

ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH - DECEMBER 14, 1998**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Island County Board of Health convened in Regular Session at 11:15 a.m., on December 14, 1998, in the Island County Courthouse Annex, Coupeville, Wa. Board of Health Members present included Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman; Tom Shaughnessy, Member; and Mike Shelton, Member. Also present were: Tim McDonald, Health Services Director; Keith Higman, Environmental Health Director; Jan Dahl, Assessment Coordinator; and Marshall Bronson, CHAB.

CHAB UPDATE**Youth Members Proposed**

On behalf of the Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB), Marshall Bronson stated that the focus of CHAB was youth as the primary sector of interest. CHAB was able to gather some youth members from different schools who attended the last CHAB meeting. Those names will be presented to the Board of Health as candidate CHAB members for appointment in the near future.

Community Summit Partnership

Jan Dahl reported on the work that CHAB is in partnership with, the Community Network and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Advisory Board, that sponsored the youth summit. On Camano Island, one of the things the community desired was a community health center and that has been provided through the County Camano Resource Center. The Camano community feels it should be more than a place where people could go in for appointments, and wanted to have information and referral resources available and the Camano group decided how to put that together. To that end, the Senior Center will be donating a computer; Stanwood-Camano News donating a printer and Microsoft is donating software. They are still looking for a fax and phone. The group is looking at a VISTA position to have someone there to help pull the information together and work with the public as they come in.

Rhonda Steele, Director, Partnership With Youth, shared how some of the work from the youth summit was contributing to the work already going on in Oak Harbor with PWY. PWY has had a different process than other imperatives since the organization was already in existence and has its own board, and already working in a particular direction, and interested in expanding the youth volunteer clearing house and pull the community in to work on that particular task and have a specific outline of things to be done with the volunteer clearing house: have a data base of youth who are interested in volunteering in the community; establish a data base of organizations within the community that are interested in having youth volunteers; and having monthly projects that the kids can be involved in [one-time events]. One of the incentives for doing that is allowing kids to earn money with the hours they volunteer to spend towards other PWY programs. This has been broken down into several different tasks that the community can be involved in. The next goal for a meeting on January 12 is for each to bring 1, 2 or 3 people who are hands-on people to take a task "and run with it".

Jan Glyzinski, Program Manager, PWY, updated on some of the activities being done, the largest program the Neutral Zone program running every Friday night at Oak Harbor Middle School. Over the course of 1998 some 5,000 kids attended that program, averaging about 110 youth to 150 youth each Friday. The life blood of that program is volunteers. Other big programs offered are monthly dances where about 100 to 150 youth attend. Summer programs offered included: horse back riding; rock climbing; kayaking; sailing; day hikes. The Fall program served about 500 kids; anticipate winter programs the same. While the roller barn goes under some renovations to form the youth center, beginning in January, every Tuesday the upstairs portion will be opened for kids from 2:30 to 5:00 one day a week for such things as mentors, teachers, arts & crafts, dance classes, etc. [PWY brochure provided; copy on file]

Health Professional Shortage Area Designations

Mr. Bronson advised that CHAB had discussed at some length, and prepared a draft letter, to the Office of Policy Coordination, Bureau of Primary Health Care, regarding the subject of Medically Underserved Area [MUA]

designations and Rural Health Clinics [RHC], in an attempt to persuade the federal government not to change the status of the County under the new federal rules governing health professional shortage area designations.

Mr. McDonald explained that the federal government set up the MUAs and that designation allows a federal clinic. Island County fits into the classification of Rural Health Clinics, allowing those who operate the clinics to do cost base reimbursement. Cost base reimbursement allows Whidbey General and Affiliated Health Services to make the decision to go into the primary care arena. The new threshold for MUA status will be 30% of the population will have to be under 200% of the federal poverty level; Island County is at 24% and qualified under the old threshold. In the Island County community, it is bad policy and will make it difficult for Whidbey General and Affiliated Health to make the decision to provide that level of primary care. If this policy is carried through, the federal government will utilize census data and starting the year 2000 update annual census data.

Jan Dahl commented that in addition to the CHAB writing a letter, the Camano Health Advisory team studied the issue as well and would be writing a letter.

The Board directed that Tim McDonald draft a letter appropriate for the Board of Health to send concerning the Medically Underserved Area designation issue.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled

for January 11, 1999, at 11:15 a.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH

ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman

Tom Shaughnessy, Member

Mike Shelton, Member