

Monday, May 15, 2023

Attendees;

Commissioner Largent, Chairman, Commissioner Handy, Commissioner Swannack, Craig VanTine, Community Stakeholder, Kara Bates, representing Public Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Chris Skidmore Public Health Director and Dr. Brad Bowman (virtually)

Meeting convened at 3:00 p.m.

1. Minutes we approved

Public Health Director Chris Skidmore share the following information;

2. Community Health update:

- **COVID**

- End of federal emergency declaration. Vaccines will continue to be free as long as the supply lasts. Transmission rates in Whitman County remain low. There are still occasional outbreaks in long term care facilities and they are working closely with them to ensure they have the necessary PPE and testing resources.

- **Influenza**

- Following two seasons of unusually low flu activity the 2022-2023 flu season was the deadliest season in the last 5 years. Despite having an effective vaccine, vaccination rates have decreased nationally in certain groups.

- **Cancer screening messaging**

- Work is being done on a messaging campaign to bring awareness to needed cancer screenings. The hope is to work with our provider community to bring awareness throughout Whitman County. The Community Health Needs Assessment identified Cancer as the second leading cause of death in Whitman County.

- **Health Fairs**

- With the weather getting nicer, Health Fairs throughout Whitman County will be attended by staff as time allows.

- **Marburg/Ebola travelers**

- Mr. Skidmore said in April he toured the Special Pathogens Unit at Sacred Heart hospital in Spokane. This is one of the few units on the west coast that can intake people experiencing symptoms related to Ebola/Marburg and treat them. Recently there have been several outbreaks in Africa (Equatorial New Guinea and Tanzania). From time to time area people returning from these areas and there is a 21 day monitoring period for them to check for symptoms. He has been able to have several meetings recently with staff from the Special Pathogens Unit and local providers to have a plan in place in the event that we have a symptomatic individual and need to get them to the Special Pathogens Unit. One more meeting is planned in the near future to present the plan and answer any questions that stakeholders may have.

3. Personal and Family update:

- **Safe Kids**

- A car seat training was put on the first week of May. Mr. Skidmore shared, we had one of our staff trained up and several others from neighboring counties attend as well.
- Life jacket stands have been constructed and we have them currently at Boyer and Rock Lake. There is a wait for the Corps of Engineers to generate an MOU so life jacket stands can be shared at the Snake River boat launches as well. Free life jackets from Washington State Parks should be received in the coming weeks and will be distributed.
- Mr. Skidmore said they are also working on a Safe Homes partnership with local providers to get new mothers a kit that they can baby proof their home.

- **Clinical Services**

- The clinic is going well. With students gone for summer a slight decline in numbers is expected.

- **WIC**

- Community Health Educator, Katherine Drymon is fully trained to certify new WIC clients.
- There are a number of upcoming trainings that we will be sending our WIC staff to for continuing education purposes.

4. Environmental Health update:

- Staff attended the Annual Education Conference on the west side. This conference is for Environmental Health staff and an opportunity to network and get continuing education on the different EH programs.
 - Environmental Health purchased a new EH vehicle in April with some remaining FPHS money.
 - Mr. Skidmore shared one of the EH staff has resigned due to getting a better job offer in the Tri-Cities.
 - This EH position will be advertised soon
 - There is a pause on moving into the Whitcom building due to not needing the space and desire to keep staff together if possible.
5. Admin/HIPAA update
- A new front office staff member was hired for our Pullman Office, Dannielle Toombs onboarded in April and was previously with facilities.
 - Advertising for a new nurse that went live last week the hope is to fill the position soon. The position will be part-time and will cover work done under our MCH and CHYSCN grants as well as assisting in the clinics in Pullman and Colfax.
 - The new phone system has been fully implemented and everything seems to be running smoothly.
6. Good of the Order/New Business
- None
7. Adjournment at 3:45 PM
- Next Board of Health Meeting: Monday July 17, 2023

2023 Meetings

September 18, 2023

November 20, 2023