

**SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
February 25, 2009**

Board Members Present:

Everett “Buck” Ward
Linda Montgomery (by phone)
Tom Faulkner
Marypat Fields
Don Clark

District Staff Present:

Rene LeBlanc, Director
Bonnie Spencer, Deputy Director
Tom Machala, Communicable Disease and Prevention Director
Merl Egbert, Environmental Health Director
Jeremy St Clair, Financial Specialist
Debbie Parrish, Child Health Coordinator
Kathlyn Egbert, Management Assistant

Board Members Excused:

Don Billings
Angenie McCleary
Marvin Hempleman

Guests:

Ben Botkin, Times News

Minutes

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order by Mr. Ward at 1:40 p.m.

MOTION (made by Ms. Fields, second by Mr. Faulkner): “I move that we revise the agenda and start with the budget revision agenda item.” Motion carried.

Budget Revision – FY 2009

Ms. Spencer reviewed the proposed second budget revision for FY 2009. Reductions were made in personnel with a hiring freeze (\$4,870,833) and operating expenditures (\$1,633,796). Revenues were revised with reductions in State funding (\$1,335,100) and contracts (\$2,941,776). The reserve fund draw was reduced to \$634,796 with lower estimates for software replacement/upgrade and related IT expenditures. An additional \$5,000 for car seat purchases for Safe Kids Coalition was included. The proposed budget was discussed and questions answered.

MOTION (made by Mr. Faulkner, second by Ms. Fields): “I move that we adopt the proposed budget revision as presented.” Motion carried.

Correspondence

We received feedback from the State Controller’s Office concerning partial payments for Board Member non-meeting conference calls. The intent of Idaho Code is not to compensate board members for time spent by the hour. It is a ‘daily amount’ and there is no authority for fractioning this amount. The Board’s decision made at the last meeting was to not be paid for conference calls if it was full fee. Consensus was the same after the State Controller’s opinion.

Legislative/Trustee Report

Mr. LeBlanc reviewed the minutes of the last Trustee conference call discussing the legislative session activities. Focus has been on the day care licensing and food fee legislation. The Health Districts are remaining neutral on the day care licensing bill and will be presenting the IAB

resolution on child care to the committee. Negotiations are still being pursued on the food fee legislation with the new fee being \$150 for food establishments and \$100 for a temporary permit.

The February 25 Legislative Bulletin and Senate Bill 1083 Food Fee were shared with Board members for their information.

Draft resolutions for IAB 2009 approval were distributed for Board members to review and bring back comment at the next meeting:

- Support for Septic System Design Based on Adequate Wastewater Flows and Proper System Maintenance
- Immunization Requirements at School Entry
- Encourage Healthy Lifestyles Incentives for State of Idaho Health Insurance Plan
- Immunization Requirements of Licensed Childcare Programs
- Prescriptive Contraceptives and TB Medications Delivery
- Preference to Hire Non-Smokers

Administration Report

The District Bylaws was presented last month for review and comment by the Board. One edit is to reference Idaho Code rather than a house bill number since the legislation allowing Boards to have nine Board members to add representation by a physician passed. With that edit, Mr. Ward was authorized to sign the Bylaws.

As our Board no longer has representation by a doctor, Mr. LeBlanc requested that Ms. McCleary contact Dr. Curran (previous Board member) about his interest in serving as a Medical Consultant and ninth member of the Board.

MOTION (made by Ms. Fields, second by Mr. Faulkner): “On condition of Dr. Curran’s interest and availability, I move that we request Dr. Curran serve as medical representation to the Board of Health.”

Mr. LeBlanc will research information on the nominating process and voting status (ex-officio ?) of the physician on the Board. What will be the number of Board members needed to make a quorum? Motion was tabled until the Idaho Code could be referred to later in the meeting.

Mr. LeBlanc informed the Board that the District will need to increase the reimbursable hour amount for school health nursing to \$55. With cuts to education budgets and unknown stimulus impacts, we don’t know how many schools will choose to contract for nursing services. The fee increase will be calculated into the FY 2010 budget proposal.

District contingency planning includes program prioritization of Category 3 Programs (contract programs). A list of programs included in this category and the order of priority was shared with the Board. In March, Division Directors will present the significance of each of these programs and the District cost to run them.

MOTION (made by Ms. Fields, second by Mr. Faulkner): “Pending his acceptance, I move that we designate Peter Curran, MD, as the physician member of District V Board of Health.” Motion carried.

