

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2015**

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members Tom Mielke and David Madore present. Board member Jeanne E. Stewart absent.

**9:00 A.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Madore read consent agenda item #1.

**ACTION:** Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** minutes for June 24, 2015. Madore seconded the motion. Board members Madore and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION**

Dr. Alan Melnick, Public Health Officer / Director provided some background.

**VITAL RECORDS**

Belinda Walker, Program Manager, and Linda Owsley, Deputy Registrar for Vital Records, described the Vital Records program. Linda has worked for Clark County Public Health (formerly the SW Washington Health District) for over 26 years. RCW 70.58 requires the Health Officer of each local health jurisdiction to appoint a Deputy Registrar to administer and enforce the vital statistic laws in their county. In 2014 their office processed approximately 13,000 birth and death certificates. As per state requirements, they provide one free death certificate for the families of veterans. In 2014 they provided 14 certificates free of charge for the families of a deceased veteran. They have processed 9 so far this year. Further discussion ensued about Vitalchek.

There is a variety of important information collected in processing birth and death records. Their staff has to verify the accuracy of the information because it contributes to local, state and national health statistics. For example, death record information helps them to identify the leading causes of death and potential risk factors, such as smoking or alcohol use. Birth record information can help them identify the adequacy of prenatal care and maternal conditions associated with birth outcomes. These data are used by their epidemiologists, the Health Officer and the Board of Health to understand trends, to identify funding priorities and high-risk populations in our community, and to set prevention priorities or plan targeted health promotion strategies. Linda Owsley described how they process birth and death certificates in person, by fax or online and gave several examples of how our vital records service has profoundly affected peoples' lives. On average, they can provide certificates within 15 minutes. By the end of the year, their new Electronic Death Record System will be in place, which will improve efficiency.

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**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**LEGISLATIVE / STATE BUDGET UPDATE**

Dr. Melnick provided a legislative update. Although the legislature cut funding by 50% for the Coordinated Prevention Grant, the allocation formula was changed so that we will only experience a 10% funding cut allowing us to continue their solid waste response activities. The Department of Health will receive \$30 million in funding from the marijuana tax, and they will be working with their partners at WSALPHO and WSAC (Washington Association of Local Public Health Officials and Washington State Association of Counties) to encourage distribution of at least some of the funds to local health departments for marijuana prevention activities. None of the bills relating to vaping (e-cigarettes and other inhalant devices) passed.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE**

Derel Glashower, Public Health gave an update on Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and West Nile Virus. Although the Pertussis outbreak continues, the numbers are decreasing as summer vacation has started and children are out of school. There is currently no West Nile Virus activity in Clark County. Further discussion ensued about mosquitoes.

Hearing adjourned

**BOARD OF HEALTH**



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David Madore, Board Member

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Jeanne E. Stewart, Board Member



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Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



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Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

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