

**NOTES
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH INFORMATIONAL MEETING
JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO**

On June 15, 2010 at 8:00 a.m., President Cathy Corcoran called the meeting to order. Ms. Karen Gardella took roll call. Present were Ms. Bonnie McNulty and Ms. Cathy Corcoran. Ms. Amanda Cruser, counsel, was also present. A quorum was not established. Ms. Corcoran announced the absence of a quorum and deemed this meeting an informational session and no legal action of the Board would be taken.

Ms. Cathy Corcoran presented the June Employee of the Month certificate to Ms. Carla Opp with the Environmental Health Division.

After direction from counsel, it was decided that a unanimous approval by electronic mail (e-mail) from the majority of the Board of Health members would be appropriate to satisfy the requirement of majority approval for the financial report, contracts and agreements and the warrants. All Board of Health members received these documents previously and reviewed the material. Ms. Corcoran and Ms. Bonnie McNulty both approved the above and Ms. Corcoran would obtain approval or disapproval of these documents via e-mail from the other officer and members, prior to completion of the contracts.

Ms. Beth Lipscomb discussed four contracts and agreements with the Board members.

Dr. Mark Johnson advised the Board that the final presentation of the 2011 budget to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will be October 27, 2010 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' boardroom. He requested that a Board of Health member attend this meeting. Ms. Lipscomb updated the Board on the Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) facilities issue. A challenge was filed with the City of Lakewood to oppose the rezoning of the location at 260 South Kipling. This postpones the rezoning process until the challenge is resolved. The Arvada facility has been remodeled and there is no forecast on how long JCPH will be occupying that site. Jefferson County has signed a Letter of Intent with the City of Wheat Ridge to acquire property at 44th Avenue and Wadsworth. Dr. Johnson added that JCPH is willing to work with the county to achieve the best results for all departments involved. Ms. Lipscomb also told the Board that the Edgewater WIC lease expires in May 2011 and negotiations will begin soon.

Mr. Craig Sanders gave an update on 9064 Highway 285 – (Mr. Spencer House, owner). The system designer found a suitable site on the property to relocate the leach field; the engineer provided a new engineering report and a contractor installed a new system. Once the electrical connection to the pump has been installed and final inspection has been approved, this case will be complete. Mr. Sanders voiced his appreciation of Ms. Christine Kennedy, Ms. Kelly McGregor, Mr. Mike Davis, Mr. Victor Fenhaus, Mr. Roy Laws, Dr. Jim Dale and Ms. Amanda Cruser. Mr. Sanders also assured the Board that the owner of the property will be held responsible for following the maintenance schedule set forth by the engineer. Ms. Cathy Corcoran added her gratefulness to the people who have gone beyond expectations on this case. Ms. Corcoran requested that JCPH log, for the record, the time and money this case has cost the department.

Dr. Mark Johnson reported on each of the divisions.

Administration: The Vital Records office has been remodeled to better serve the public and to improve the working situation and safety of staff. Interviews will be conducted for a Deputy Registrar to fill a vacancy in that program. An emergency hire has been added to review the public health policies and to update as needed. A new epidemiologist will be hired soon. Changes in personnel include Ms. Angel Anderson moving from Environmental Health to Emergency Preparedness as the Regional Epidemiologist, and Ms. Christine Billings, the previous Regional Epidemiologist, filled the position of Emergency Preparedness Planner.

Community Health Services: Ms. Cynthia Farkas, the supervisor for the Nurse Family Partnership Program has announced her retirement. Ms. Amy Guccione will fill that position. Ms. Norma Tubman is in the process of reorganizing supervisors and programs to reduce the number of layoffs associated with lack of funding.

Environmental Health: A new Environmental Health Specialist II, Mr. Matthew Garcia, has been hired in Consumer Protection. Ms. Tracey Volkman was also hired as an Environmental Health Specialist III to fill the position Ms. Angel Anderson held.

Health Promotion and Lifestyle Management: The main issue has been the tobacco contract. Much of that program has been funded by Amendment 35 tobacco tax funding. Due to the state's economy, money has been taken by the Legislature and moved other places, causing a substantial decrease in available money. JCPH is reviewing the current RFA, as the final has not been completed. JCPH has built an excellent tobacco program, particularly around the tobacco policy area.

Ms. Elise Lubell stated that there are three focus areas that have been set aside for local public health:

1. Strengthening the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act.
2. Youth access to tobacco.
3. Multi-unit housing issues relating to tobacco.

The deadline for these requests is July 16th and a vast amount of information needs to be completed before submission. Dr. Johnson mentioned that a webinar was scheduled to explain the RFA on June 17, 2010.

