Additions to "Additional Topics" on the "Topics for the 2006-2007 Board of Health Work Program"
- A letter and speaking points for Board member contacts with Washington's Congressional delegation concerning the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act
- Copies of the walking maps produced for local communities
- Attendance information for the Board retreat July 25<sup>th</sup>
- The Board Committee on trans-fats

Ms. Uhlorn also presented the job announcement for the Director of Public Health.

Board Member Counts indicated that a longer response time might have been helpful. Ms. Teeter indicated that although the response date listed is the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>, the search firm had already begun to make contacts across the country.

Board Chair Patterson asked about the salary range for the position. Ms. Uhlorn indicated that she would provide this at the next meeting.

#### 9. Drowning and Drowning Prevention

A panel including Dr. Linda Quan, MD, founder and former Director of the Emergency Department at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center (CHRMC); Elizabeth Bennett, Patient/Family Communications Education Manager for CHRMC; and Tony Gomez, Manager of Violence and Injury Prevention for Public Health.

Mr. Gomez began the presentation by emphasizing that a large number of members in our community do not know how to swim or are afraid of the water and often end up in an environment where they are at-risk. Mr. Gomez also promoted the importance of encouraging:

- Four-sided fencing (i.e. totally surrounding the swimming area) versus the current three-sided fencing (leaving the possibility that back door areas would still provide access to a pool). Three-sided fencing essentially keeps the children from the street, from the neighborhood from entering the pool, but if the back door is left open, the child can easily access the pool.
- Life guards at beaches and swimming areas in order to prevent drownings (based on statistical data, the number of drownings that have occurred in life guarded facilities/beaches is dramatically lower than in unguarded areas).

Dr. Quan continued by discussing her drowning research. Drowning is one of the primary causes of unintentional death, for both children and adults. A large number of these deaths are boating related which is a very specific issue for Washington State and King County. Dr. Quan also discussed the incidence of drowning across multiple demographic groups, including males and racial/ethnic minorities.

Ms. Bennett provided three primary messages and strategies in terms of dealing with open water drowning:

- Know the water—know and understand the risks of cold water and the risk of currents.
- Know your limits.
- Wear a lifejacket.

Board Member Conlin asked that:

- The statistical information related to drowning incidence in unguarded areas be distributed to local governments with beaches.
- Do some visible publicity around people who have been saved by lifeguards to reemphasize the importance of life guarding.

#### 10. Public Health Operational Master Plan (PHOMP) Update

Toni Rezab, Project Manager, PHOMP and Carrie S. Cihak, County Council staff, provided a briefing on the June 15, 2006 PHOMP Steering Committee Meeting and the Law, Justice, and Human Services Staff Report.

Ms. Cihak provided an overview of the presentation.

Ms. Rezab continued with a recap of the PHOMP process completed thus far, reminding the Board that the Role Definition White Paper and the Stakeholder Report were presented at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The Policy Environment and the Health Environment Background Papers were before the Board at this meeting. The Funding Issue Paper will be presented to the Board at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. These papers are intended to provide a common understanding from which the Phase I Policy framework will be developed. The Steering Committee will meet on July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup> and will more substantively analyze the Phase I framework.

Paul Wiesner, M.D., from Milne & Associates, provided an overview of the findings included in the Policy Environment and Health Environment Background Papers.

#### Policy Environment Background Paper:

- The Board was briefed on the Executive Summary including the key observations and next steps.
- Board Member Rasmussen asked whether Public Health was providing a greater quantity of services (i.e. conducting inspection and licensing activities; providing primary care services directly; operating school-based clinics; providing correctional health services; providing emergency medical services; and doing work related to the built environment) compared to the Comparable Metropolitan Health Departments (CMHD) included in the analysis. Dr.

Wiesner indicated that further research would be necessary to determine whether that was the case.

- Board Member Ferguson asked whether the report cited on page 28 of the Paper was accurate. Dr. Wiesner indicated that while the report cited may be a little dated, the on-going issues mentioned within it are still current.
- Board Member Hutchinson asked about intersection of public health and clinical services. Dr. Wiesner responded by saying public health is focused on the health of the population and population-based interventions that can actually preserve, protect, and promote the health of populations. There are important intersections between the delivery of primary medical care and population health services. There is a point at which if there is not a clinical services system in place to obtain basic primary medical care for those who need it, then that lack of basic services creates a population health issue.
- Board Member Manning raised issues around the funding for public health. Dr. Wiesner responded by saying that throughout the country there is a problem of “categorical stovepipe” funding, which is a very effective way to acquire resources, but not an effective way to deploy resources. The challenge that a local Health Department faces is to integrate all of these separate sources of funds and support a sufficient infrastructure to deliver programs effectively.

Health Environment Background Paper:

- The Board was briefed on the Executive Summary including the key observations and next steps.
- Board Member Hutchinson brought up the distinction between maintaining health and providing medical care.
- Board Member Manning added that health is bigger than disease management, rather it is really disease prevention.

Board Chair Patterson indicated that a flow chart illustrating Public Health’s services has been included in the Board materials available at each meeting.

11. Adjournment

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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JULIA PATTERSON, CHAIR

DATE