



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT (BFHD)
BOARD OF HEALTH**

MEETING MINUTES

February 21st, 2018

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IN ATTENDANCE

Benton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Beaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Zaccaria, District Administrator & Board of Health Executive Secretary, BFHD
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Delvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer, BFHD
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Small	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carla Prock, Health People & Communities Sr. Manager, BFHD
Franklin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Koch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rick Dawson, Surveillance & Investigation Sr. Manager, BFHD
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Wight, Sr. Human Resources Manager, BFHD
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Peck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Jones, Sr. Finance Manager, BFHD
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bonnie Hall, Contracts/Billing Manager, BFHD
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Elsethagen, Information Systems and Security Manager, BFHD
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Janae Parent, Administrative Analyst/Executive Assistant, BFHD
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Medick, Administrative Assistant, BFHD
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jared Strait, Accountant, BFHD
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Leslie Rivera, Union Representative and Member, Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Liz Ellis, Member, WSNA
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Barbara Johnson, Member, WSNA
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Rachel Guettner, Member, WSNA
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Jayson Dick, Nurse Representative, WSNA
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Everett Maroon, Executive Director, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Melissa Cross, Nurse, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Eloy Espinoza, Nursing Student, Benedictine University

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Shon Small called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Koch moved to approve the December 6th, 2018 meeting minutes.
Commissioner Delvin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



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DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

1. WSNA – Jayson Dick

- a. J. Dick is a nurse representative of the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA), and expressed concern with negotiation around wages, stating that the WSNA has taken the position that the nurses at the Health District are 15% behind market. J. Dick stated that WSNA is not asking for 15% right now, but is looking for the Board to empower the negotiating team so big strides can be made in the investment of the community's health and public health nurses.
- b. Wage comparables were handed out to each Board member. J. Dick acknowledged that while there is some disagreement in the comparables, the handouts provided reflect what WSNA believes to be accurate comparables for negotiation consideration, including Snohomish Health District, Spokane Regional Health District, Kadlec Clinics, and Seattle Children's clinics in the Tri-Cities.
- c. While work may not be directly comparable, it is a big impact to the job market noting that WSNA feels there is a recruitment and retention issue. Several nurses are getting close to retirement and if it will take the agency a long period of time to replace nurses, this will have an impact on programs being offered.
- d. J. Dick asked Barbara Johnson to speak regarding the impact public health nurses have with clients and the community. B. Johnson provided an overview of the role public health nurses play in taking care of a client, the child, security of the home, family planning, providing education on immunizations and becoming a productive member of the community.
- e. J. Dick reiterated to the Board to assist and empower the Health District negotiating team to invest in public health, public health nursing and the community that relies on them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Medical & Environmental Health Updates – Dr. Person

- a. This has been a bad year for influenza, with 14 deaths in the local area. This is significantly higher than what is usually seen. Unfortunately, most were not immunized. Deaths primarily occurred in high-risk populations, elderly and/or with underlying medical conditions. Health District staff have done significant outreach work, not only with the media, but also with providers in reminding patients to get the flu shot, and also how to treat symptoms of influenza.
- b. Health District staff also worked through the Emergency Preparedness Department and related Healthcare Coalitions to talk with hospitals about being prepared for the influenza



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season. Staff kept in regular communication to ensure the hospitals had what was needed and were aware of the situation.

- c. With the addition of the epidemiologist, nursing and health services workers, the Health District will be able to more fully address foundational public health services in Communicable Diseases, focusing on hepatitis C (Hep C). This is one of the diseases that the Health District was previously not able to maintain appropriate surveillance due to lack of resources. There are some estimates from King County that show in high risk populations, the incidence of Hep C can be as high as 66%. The proposal regarding the Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) is one way the Health District is working to prevent new cases, as well as the work within the Communicable Disease Department to better understand the burden of disease in the area.

2. Strategic Plan Update 2017 – Jason Zaccaria

- a. A Strategic Plan Update 2017 handout was provided in the Board of Health packet.
- b. The handout is a recap of last year's activities and the goals are the same six goals that have been previously discussed.
- c. J. Zaccaria provided a highlight of the accomplishments, including goal 1, standing up three major social media platforms, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. The Health District responds to and posts public health related messaging within each platform.
- d. Also under goal 5, the Health District secured new funding sources including Tobacco Prevention and Control, Marijuana Prevention, and the expansion of the Nurse-Family Partnership program into Benton County.
- e. Under goals 1 and 6, all staff were trained, with the help of a professional consultant, on customer service, team building, improving communication, and overall inspiring a culture of trust. Lastly, under goal 6, all staff were taught and exercised on the concept of personality theory, which is the framework to increase individual and collective awareness of the different styles of communications.