Dr. Johnson announced that JCPH had been awarded chronic disease grants. Unfortunately, the funding for the Heart Wise Program had been cut to the extent that it was impossible for JCPH to run it efficiently.

Dr. Johnson and Ms. Amanda Cruser updated the Board on the continuation of the Colorado Mosquito Control (CMC) litigation. The findings of the initial court were brought before the Appellate Court. The Appellate Court ruled against JCPH and in favor of CMC. Mr. Victor Boog spoke with Dr.'s Johnson and Dale and the decision was made to return to the Appellate Court and ask them to review and rethink their decision. If the Appellate Court declines the request, JCPH can file a Petition for Certuary with the Colorado Supreme Court to review the entire matter.

JCPH's Leadership Group meets monthly and includes directors and supervisors who address current issues in all programs and in the department as a whole. Dr. Johnson and the Leadership Group read two books, one by Dr. Atul Gawande called "The Checklist Manifesto" and the second one by Dr. Peter Pronovost titled "Safe Patients Smart Hospitals." Both books focus on providing quality medical care and problems with providing that medical care, both in hospitals and in the community. Medical care, as well as much of the rest of civilization, has gotten so complex that people can no longer rely on the theory of "the boss knows everything" and others do not. Therefore, you can't always rely on the boss to have the correct answer. Due to the complexity of medical care, and the different categories of specialized medicine, nobody knows everything in all fields. It has been discovered in hospitals, that using checklists (much like an airline pilot) in operating rooms, has helped to reduce errors.

The Leadership Group has begun to focus on how JCPH, as a department, is keeping up with the complexity of the issues in public health and in health care. It was agreed that before there can be a change in health care and hope for improvement, there needs to be a major cultural change. Dr. Johnson cited an example of operating room technicians and nurses who would not correct the surgeon, even though everyone knew he/she was performing the wrong operation. They didn't feel they had the "right" to say anything due to fear of punishment or loss of a job. The Leadership Group has been discussing the culture in our department. Do we have an open and transparent culture where people feel safe in bringing up issues that may be questioning the decisions that are made by the department director or division directors or their supervisors? It will be a long process to bring our atmosphere into a healthy, efficient and effective culture where people feel it is transparent and open and can raise questions without a feeling of retribution. JCPH is focusing on how we do business and are we being both as open as we should be as a governmental agency, as safe a place for people to work and as efficient and effective as we can be, given the complexity of the number of the programs that we have.

Gilpin County Board of Commissioners would like to continue to work with JCPH in the public health field. That proposal will be submitted with the budget, and a final draft outlining the work performed by JCPH in collaboration with Gilpin County will be detailed. Dr. Johnson voiced his appreciation to Ms. Norma Tubman, who has worked with a very complex situation, coordinating community health services for that county. This has added a great deal to her workload and she has done a tremendous job to make certain that good public health services are continuing to be provided in Gilpin County. Dr. Johnson also thanked the Environmental and Consumer Protection Programs for their hard work in Gilpin County.

Ms. Norma Tubman explained the situation in JCPH Community Health Services (CHS). Unfortunately, the Heart Wise Program had to be discontinued due to lack of funds. Eighteen months ago, JCPH received approximately \$400,000.00 in TANF funding to begin the Public Health/Human Services Collaboration programs. The contract ends June 30th and there are no TANF funds available to support the program. Due to a heightened appreciation of Public Health Nurses (PHN) by Human Services caseworkers, the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) has agreed to fund two of the three PHN positions and a part-time supervisor and administrative specialist. Ms. Tubman is in the process of reorganizing staff and programs to prevent layoffs of HeartWise and Public Health/Human Services Collaboration Programs staff.

Dr. Johnson thanked Ms. Cathy Corcoran for attending the Colorado Association of Local Boards of Health (CALBOH) and Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) meeting. He also congratulated her for being appointed to CALBOH.

President's Comments

Ms. Cathy Corcoran stated that the CALBOH and the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) sessions during the CCI meeting were very educational. Some of the sessions included how to achieve better communication with county commissioners. County commissioners who constitute public health boards, as well as independent boards should communicate, regarding public health and the changes involved with the new public health law (SB08-194). Material was received to help interpret the changes and to communicate those effectively to commissioners. Ms. Corcoran said that it was very gratifying to hear others in Colorado speak so highly of JCPH and its staff.

Ms. Bonnie McNulty asked Dr. Jim Dale for the status of rabies in Jefferson County. Dr. Dale explained that counties east of I-25 have had confirmed reports of rabies. Jefferson County has had no positive skunk rabies results so far. Dr. Dale also stated that his focus is on animal control, vaccination, licensing and response. JCPH will continue to inform the public about animal-borne disease control.

The session ended at 9:11 a.m.