Island County Board of Health
Regular Session - Monday, October 21st, 2013
Minutes

Members Present: Island County Commissioners Jill Johnson, Helen Price Johnson, and Kelly Emerson; Captain Edward Simmer, MC, USN, Ex-Officio Member; Scott Dudley, Mayor of Oak Harbor; and Brad Thomas, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board.

Members Absent: Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner

Call to Order: Kelly Emerson called this Regular Session of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:15 p.m.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Dudley made a motion for approval of the minutes of the September 16th, 2013 Regular meeting. Commissioner Jill Johnson seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passes.

Public Input or Comments: The Chair invited members of the public who wished to provide input or make comments to indicate their wish to do so. There were no requests to address the Board.

Contracts: Keith Higman presented two contracts to the Board for their consideration.

1. Opportunity Council – Septic Inspection and Referral Program
   Contract No. HD-14-2013
   Contract Amount: $ 7,500

2. Department of Ecology – Coordinated Prevention Grant
   Contract No. G1400122
   Contract Amount: $ 206,320

Commissioner Jill Johnson moved to approve the contracts as presented. Commissioner Helen Price Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Presentation – Quality Improvement—Streamlining OSS: Jill Wood, Environmental Health Director, and Laura Luginbill, Assessment and Healthy Communities Supervisor, presented to the Board an overview of a recent quality improvement project funded by a small State grant to improve the process which pays contractors for septic system installations for qualifying homeowners. The goal of the project was to reduce payment time from 30 days to 15 days. As a result of implementing new efficiency measures, the payment time was reduced to 8 days. The quality improvement project has been deemed a success. As a result, Public Health will be submitting an application to the State Department of Health for consideration of a grant to fund a second quality improvement initiative. The focus of the new QI project will be a study of contract processing and approval with a goal of improving the system for more efficient contract administration.
A request is made of the Board of Health members to approve the Chair to sign a letter of support which will be included with the grant application. Board of Health members are in agreement to support the project.
Commissioner Helen Price Johnson moves to approve the Chair to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Jill Johnson seconds the motion and is passes unanimously.

Presentation – Group B Rule Discussion: Keith Higman, Director of Health Services and Jill Wood, Environmental Health Director, presented information regarding next steps for implementing changes to Group B Public Water systems, as referenced in WAC 246-291, which will become effective in January, 2014. Once the Board of Health reaches a decision on the level of delegation, the Island County Code will be revised. Upon approval and adoption of revised Island County Code, Island County will then enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Washington State Department of Health, reflecting changes to delegation of Group B Water System Rules. Discussion was held regarding this information and the Board of Health agreed to review a draft of code revision update at a future meeting.

Report from the Health Department: Keith Higman provided the following:

- Eric Brooks, Deputy Director of Emergency Management, recently provided to Island County Public Health a set of Quick Book reference guides for public health emergencies. If the Board of Health members are interested, Keith can provided copies.
- October 20th – 26th is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.
- Washington State Department of Health is moving to a new online registry system which will provide a new system for processing death certificates.
- A topic for future discussion for the Board of Health may be arsenic contamination level standards, solutions, and enforcement for individual wells. ICPH will bring forth options for the Board to consider when the Board reviews Group B Rule revisions to the Island County Code.
- On the communicable disease front, Washington State has a reported 16 cases of *Salmonella* Heidelberg as a result of contaminated chicken from the manufacturer Foster Farms.
- The CDC has issued a travel warning for parts of Mexico due to an outbreak of cholera.
- A packet of information was distributed to Board of Health during today's meeting. This is correspondence mailed to Board members from an organization called "Means of Change," which promotes further research into radio and microwave signals as public health hazards.

Board Comments/Announcements:

- Captain Simmer announced that due to Federal funding restrictions, the Whidbey Island Naval Hospital will undergo restructuring of some services in order to reduce costs. The Naval Hospital expects to have 6000-7000 new users of medical services in the next 4 years. Currently, Whidbey Island Naval Hospital delivers 2/3 of all babies on Whidbey Island. Restructuring of services will save $6 million. Retirees will still be eligible for care. An overview of the changes are is as follows:
    - Closure of the med-surge department.
    - Closure of in-patient surgery (except labor/delivery and C-sections)
    - Staff Naval surgeons within local community hospital.
    - Update labor/delivery sections and nursery services.
    - Closure of the Urgent Care Clinic
    - Expansion of hours in primary care clinic.

Adjourn: There being no further business before the Board, Chair Kelly Emerson adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Health will be held on November 18th, 2013 at 1:15 p.m. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room (B102) in the Court House Annex Building.

Submitted: _____
Brad Thomas, M.D.
Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 18 day of Nov 2013
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Kelly Emerson, Board Chair