3. Strategic Plan Overview 2018-2020 – Jason Zaccaria

- a. A Strategic Plan 2018-2020 Overview handout was provided in the Board of Health packet. The Health District has been working on the development of the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan as the previous plan closed at the end of 2017.
- b. In the new Strategic Plan there are six priority issues with corresponding goals and strategies. At this point staff are working to finalize identification of the specific action items that can be carried out to meet the identified goals. The Health District has identified existing and new Committees, Teams and Work Groups to help carry out the specific actions.
- c. On page 2 of the handout, the Health District refreshed its Mission, Vision, and Values with minor updates.
- d. Overall, the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan is more comprehensive in nature as compared to the previous plan. The 2014-2017 plan was heavily focused on infrastructure, based on the needs of the agency at the time, and prescriptive in nature from the top down. This plan period recognizes and appreciates a collaborative approach, which enables the



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agency to fully execute the plan. Additionally, the plan is more refined and robust with priority issues like quality and community engagement.

- e. Commissioner Delvin asked about the line under health equity regarding internal processes and practices across the agency to advance health equity and address social determinants of health and how this is accomplished. Carla Prock responded that it starts with awareness. The Health District will ensure that staff are aware of what social determinants of health are and their impact on long term health. Additionally, the agency will look at ways its own programs can address health equity and access issues.
- f. Commissioner Delvin followed up to understand how the Health District will support community partners regarding this topic. C. Prock responded that the goal is that when the Health District is looking at a health in all policies approach, that it also look at the health equity in all policies approach. As the agency works with strategic partners within the community, the Health District will discuss how healthy equity will impact their long term plans and development.

4. Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) Update – Rick Dawson

- a. Back in October 2017, Heather Hill and C. Prock presented information on how a Syringe Exchange Program would work if run out of the Pasco office. After the presentation there came some hurdles for the Health District to work on in order to gain consensus with the City of Pasco, which has been completed. Additionally, time was spent addressing concerns from partnering agencies that use the building involving Commissioner Koch and Tim Waters the Director of the cooperative, Washington State University (WSU) Franklin County Extension. Then, R. Dawson, T. Waters, and Everett Maroon, the Executive Director for Blue Mountain Heart to Heart spent time together in the Walla Walla SEP to assist in addressing T. Waters' concerns, and concluded with education and answering question directly with WSU staff.
- b. Some concerns were centered on perceptions of a SEP, including addicts hanging around the building and increased crime. However, the Health District is proposing a SEP that has a waiting room, with service in a clinic room setting. Service provided to the addict will be comprehensive with a syringe disposal container, education on how to protect themselves from infection when injecting, and clean supplies. A SEP can be perceived as supporting drug use, but rather it is a choice the addict is already going to make and this program will ensure that it is being done safely, thereby keeping the public safe. Having a SEP can prevent emergency room visits, hepatitis C, reduce human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) rates, and provide education and assistance in connecting with recovery programs.
- c. The SEP will also provide lifesaving medications, in the event of an overdose. E. Maroon is also available to answer questions and has already provided education to law enforcement agencies across the community on how to use Naloxone and has provided the lifesaving drug to Tri-City law enforcement.
- d. The Health District will not be operating the SEP, but will be providing the space. The facility will have a separate entrance from the Health District, with a separate waiting area and clinic room where syringes will be exchanged. Governor Inslee has declared



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an end to AIDS 2020. The Health District will be receiving funds to start reaching out to the public in trying to prevent HIV infections. One of the first steps will be identifying how to find those at risk, and one way to do that is through a SEP. This alignment will help addicts to get necessary testing, education and preventive medications.

- e. The Health District has addressed all the requests of the Board, with the exception of final approval from Franklin County to allow Blue Mountain Heart to Heart to use a portion of the Pasco office building, so that a MOU can be finished. By population, the Health District is the sixth largest health department in the State of Washington. Of the five larger health departments all have an active SEP within the jurisdiction, and the next four smaller health departments also have SEPs as well.
- f. R. Dawson asked for direction from the Board to have Jeff Jones write a letter to Franklin County in support of a SEP to move forward. Commissioner Koch motioned to allow J. Jones to send a letter to Franklin County in support of a SEP in the Pasco office. Commissioner Miller expressed concern with the program, but based on the facts presented is willing to consider. Commissioner Miller asked how law enforcement felt about having a SEP. R. Dawson stated that law enforcement was approached and voiced no objections. Commissioner Delvin seconded, with the suggestion to get education out to the public soon, but also to get in front of the Tri-City Herald Editorial Board to help address potential questions that may come up from the public. R. Dawson agreed and will also consider a press release as an additional method to inform the public with accurate information about a SEP. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 BFHD Annual Report – Jason Zaccaria

The Health District is almost finished with the 2017 Annual Report, well out ahead of the usual and customary later date. A draft will be ready for review early next month, followed by final publication.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Delvin moved to approve vouchers numbered 88-2017 through 14-2018, in the amount of \$1,829,344.09. Commissioner Koch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Per RCW 42.30.140, an executive session was called at 1:59pm, for 10 minutes to review collective bargaining. At 2:08pm the regular session was called back, with no action taken.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be March 21st, 2018.



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ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Shon Small adjourned the meeting at 2:18pm.

Signature on file

Shon Small

Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria

Executive Secretary

