

**SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
August 26, 2009**

Board Members Present:

Everett “Buck” Ward
Marvin Hempleman
Linda Montgomery
Don Clark
Tom Faulkner
Angenie McCleary

District Staff Present:

Rene LeBlanc, Director
Bonnie Spencer, Deputy Director
Cheryle Becker, Family and Children’s Health Administrator
Merl Egbert, Environmental Health Director
Karyn Goodale, Public Health Promotion /Preparedness Manager
Amy Lierman, Public Information Officer
Kathlyn Egbert, Management Assistant
Eric Myers, Facility Foreman
Adria Masoner, Health Education Specialist

Board Members Excused:

Don Billings
Peter Curran
Marypat Fields

Guests:

Glenn Carpenter, PHN
Monica Luna, CSR
KMVT

Minutes

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order by Mr. Ward at 1:35 p.m.

State Service Awards were given to Monica Luna (10 years), Glenn Carpenter (15 years), and Merl Egbert (20 years). The Board thanked them for their dedicated years of service to the State and to public health.

MOTION (made by Ms. Montgomery, second by Mr. Hempleman): “I move that we amend the agenda by moving the executive session up to 2:30 P.M.” Motion carried.

MOTION (made by Mr. Hempleman, second by Ms. Montgomery): “I move that we approve the minutes of the June 24, 2009, Board meeting.” Motion carried.

Mr. LeBlanc reviewed correspondence: confirmation of Mr. LeBlanc’s appointment to the NACCHO Board; agenda for Health Care Task Force (attended by Russ Duke); invitation to join the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce; notice of APHA membership renewal; IAC meeting agenda in September; and NALBOH election ballot. The Board decided that if we were to join one Chamber of Commerce we would need to join them all. Consensus was not to join any. Mr. LeBlanc’s recommendation was to not renew the APHA membership as we have other means of receiving the same information. The IAC meeting in September will be a conflict for Ms. McCleary, but the Board meeting will still be held on September 23.

Nominating Committee

Ms. Montgomery reported that the Nominating Committee had asked Mr. Ward and Mr. Hempleman to continue in their offices for the upcoming year.

MOTION (made by Ms. Montgomery, second by Mr. Faulkner): “I move that nominations be closed and that Mr. Ward and Mr. Hempleman continue to serve as Chairman and Vice Chair/Trustee, respectively.” Motion carried.

Operations

Ms. Spencer introduced Eric Myers, the District Facility Foreman. He will be overseeing the construction of the new Gooding facility.

Ms. Spencer reviewed the Comparison to Budget report for Fiscal Year 2009. We finished the year at 97.39% of budgeted revenues and 92.41% of budgeted expenditures. The total reserve draw was \$257,808, of which \$72,688 for the Gooding facility and \$185,120 for Board-approved carry over projects. Operating was \$225,237 under budget with savings across all divisions. The software replacement project using carryover funds was not completed. Total interest for the year was \$62,514, and the pass-through account balance is \$408,659.

Ms. Spencer presented the carryover expenditures proposal. Itemized requests for IT (\$52,400), software replacement (\$110,000), vaccine fridges (\$7,500), and facility projects (\$25,700) were reviewed. The balance of \$204,903 was proposed to go into the building fund. Ms. Montgomery recommended adding wireless microphones to the proposal.

MOTION (made by Mr. Faulkner, second by Mr. Clark): “I move that we accept the proposed budget amendments.” Motion carried.

The interest comparison report shows that the Diversified Bond Fund continues to outperform the JEPF Fund. (4.05% vs 1.66% for FY-09).

The July Comparison to Budget report reflects the receipt of the first half of our state funding. The pass-through account balance is at \$1,045,613 which is the high point for the year.

The new Gooding facility is currently out to bid with the bid opening scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on August 27. Board members were invited to attend. The hospital is paving the road on September 15 so we need to get our water and sewer lines stubbed in before then.

A conference call was scheduled for 1:30 on Monday, August 31, to discuss the results of the bid opening and to accept a bid. Bid results will be mailed and/or emailed to Board members in advance of the conference call.

The personnel report through the end of June showed a lot of personnel activity. Overall, the District is down two FTEs since December 2008. Three positions were eliminated and one created

(clinical assistant). Thirteen staff left the agency during the six month (resignation, termination, retirement), and eight appointments have been made, currently leaving five vacancies.

Ms. Spencer has been attending the Certified Public Manager course offered for the development of government managers. Her proposed final project is completing a work climate assessment for the District. This past year we have experienced many changes in staff, programs, and funding so the timing is right. Additional staff will be requested to assist her in establishing a baseline, implementing changes, and resurveying. The project will be introduced to all staff during the Staff Training Day on October 2. Ms. Montgomery volunteered to be part of the group.

Administration

Mr. LeBlanc gave an overview of H1N1 plans/activities associated with the Public Health Emergency Response grant (PHER). The gap analysis has been turned in to the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) as part of phase 1. Health District staff are serving on several work groups headed by DHW. Everyone is working on the process of how to get vaccine out to all 50 states. Clinical vaccine trials are being conducted and ship to sites are being identified. Along with the public health districts, hospitals, outpatient clinics and community health centers may receive vaccine shipments. Mr. LeBlanc has met with the school superintendents to discuss plans for immunizing students, and the Twin Falls superintendent is acting as liaison. Mass vaccinations in rural school districts will be our target audience. The Department of Education has a website with good information for the school districts. We will continue with the planning and public communication phase until shipments of vaccine are received.

