

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Jefferson County Public Health, 615 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend WA 98368

Board Members

Kate Dean, County Commissioner District #1
David Sullivan, County Commissioner, District #2
Kathleen Kler, County Commissioner, District #3
Catharine Robinson, Chair, Port Townsend City Council
Sheila Westerman, Citizen at large
Jill Buhler, Hospital Commissioner, District #2
John Austin, Vice-Chair, Citizen at large

Staff Members

Thomas Locke, Health Officer
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Public Health Dir
Stuart Whitford, Env. Health Dir
Veronica Shaw, Public Health Deputy Dir
Michael Dawson, WQ Manager
Jenny Matter, Clerk of the Board

Chair Catharine Robinson called the December 21, 2017 meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Health to order at 2:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Sheila Westerman, David Sullivan, Jill Buhler, Kathleen Kler, Catharine Robinson, Kate Dean

Members Excused: John Austin

Staff Present: Vicki Kirkpatrick, Veronica Shaw, Thomas Locke, Jenny Matter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Robinson asked for approval of the Agenda of the December 21, 2017.

Member Sheila Westerman motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Jill Buhler. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Catharine Robinson asked for approval of the minutes as amended of the October 19, 2017 meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Health.

Member Jill Buhler motioned to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Member Kate Dean. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Al Cairns from Jefferson County Conservation District distributed a draft proposal to work with Public Health to develop a path to compliance for composting toilets and greywater systems as an alternative to replacing failed on-site sewage systems. Mr. Cairns spoke briefly about the high levels of fecal coliforms in shellfish beds and the need for alternative systems to meet housing and agricultural needs. He also said that based on current financial analysis, the JC Conservation District would be closing March 1, 2018.

OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. **Jefferson Healthcare (JHC) Update**

Jill Buhler reported that members of the JHC Board, CEO and SLG team met with Representative Tharinger to discuss JHC related issues, including funding for the dental clinic. Funding is expected to be approved in January and the dental clinic is expected to open in early 2019. Ms. Buhler said JHC has developed a surge plan to safely manage the needs of patients when there is a high patient census from acute illness and a high number of employees out sick. She informed the Board about staff changes, additional hours for the surgery center, that federally funded HPV vaccinations will be offered, and that they have reached their goal of 100% compliance for staff flu vaccinations (93% vaccinated, 7% signed declinations).

Ms. Buhler announced to the Board that her tenure as the Hospital Commissioner representative on the Board of Health will expire at the end of the month and Kees Koff will be replacing her.

2. **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP): Introduction of New Director**

Vicki Kirkpatrick, Public Health Director, introduced Senovia Ewers, the new Executive Director for CHIP. Senovia gave a brief overview of what she has been working on (searching for and applying for funding, identifying branding, developing graphics, scheduling committees, developing training, etc.) and summarized her past work experience (grant administrator for Texas State Health Services, the Navajo Nation, and the Dept. of Health Welfare).

3. **Governors 2018 Supplemental Budget Proposal**

Dr. Tom Locke, Health Officer, said that due to the severity of the opioid crisis, additional funds are needed for treatment and expanding the prescription monitoring program, which can identify multiple opioid prescriptions from different providers for the same patient. The Board had questions about how the prescription monitoring program works and what happens when a patient is found with multiple prescriptions of opioids. They also had questions about funding for the opioid crisis from the federal government. Kate Dean requested to add legislation pertaining to the opioid crisis to the agenda item for Legislative Updates.

4. **Child Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) Reauthorization – Federal and State Update**

Dr. Tom Locke explained to the Board how CHIP funds were used in Washington State. Federal funding for CHIP was not reauthorized in September and funding for Washington children will run out in early 2018. There may be a \$2.8 billion appropriation to extend it until March 2018. There are contingency plans for WA that will cover part of the funds, but WA will still have to

pay anywhere from \$64 million to \$176 million to continue CHIP coverage, if a federal agreement is not reached.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2016 Environmental Health Indicators

Stuart Whitford, Environmental Health Director, reviewed the 2016 year end performance measures for the following programs: food safety, solid and hazardous waste, drinking water, and water quality. He reviewed data sheets and provided additional information about trainings, complaints, inspections, violations, reviews, and surveys for each program.

Linda Atkins, Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed the 2016 year end performance measures for the Onsite Sewage (OSS) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program. Linda gave information about the septic inspection classes held in the spring and fall and explained why some participants still choose to hire a professional to inspect their septic system.

The Board had questions about shore monitoring, property surveys, septic failure rates, septic installers and designers, review of state on-site rules, and local versus state regulations. A discussion ensued regarding the long-standing issue of how to protect the environment from increasing effluent (due to increasing population) and reduce the cost of septic system installation and monitoring for homeowners.

2. Social Media Benefits

Karen Obermeyer, Community Health Educator, informed the Board about using social media as a more efficient use of public funds to educate and communicate with public health's target audience. Denise Banker, Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI) Coordinator, summarized the history and current status of the policy for social media that has yet to be approved by the County. She explained how, as the CPWI Coordinator, she is limited in meeting the deliverables of her grant guidelines because she is not able to use social marketing. Julia Danskin, Public Health Nurse, added that social media is critical for emergency response.

Member Shelia Westerman asked about the status of the social media policy. Philip Morley, County Administrator, noted it was under his review and would be issued, but there were issues they needed to address. Some of these issues include how to limit comments without censorship, ensuring comments by commissioners do not violate the public meetings act and dealing with unforeseen consequences.

3. Tobacco Use and Vaping Update

Karen Obermeyer reviewed current data on tobacco use and vaping, including the number of tobacco related deaths, tobacco caused cancer, cost of lost productivity and illness, demographics of adults and youth who use tobacco, and other related information. She explained the lack of research and industry standards for vaping and how it has been marketed to young people. Ms. Obermeyer also reviewed what works to reduce tobacco use, including mass media campaigns and comprehensive community tobacco programs, which consist of smoking bans, tobacco taxes, youth access laws, community education, and cessation support. She reviewed the goals of the Washington State Tobacco Prevention and Control Five-Year Strategic Plan and noted that ten

out of the thirty-nine counties in Washington State have laws against vaping in public places. However, Jefferson County is not one of those ten. The Board noted this as something to address in the coming year.

ACTIVITY UPDATE

Vicki Kirkpatrick thanked Catharine Robinson for her service to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

Agenda items #3 (County-level Drug Takeback Programs) and #4 (Three County Coordinated Opiate Response Project [3CCORP] Update) will be moved to the agenda for the January 18, 2018 meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

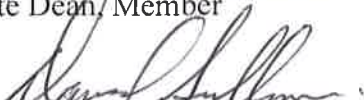
The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2017 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Jefferson County Public Health, 615 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend, WA.


ADJOURNMENT

Chair Catharine Robinson adjourned the December 21st, 2017 Jefferson County Board of Health meeting at 4:34 p.m.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH


Kate Dean, Member


David Sullivan, Member


Catharine Robinson, Chair


Jill Buhler, Member


Sheila Westerman, Member


Kathleen Kler, Member

Excused
John Austin, Vice-Chair

Respectfully submitted
J. Matter