If Dr. Curran is not available, Mr. Faulkner recommended that we send letters to each County Commission requesting nominations for a physician.

Operations

Ms. Spencer reviewed the Comparison to Budget report for January. Overall revenues are at 62% based on the first budget revision. We received the second half of our state budget appropriation in January. The February report will show the additional 2% holdback requested by the State. Contracts, fees, and donations are within the range expected at this point in the fiscal year. Expenditures are at only 51% of the budgeted level with reduced software replacement and Gooding facility construction costs. The pass through account balance is \$1,296,034.

Mr. Faulkner asked if Ms. Spencer could show the previous year's cash balance on the report as a comparison to the current year.

Communicable Disease and Prevention Report

Mr. Machala reported on the recent immunization contract meeting. If the State does not fund its portion of the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program, we will lose our universal select status. Then free vaccine would only be available to children who are not insured or underinsured, have Medicaid, or are American Indian. Private providers may not want to participate due to the increased paperwork and increased screening issues. All providers, including the District would have to purchase vaccine separately for those with insurance and set up a system to keep and track them separately. Currently, Idaho insurance companies do not reimburse for the cost of childhood vaccines and may take time to change their policies resulting in a lot of frustration and cost in billing and re-billing.

The Health Districts have reduced projections of clients to be served in recent requests for funding from the Title X & V grants for Family Planning so that the grants cover the total cost of clients served, SCPHD picked up the cost of the rest of the clients. However all had access to free contraceptives through this program. How to recover the extra costs of these clients is currently under discussion, with many Districts going to a client pay system called District Care, where income verification and a minimum fee is charged to all clients. Sixty-eight percent of SCPHD clients are at or below 100% of federal poverty guidelines, with an additional 20% at or below 150%. Slight adjustments in income categories probably will not make up the difference. The current economy has started to increase clients, but we have been limited by our nurse practitioner vacancy in Twin Falls, so fill-in staff have cost more – but our resources and general support dollars are decreasing.

Environmental Health Report

Mr. Egbert informed the Board that the sewage program legislation did not make it out of committee. The issue was that the Health Districts could not accurately determine the how/why statistics of septic system failures. The seven Health Districts have now put into place an investigatory or evaluation process associated with each septic system replacement. The addendum will be printed on the replacement application, and upon completion will be scanned into the property file as well as a history log for replacement information. Within two years, we will have the data requested when and if future legislation is initiated.

The Health District recently conducted a successful septic installer training with almost 60 installers attending. Changes were made to the training with less duplication between state and health district presenters as a result of comments on last year's evaluation form. Course evaluations have been very useful in improving the training with positive responses from installers.

Melody Bowyer, Environmental Health Program Manager, has completed a year-long leadership training sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Public Health Leadership

Development Network. She completed a leadership project on improving the performance evaluation process for the Environmental Health Division. Plans are to incorporate her work into future evaluations. The Board offers their congratulations on the good work she has done.

Community Health Report

Debbie Parrish, Child Health Coordinator, presented information the EPSDT program that is being closed at the District level. We have been providing services since the program began in 1996 to at-risk children who are medically fragile or have developmental delays. She reviewed the contributing factors to EPSDT service coordination reimbursement shortfalls. New legislation will be mandating that children birth to three years of age will be managed out of the child development centers. Private agencies will providing services by para-professionals at a decreased rate. Our current case-load will be transitioned out by June.

Other Business

Several policies requiring Board Chairman signature are up for review. It was suggested that a few policies be addressed and updated each month by District administrative staff and presented to the Board with a recommendation to sign.

Work has started again on the Gooding hospital. We will get back with Russ Lively to reactivate the building project; and Mr. LeBlanc will meet with Earl Fitzpatrick to discuss issues with utilities.

A challenge we are facing now is how to take a limited resource (revenue we will receive) and still run all the programs as costs go up. It is not our goal to cut programs or staff, but to be creative using staff in non-traditional roles. The stimulus act is being studied to see if there is something the Health Districts can apply for. Applications need to be submitted by March 4. Consensus is to not ask for an increase in funding from the counties.

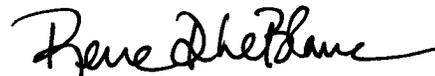
MOTION (made by Ms. Fields, second by Mr. Faulkner): “I move that we adjourn.” Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.



Everett “Buck” Ward
Board Chairman

Attest:



Rene R. LeBlanc, Director
Secretary to the Board

Board Minutes approved on March 25, 2009