

**Island County Board of Health  
Continued Meeting  
Monday, October 22, 2001**

**Members Present:** Commissioner William F. Thorn, Commissioner Mike Shelton, Commissioner Mac McDowell, Mayor Patricia Cohen, Roger S. Case, MD, (Ex-Officio Member) Executive Secretary, Board of Health.

**Absent:** Captain Donald Jensen, MC, USN, Ex-Officio Member;

Chairman William F. Thorn called this continued meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 5:00 p.m. As the first order of business, Commissioner Thorn introduced Barbara Saugen, a Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner, as their nominee to replace former Board member Holly Schoenknecht who had recently tendered her resignation. Mayor Patricia Cohen moved that Barbara Saugen be seated as a member of the BOH, and Commissioner Mike Shelton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mike Shelton moved that the minutes for the September 17, 2001 be accepted as written; Mayor Patricia Cohen seconded. The minutes were approved for the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

There was no input from the public.

**Presentation:**

Jackie Henderson, Human Services Director, introduced the members of her staff that were present: *Mike Etzell works with the Developmental Disabled and Mental Health program; Sandy Akins works with Substance Abuse Prevention; and Beth Plush is the Contract Coordinator for Human Services.* Jackie presented an outline of the many services that her department provides, most of which are done in collaboration with other community agencies. For example, one of these services is working in conjunction with Island Employment Services to provide long-term employment for developmentally disabled individuals throughout the county (see attachment). To further acquaint the Board members with the variety of supported Human Services programs and needs, Jackie, with the assistance of her staff, presented a Human Services Quiz in which all Board members participated (see attachment).

**Contracts:** Commissioner Mac McDowell moved that Family Planning-DSHS Contract No:9863-15194(3) for \$44,070 be approved. Mayor Patricia Cohen seconded. The motion passed for the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

**Report from the Health Department:**

Tim McDonald, Health Services Director, presented an update of the Health Department's present status and response regarding the Anthrax-Bioterrorism issue. Staff members have met to discuss roles, developed a written protocol, and updated and tested emergency notification numbers. He stated that all local response agencies have been meeting to clarify specific roles, responsibilities, and communication lines to efficiently address situational needs as they arise. ICOM and the law enforcement personnel, along with fire department and EMT first response teams are communicating appropriately with support activities, and are rectifying identified problem areas. Mr. McDonald stipulated the health department's tri-fold role in these circumstances as:

1. providing technical assistance to the medical community and law enforcement officials,
2. providing surveillance functions to identify early signs and follow-up information regarding bio-chemical threat to the community, and
3. providing education and information to the public in a timely manner.

Mr. McDonald also noted that over the past several days Health Department staff personnel have received many calls concerning the anthrax threat, and while this is an important service, it has required they take time from their normal (revenue generating) duties to respond to the public's inquires. He reminded the Board members that any bioterrorism or communicable disease response remains an unfunded activity, and that a significant disease outbreak would require substantially more funding.

Dr. Case, Health Officer for Island County, invited the Board's input to an article entitled: "What Do I Need to Know About Anthrax" that he will be forwarding this evening to all local newspapers (see attachment). He noted that the Island County Disaster Council has been meeting almost monthly for the past 5 years in their development of the county's Emergency Response Plan which involves every component of the county's emergency response agencies. They have regularly held countywide emergency response drills in coordination with all support activities, and have recently addressed their roles in the event of local bioterrorist activity. County, state and federal response teams and agencies are on the alert to provide support when and wherever such a threat is identified.

There being no further business, Commissioner Thorn adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.  
The Board of Health will reconvene Monday, November 19th, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted: Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board  
Minutes approved this 19th day of November 2001.

**ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

William F. Thorn, Chairman