



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH**

MEETING MINUTES

May 17th, 2017

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IN ATTENDANCE

Benton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Beaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Zaccaria, BFHD-District Administrator & BOH Executive Secretary
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Delvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Amy Person, BFHD-Health Officer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Small	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Jones, BFHD-Sr. Finance and Business Services Manager
Franklin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Koch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rick Dawson, BFHD-Sr. Surveillance and Investigation Manager
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carla Prock, BFHD-Sr. Healthy People and Communities Manager
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Peck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cody Lewis, BFHD-Information Systems and Security Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jessica Davis, BFHD-Food Safety Supervisor
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laili Abd Latif, Visitor-PTE Local 17 Union Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order at 1:36p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A simple majority quorum was not reached. The April 19th, 2017 minutes were not approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Celiac Disease and Restaurant Postings – Jessica Davis

At the previous meeting Commissioner Peck had questions regarding celiac disease, more specifically the autoimmune component and how this is addressed in food establishments.

According to Washington State code, there are eight major allergens including wheat, which is one of the triggers for of celiac disease that food establishments are expected to be aware of. Being aware means that a customer should be able to ask if a menu item contains wheat and the establishment should be able to answer the question. Furthermore, establishments are not required to post information about potential allergens. Additional research was done to determine what practices are in other similar sized states and staff did not find any requirements



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BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
May 17th, 2017**

to post information. The common requirement was that establishments be able to answer the yes/no question of whether or not the menu item contains the specified allergen.

Commissioner Koch asked what the symptoms are of celiac disease. Dr. Person stated that celiac disease is not actually an allergy; it is different than being allergic to wheat. Celiac disease is an autoimmune disease that causes the human body to react to itself, which is triggered by wheat. Common symptoms of celiac disease are chronic diarrhea and an inability to gain weight. Dr. Person further added in terms of risk and exposure, if you inadvertently eat something with wheat and you have celiac disease, you will experience associated symptoms, but it will not be a life threatening event. This factor distinguishes it from other allergies like peanuts, where accidental exposure can be potentially life threatening.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Food Safety Program Update – Jessica Davis

- a. There are over 1,300 permitted food establishments in the area and the number continues to grow. Food establishments range from full service like Red Robin and Applebee's to concession stands and mobile units. The number of temporary food permits issued also continues to grow and are well over 1,000. Temporary permits can be issued for anywhere from 1 day, up to 21 days.
- b. More recently food truck vendors have been coming together in efforts to lobby at the state level about the increase in food truck vendors. One of the advocates for this effort is the Mobile Vending University (MVU) which is hosted by Columbia Basin College and the Pasco Specialty Kitchen. The training is offered three times per year and J. Davis presents at each training event, which is typically five weeks long. There are currently 200 mobile units that are annually licensed in the area as well as some temporaries.
- c. Some of the difficulties that come with mobile vending include Health District staff ensuring that food is being served safely to the public. Additionally, there are conversations at the state level about requiring a state-wide mobile vending permit but it is too soon to make any decisions as questions and logistics still need to be addressed.
- d. Commissioner Koch asked if there were any questions that come up from food establishments or the public regarding the weekly Tri-City Herald (TCH) food inspection reports. J. Davis responded saying that questions come in every week and at this point have been manageable.
- e. This weekly article was started due to a standing public records request that the Tri-City Herald has for this information. J. Davis stated that each week a summary is provided to TCH plus a copy of the inspection reports from that week. The online article allows citizens to review the entire packet, the printed version only provides a summary. J. Davis added that there have been some positive outcomes of this weekly posting where some food establishments have become more engaged in the food safety process knowing that the public is more engaged about this topic.
- f. R. Dawson added that King County has started piloting an effort to post scores on the doors of establishments. Scores are averaged over the last three inspections and then posted on the front door.



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
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May 17th, 2017**

2. Medical & Environmental Health Updates – Dr. Person

- a. Franklin County had a confirmed case of Hantavirus and unfortunately a person died from it, which is not unusual. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is fatal in about one third of cases.
- b. This case brought together staff from multiple programs within the Surveillance and Investigation division, as well as Communications to formulate a strategy. Staff went out to the home to inspect for signs and continued risks to other inhabitants and provided media releases. The Health District was able to do a lot more media outreach in Spanish since there are staff that are fluent in Spanish and have a medical background.
- c. Hantavirus has a high fatality rate and has no specific treatment other than supportive care. Prevention is the mainstay for reducing any further cases. Significant work has been done through the media to educate the public on the appropriate precautions to take when cleaning out sheds. Education is also being conducted with providers to remind them that there are cases of the virus locally and those with symptoms should be referred to a facility with an intensive care unit sooner than later, as it will increase their chances for survival.
- d. The case in Franklin County is the third case reported in Washington State for 2017. The other two were in King County. Prior to this case, the last time the virus was seen in this area was in 2009 in Benton County. It is not very common, but since this virus has a high fatality rate, the Health District worked to ensure the community was aware and information was being shared, including on the website.
- e. Commissioner Small asked if it was just deer mice, or if it was other rodents as well now. R. Dawson responded that current testing shows it is coming from deer mice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Department of Health (DOH) Fiscal Audit Update – Jeff Jones

The DOH Fiscal Monitoring audit completed on May 9th, 2017. Auditors reviewed billings for January through March of this year, looking at source documents for purchases over \$200, time and effort reporting, cost allocation methodology and applicable accounting policies. There were no findings, issues or recommendations. As a result of this audit, the Health District will most likely be categorized as low risk. This categorization means the Health District will need to provide less backup documentation, saving staff time and effort preparing billings.

2. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – Jason Zaccaria

The NFP CAB Meeting is tonight at 4:00pm in Classroom 1. J. Zaccaria stated the group is trying to invigorate more discussion and participation and asked if the Commissioners had any suggestions for possible participants for the future meetings, specifically Franklin County. Commissioner Koch offered to discuss more with J. Zaccaria and provide some names.



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
May 17th, 2017**

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

A simple majority quorum was not. Vouchers 27-2017 through 33-2017 in the amount of \$655,028.86 were not approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be June 21st, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Koch adjourned the meeting at 2:21pm.

Signature on file

Commissioner Koch
Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