The District experienced an unusual amount of staff transition this summer. As staff shrinks, we are working on a regionalization approach to clinical services with nurses and support staff traveling within the district. Mr. LeBlanc has approached Family Health Services about sharing a Nurse Practitioner to keep family planning clinics going in Twin Falls and Burley.

Employee service awards were discussed. Mr. LeBlanc will bring further information to the Board at the next meeting.

MOTION (made by Ms. Mcleary, second by Mr. Hempleman): “I move that we go into executive session as authorized by Idaho Law 67-2345 (a) and (b) for the purpose of discussing employee issues.”

The Board went into executive session at 2:30 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Community Relations

Ms. Lierman informed the Board of upcoming health fairs she would like the District to participate in. With the planning of the seasonal flu and H1N1, we would miss out on good opportunities to provide critical information and make contact with the community if we did not participate. Two upcoming events we will support are the County Disaster Fair on September 19 and the SLMVRMC Health Fair at the mall on October 3. The Board approved the request to participate. The Magic Valley Tobacco Free Coalition has a booth at the Twin Falls County Fair this year. We

will be selective in choosing which health fairs to attend to be sure they are beneficial to the communities and a good use of staff time. We need to get away from the passive approach of just having material handed out by someone else to getting out in the community and actively promoting our services and information. It is good public relations to get out and be recognized as knowledgeable about things the public is concerned about.

FACH

Ms. Becker reported that our first West Nile Virus case resulted in the death of an elderly man. Some positive mosquito pools in Twin Falls have also been identified. Fight the Bite information is on our websites, and printed materials are available to help people know the risk and how to reduce the risk of contracting West Nile Virus.

An update on the childhood immunization program was presented by Ms. Becker. The District purchased \$80,000 worth of vaccine before Dean Cameron requested that the Governor release the funds to reinstate universal vaccines for children (VFC) and allow all insured clients to receive vaccine as well as those who were currently eligible. The State did reinstate the VFC program until January 1, 2010, but will not reimburse us for our cost of purchasing vaccine. Blue Cross will honor bills through September as well as Blue Shield (undetermined time frame). The end of last week, we had \$20,000 worth of vaccine left. Several VFC providers discontinued their participation in the program, and it is yet to be determined who may come back. Note (report just received): A subcommittee was appointed from the members of the legislative task force to explore solutions that might be put in place after January 1 as well as looking at the possibility of reimbursing private providers for their investment and excess private-purchased vaccine stock.

We have received half of our seasonal flu vaccine and would like to complete vaccination clinics by the end of September before moving onto H1N1 vaccination clinics. There are two different high risk groups for the two types of influenza, and we don't want to confuse the public.

Ms. Becker attended the Northwest Center for Public Health Summer Institute. Accreditation for Public Health was presented as a way to increase our public health presence in our communities. Instead of being a regulatory agency, we should be seen as a quality improvement entity. The first "class" for accreditation will include tribal, state, and local public health agencies. Health care reform funded by the stimulus package may come down to help with the accreditation process for public health agencies.

Environmental Health

Mr. Egbert reported on two potential contracts for the Environmental Health Division. The CPSC Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Inspection contract will provide funds for staff to inspect drainage and circulation systems. One contract will be issued to each state. The Environmental Health directors submitted a cost quote with Central District Health as the administrator and the other districts being subcontractors. We submitted 56 pools from our district to be inspected (approximately \$14,000 in funding) within a 90-120 days time period.

We are looking at a new FDA contract to inspect food processing facilities. We previously had a small contract with FDA, but the proposed contract would have an increase in possible inspections to supplement our workload.

Public Health Promotion and Preparedness

Ms. Goodale gave an overview of H1N1 activities. The public health districts completed a state-wide gap analysis to identify where districts are in their ability to respond to an H1N1 outbreak and where we should be. Federal funding will be based on the gap analysis, and we will receive 50% of the funding upfront. We have been establishing or reviewing MOUs with community partners. A letter and survey will be sent to medical providers asking for their assistance in providing H1N1 vaccine to their staff and clients they serve that meet the priority groups. We are partnering with Homeland Security to establish a partnership with local business to provide cold storage and refrigerated trucks to transport vaccine. We are responding to requests from community partners for information and presentations on how they can prevent the spread of influenza. We are partnering with all six hospitals to allocate ASPR funds to increase their medical surge capacity.

Ms. Masoner introduced the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) project and her efforts in recruiting medical volunteers to help in an emergency. The MRC is a nationwide network of organized volunteers to strengthen communities. The presentation included the vision, mission, and history of the MRC and information on the Volunteer Idaho electronic data base. Our goal is to have at least 50 volunteers registered in our district by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



Everett "Buck" Ward
Board Chairman

Attest:



Rene R. LeBlanc, Director
Secretary to the Board

Board Minutes approved on 9/23/09