



Chelan-Douglas Health District

200 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Chelan-Douglas Health District Board of Health Regular Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2023

Board Members Present (quorum):

Marc Straub, Chair (4)
Shon Smith (2)
Sharon Waters (6)
Bill Sullivan (10)
Bindu Nayak (8)

Jerrilea Crawford, Vice Chair (5)
Dan Sutton (3)
Marissa Smith (7)
Maria Hansen (Alternate 11)

Board Members Absent:

Kevin Overbay (1)
Joseph Hunter (11)

Alma Chacon (9)

Non-Voting Alternate Board Members Present:

Michael Peterson (7)

Staff Present:

Luke Davies, Health Administrator
Mariana Fletcher, Environmental Health Director
Cari Hammond, Personal Health Director
Chuck Zimmerman, CDHD Attorney
Dr. James Wallace, Interim Health Officer

Diane Forhan, Operations Director
Erin McCool, CDHD Attorney
Hollie Casey, Clerk of the Board
Kristen Hosey, Deputy Director

Public Present –

The meeting was held in person and via zoom and phone conferencing with members of the public attending and listening to the meeting.

Meeting –

Chair Marc Straub called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and requested the Board Clerk to take attendance.

Approval of Agenda – (1:05)

Dan Sutton moved to approve the agenda as presented. Shon Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – (1:23)

Chair Marc Straub explained that 20 minutes has been set aside for public comment and asked for those present in person and via Zoom who wanted to speak during public comment to identify themselves. Once Chair Straub identified the number of members of the public that wanted to speak, he allotted three minutes to each presenter.

- Laurie Buhler of Douglas County shared her perception of the UK records for COVID vaccine and children. She stated that the information she reported on had a negative death rate in 2020-2021, and in 2022 child death rates spiked in the UK, and 0–19-year-olds death rate rose when the children’s COVID vaccine was introduced.
- Lisa Templeton of King County spoke about Canadian researcher Denis Rancourt, and quoted information she stated was from Denis Rancourt about the publicized COVID death data and the COVID vaccine mortality.
- Jordan Sanford of Chelan County spoke about his opinion of what he called the “COVID controversy”, the COVID vaccine, the state’s on-going campaign, and the supposed harm done by the alleged vaccine propaganda.

Consent Agenda – (10:30)

- Approval of the August 21, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August Payroll in the amount of \$282,369.10
- Approval of August Benefits in the amount of \$95,806.94
- Approval of Payment of 2023 Vouchers No. 20230542-20230608 in the amount of \$125,009.27
- Approval of the Contract Matrix

Vice Chair Jerrilea Crawford moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented items a.- d. with the addition of the Contract Matrix in the packet. Marissa Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business– (13:12)

- Remote Work Policy (13:23)
Health Administrator, Luke Davies, explained that because the District has many situations where employees have a need to work remotely, the District is requesting approval of this policy. Luke explained that remote work became more frequent when the COVID pandemic began. Now, it is used for employees that are out under different circumstances, but are able to work remotely. This policy will be used when the building remodel occurs, and employees will be displaced from their workstations temporarily, but may work remotely. Luke explained the typical policy implementation would result in a hybrid model where an employee would work remotely a few days each week and work in the office on the other days. Some Board members expressed concern about possible abuse of this policy by staff and requested the policy be modified to protect the District and that a District Board review of the policy after one year be included. Luke and Deputy Director Kristen Hosey explained that they are in the process of developing implementation procedures, but policy approval by the Board is the first step. The Board requested that the Remote Work Policy be updated for review at the next Board meeting.

Old Business– (45:18)

a. 2023 Amended Budget (45:30)

Luke explained the revised budget to the Board. He explained the biggest changes this year were the ARPA, FPHS, and COVID-19 dollars that the District received. Luke reviewed the budget with the Board and requested an approval of the amended 2023 Budget.

Dan Sutton moved to approve the 2023 Amended Budget as presented. Shon Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

b. 2024 Preliminary Budget (56:30)

Luke stated that this item will remain on the agenda in October and November for a vote in December. The Board requested that the 2023 budget be shown next to the 2024 budget for comparables. Board discussion followed.

c. After-Action Report Sub-Committee (58:57)

Chair Marc Straub introduced the Board Member Sub-Committee that was selected based on their positions in the community. The committee is made up of five members: Bindu Nayak of Confluence Health, Alma Chacon, a business owner, Marissa Smith of Columbia Valley Community Health, and Commissioners Dan Sutton and Kevin Overbay, executive Board position leaders throughout the pandemic. Board discussion followed.

d. IT RFP Bid Delegation (1:05:35)

Luke Davies, Health Administrator, explained that the District would like approval of the Board to delegate the RFP selection to the Health Administrator, the Board Chair and Board Vice Chair for semi-comprehensive IT services with an estimated cost of \$100,000 to \$160,000 annually. Board discussion followed.

Bill Sullivan moved to authorize the Executive Team of Marc Straub, Jerrilea Crawford, and Luke Davies to evaluate the RFP responses, select the District IT consultant, and enter into a contract with the selected consultant. Marissa Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Health Officer Report – (1:12:23)

Dr. James Wallace, Interim Health Officer (1:12:50)

Dr. James Wallace began his presentation by updating the Board with a rabies report. He stated that there have been three rabid bat cases reported to the District. Dr. Wallace explained how rabies affects the human body. The virus infects muscles and nerve cells through saliva via a bite or scratch. The virus then travels through the nerve cells into the brain where the most damage is done. The virus replicates in the brain where it becomes infectious through saliva to others. This process takes an average of three to 12 weeks to start showing symptoms of malaise, fever, headache, agitation and then progresses to

erratic behavior, seizure, coma, and ultimately, death. Rabies in Washington State are rare and appears mostly in bats. Only three to five percent of bats are infected with rabies. There have only been five cases in other mammals since 1989 in the state, and only two human cases have occurred in 75 years. Bats are usually more prevalent in late summer and because of this, encounter humans more. Dr. Wallace also shared that the state is preparing for the respiratory illness preparedness for COVID, Influenza, and RSV. COVID case rates and hospitalizations are increasing, but the case rate is inaccurate due to a lot of at home testing. The new COVID variants of XBB are circulating in Washington State. The COVID vaccine that will be available this fall will be based on the XBB variants. The BA2 variant shows mutations that are making evolutionary jumps, similar to the Omicron variant. The Influenza virus strains are predicted to be like the 2022-2023 strains. This year's flu vaccine is a quadrivalent of the H1N1, H3N2, B-Victoria, and B-Yamigata variants. The vaccine is recommended for persons six months and older and a higher dose vaccine will be available to high-risk individuals. Dr. Wallace explained that the RSV virus is a more stable virus as far as mutations or variants are concerned. There is a vaccine available for individuals 60 years and older and pregnant individuals, as well as a monoclonal antibody for infants. Board discussion followed.

Luke Davies, Health Administrator (1:42:42)

Health Administrator, Luke Davies briefly reviewed the program updates provided in the packet and gave an overview of his report provided in the packet. Board discussion followed.

Closed Session: RCW 42.30.140(b) (1:57:00)

- a. Protec17 Union MOU

Shon Smith moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(b) at 4:57PM for an initial 10 minutes. Dan Sutton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into a closed session at 4:57PM. The Board extended the closed session by 10 minutes at 5:07PM. At 5:17PM, the Board returned to open session.

Jerrilea Crawford moved to approve the MOU already signed by Protec17 that was provided in the Board meeting packet. Maria Hansen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Marc Straub declared the meeting adjourned at 5:19PM.



Marc Straub, Board Chair



Hollie Casey, Clerk of the Board