

BOARD OF HEALTH

February 17, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Bob Koch called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Dr. Jecha called the roll: The following were:

Present: Chairman Bob Koch, Board Members James Beaver, Leo Bowman, Max Benitz Jr, Brad Peck, Rick Miller and Executive Secretary Larry Jecha, M.D.

Staff Present: Cody Lewis, IT Manager; Amy Serven and Becky Mellinger, Administrative Services; Rick Dawson and Susan Shelton, Environmental Health Supervisors; John Franco, Emergency Preparedness; Annie Goodwin, Carla Prock, Shelley Little and Heather Hill, Preventative Health Supervisors; Veronica Gutierrez, Assessment Coordinator; Bonnie Hall, Client Services Manager; Nancy Klotz, Public Health Nurse; Bruce Perkins, Director of Environmental Health; Carol Jensen, Human Resources; Irene Berger, Representing Local 17.

Visitors: Fred Bowen, Franklin County Administrator; Ray Schulz, Kennewick Masonic Lodge/Bikes for Books Coordinator

Approval of Agenda

Max Benitz moved, seconded by James Beaver to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of January 20, 2010 Minutes

Leo Bowman moved, seconded by Rick Miller to approve the minutes of January 20, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of February 2, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes

Leo Bowman moved, seconded by Rick Miller to approve the minutes of February 2, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

Formation of a Statewide Board of Health Group

Dr. Jecha discussed a letter that was presented to the Board at the last meeting from Commissioner Mark Richard of Spokane regarding any interest from local commissioners on forming a State Association of Local Boards of Health. The general consensus from the Board was that there was no interest at this time due to budget constraints. Dr. Jecha was instructed to send a letter to Commissioner Richard stating that there is no interest at this time but we might be interested at a later date.

Benton Franklin Health District Year-End Review

Dr. Jecha discussed some of the issues we encountered in 2009. There were budget issues that worsened with the weakening economy. When the biennial state budget was presented we lost twelve full time employees. Changes were made to program structures and processes to deliver services more efficiently. In 2009 we also saw the first pandemic in 40 years. We were hit with H1N1, West Nile Virus, implemented an electronic charting system for our nurses and WIC staff, and started an upgrade to the phone system to be able to handle high volumes of calls.

Our budget was reduced by almost \$400,000. Preventative health programs reduced included preventative childcare health, children with special health care needs, teen parenting at Tri-Tech and child death review. Environmental Health saw reductions in numerous community education programs such as air pollution, hand washing and food safety. The lab lost its pollen counting program. Administratively we are now closed during the lunch hour creating longer waits for service.

The first wave of H1N1 started in early April. We handled this in-house as no one saw it coming. We were ready with federal funding for the second wave when it started at the end of August. Between the first and second wave of H1N1 we were also hit with West Nile Virus in early June first with mosquito's and birds and later in horses and humans.

Carla Prock discussed the new Nightingale charting system. This is a web-based system to improve efficiency with our charting as well as completely changing the charting language. In January they had their initial planning call with a trainer from software and then created an implementation team of staff members. In March there was a kick-off webinar for staff. There were a series of five webinars total for all staff. In June there was on-site training here at BFHD. The program went live in July. In October we switched to a purely electronic charting system. There were some challenges with changes in staff and programs but we managed to get through these changes with no loss in revenue.

Board of Health Hearing Procedures

Bruce announced that we do not have information back from legal counsel at this time so we will wait until the next meeting to discuss it.

2010 Legislative Updates

At this time there were no legislative updates. Dr. Jecha stated that the general consensus for legislation is just the hope of no more cuts.

Release of County Health Rankings

Dr. Jecha announced the release of the County Health rankings. There was a small article in the newspaper announcing San Juan County as the healthiest county. It also listed the ten most and ten least healthy counties. These rankings were developed by the University of Wisconsin. The rankings were based on the assessment of health behaviors such as clinical care, social economic factors and physical environment. For health outcomes, Benton County ranked 13th and Franklin County ranked 15th out of 39 counties. For health factors Benton County ranked 12th and Franklin County ranked 25th.

Building Updates

Chairman Koch commented that at the previous meeting it was agreed to move forward with listing the sale of the Canal Drive building with Tippet; that has since been put on hold. Chairman Koch asked for further information,

Max Benitz spoke as a representative of the Bi-County Board of Benton & Franklin Counties stating there has been discussion on the possible utilization of the Canal Building by the Counties but budgetary aspects first needed to be examined. He stated the counties are looking at the building for possible usage by Human Services.

As a Board of Health member he is requesting we 1) hold off on the listing with Tippet Company as we would be liable for paying them a commission even if the Counties wanted to purchase the building and 2) give the Counties time to look at where they are heading with Human Services.

He requested a 30-60 day hold for the Board of Health to receive direction from the Bi-County Board on their potential utilization of the Canal Building.

Chairman Koch asked Max Benitz when this item should be put back on the agenda for discussion. Benitz stated when human services gives the Bi-County Board clear direction on where it is going - the Bi County Board would let the Board of Health know its plans and then the item should go back on the meeting agenda.

Announcements

Max Benitz questioned whether or not a resolution had been made with WSU regarding their need for a permit. This is still a discussion that is in the works between our Food Surveillance staff and the leaders at WSU to try to come to a resolution that is amenable to both sides.

Approval of Vouchers

Leo Bowman moved that the Board of Health approves payment of vouchers number 56 and numbers 58 to 61 for January/February 2010 in the amount of \$714,844.24. Max Benitz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Chairman Koch stated we had our first Budget Meeting for 2010 and our carryover is higher than budgeted. The finance committee has scheduled a meeting in April to look at the 2009 information and updated 2010 information.

Chairman Koch asked if an Executive Session was needed. Max Benitz stated an executive session was appropriate to discuss personnel issues.

The Board took a recess at 2:17 p.m. At 2:25 p.m. the Board of Health reconvened.

Executive Session

At 2:25 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session for up to 30 minutes to discuss a personnel issue. At 2:54 the Board reconvened.

The date of the next meeting will be March 17, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

At 2:55 the meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:
Amy Serven, Administrative Assistant
Benton-Franklin Health District



Bob Koch
Chairman of the Board



Larry Jecha, M.D.
Executive Secretary