

## ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES OF MEETING - SEPTEMBER 13, 1999

The Island County Board of Health convened in Regular Session at 11:35 a.m., on September 13, 1999, in the Island County Courthouse Annex, Coupeville, Wa., with Board of Health Members present: Mike Shelton, Chairman; Wm. L. McDowell, Member; and William F. Thorn, Member.

Also present were: Marshall Bronson, CHAB; Roger Case, M.D., Health Officer; Tim McDonald, Health Services Director; Keith Higman, Environmental Health Director; Carrie McLachlan, Public Health Coordinator; Jan Dahl, Public Assessment Coordinator.

### CHAB UPDATE

Mr. Bronson gave the CHAB activity update from the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that meeting, CHAB received a "neutral" presentation by Tim McDonald concerning the effects of I-695. CHAB talked about patient centered care, a follow-up to the Plain Tree method previously discussed. Mr. Bronson noted a recent article in *The Pulse* discussing patient centered care. As part of the CHAB meeting, there was also a presentation on early brain research. The September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was the last meeting Ms. Dahl will attend. Ms. Dahl provided a great deal of effort, gentle leadership and guidance, her projects well designed and her capacity as a facilitator exemplary and Mr. Bronson felt she would be greatly missed.

Mr. Bronson received word from Mr. McDonald of the desire on the part of the Board of Health to meet jointly with CHAB sometime before the holidays – time for some interaction – and he will carry that message back to CHAB and get something set up.

### DISCUSSION OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT FEES

Tim McDonald and Keith Higman covered the following with regard to a discussion of Health Department Fees:

- **History of fees in Island County**  
[Hand-out: Resolution #HD-12-91 adopted 9/16/91]
- **Short Term Trend Analysis**  
[Hand-out: Graph - Environmental Health Fees for representative services 1992-1999; Chart - Environmental Health Fee increases for representative Services 1993-1999 by activity and fee and by percentage increase]
- **Current budget as it relates to fees** [Hand-out: 2000 Budget Environmental Health]
- **What fees would look like if increased to cover current budget**  
[Hand-out: Proposed 2000 Health Fee Schedule Island County Health Department]
- **General discussion items.**

Mr. McDonald noted that the fees outlined in HD-12-91 dealt mostly with environmental health programs. There are others but those are not structured to be totally supported by fees. Except for nursing contracts, a good job is done on recovering 100% of the costs. Appendix talks about how the Department assembled the fee proposal.

Mr. Higman presented information specific to environmental health. The trend analysis first page looks at what would be a representative fee in each of the environmental health programs tracked between 1992 and present. Second page shows data tables supporting the graphic on the first page and gives an idea of what fee for service was charged in 1993 versus 1999. With a small shortfall

predicted for the 2000 budget, the proposal is for an increase in fees. A summation spread sheet was provided for the environmental health programs, along with similar spread sheet from last year for comparison. Other information was

prepared to illustrate what a 4.3% increase would look like for environmental health fees. There is an issue of equity as far as some of the activities that occur in the environmental health section in relation to fees for (a) on-going activities; (b) maintenance activities [i.e. on-site records scanned into digital format to be accessed through a computer].

Mr. McDonald brought up a general issue of fee indexing, using the example of public health nurse fees being indexed to Medicaid fees. Although proposal has been prepared for presentation to the Board, he thought it was something to think about in the future and also consider indexing non-Medicaid associated fees to the Western Washington Consumer Price index. He will bring forward a nursing fee proposal that catches up with Medicaid, along with a proposal to index fees to Medicaid. With regard to any other fee proposal for environmental health, he will wait further instructions from the Board at staff session.

Commissioner Thorn thought where the Department performed a public service it should be fully reimbursed and the cost recovered. He liked the idea of indexing, especially if I-695 passes; that would be one way of keeping up that would be built into the system.

Commissioner McDowell agreed with the direction insofar as catching up with Medicaid, but not that all other fees be indexed to some cost inflation factor.

Chairman Shelton did not like to commit more and more Current Expense money, but thought the Board had an obligation to constituents to keep fees generally in line with fees throughout the State.

With respect to the on-site program, if at some point in time new construction does trend down over time the number of sanitarians needed might be reduced, but on the other hand, it would not necessarily mean less people, but perhaps a redirection of people away from the on-site program in the field and more to the maintenance of the existing systems.

Follow-up: Further discussion during budget workshops.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.; next regular meeting scheduled for October 11, 1999, beginning at 11:15 a.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH  
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Shelton, Chairman  
Wm. L. McDowell, Member  
William F. Thorn, Member