

Monday, July 17, 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, Corrine McMichael (virtually) 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**

- **COVID**

- Levels of transmission have been low this summer.
- Outbreaks have happened in long term care facilities. The Health Department has worked with long term facilities to improve their infection control and make sure they have the resources they need.

- **Marburg/Ebola**

- The Marburg outbreaks in Tanzania and Equatorial New Guinea have been declared over.
- Whitman County had two travelers from that area, notification from the CDC when they arrived was received, contact was made with information/guidance given in the event they became symptomatic for Marburg.
- Infection control nurse, Jamie Peters did an outstanding job of bringing together providers and stakeholders to develop plans to get symptomatic individuals onboarded with the Special Pathogen Unit at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.

- **Health Fairs**

- The Health Department has attended a number of health fairs around Whitman County this summer, mainly promoting WIC and the Safe Kids programs.
- A large number of bike helmets and medical lock boxes at the fairs have been given.

- **HARM reduction**

- There are steady numbers of needle exchanges occurring however not an increase in use of HARMS services as other jurisdictions are seeing.
- Approximately 50% of the Sharps received are from insulin or monitoring their glucose levels.

- **CHAS Mobile Unit**

- Thursday, the CHAS Mobile will be at the Colfax Library from 10:30am-12:30, providing medication refills, wound care, treatment of acute injury and illness and making referrals for primary care and specialists.

- **Smile Mobile**

- In June the Smile Mobile set up for a week providing services in Pullman.
- It was very successful as they were completely booked to provided services.

- **AED's**

- Two AED's for the Whitman County Jail are in process of being purchased.

3. **Personal Family Health**

- **Safe Kids**

- Meghan Johns has been spearheading the Safe Kids program and doing a terrific job. With the following has been provided;
 - Car seats for new moms
 - Bike helmets for kids
 - Medicine lock boxes for families
 - Life jackets for Rock & Snake River boat launches
 - Safe Home kits to child proof homes
- A pilot project this year with Tekoa to provide vouchers for children's swim lessons was started. Based on the success grant opportunities with be pursued to expand it to other rural communities that are interested.

- **Clinical Services**

- The Clinics continue to see increased numbers. Numbers were expected to drop during the summer however have remained fairly steady. An increase is anticipated in August with kids returning to school and immunizations needs.
- Clinics would like to add blood/lead screening services for kids in the near future.

- **WIC**
 - WIC continues to see a steady stream of clients.
 - The plan is to start offering in-person WIC services starting in August out of the Pullman office.
 - Colfax in person services should begin after renovations are completed.
4. **Environmental Health**
- The Environmental Health staff have been busy this summer with a decent demand for services in food, onsite programs and water recreation inspection. EH staff spend a majority of time out in the field responding to service requests.
 - We are currently moving EH staff into the Whitcom building and should be all moved in by the end of this week.
5. **Admin**
- Malisa McCabe, hired in June, a registered nurse that will be taking on MCH, CHYSCN, and ABCD programs. As well as working with RN Jamie Peters to assist with our clinical services.
 - Madison Lucas new EH technician member started today and will be starting out in food and onsite work before expanding her training to all of our programs.
 - There is a hope to add two additional EH technician during this latest round of advertising however at this time only one candidate stood out. Advertising again in the fall may take place.
 - In June, Corrin McMichael and Chris Skidmore the WSALPHO leadership conference in Leavenworth, it was a great opportunity to connect and network with peers from across the state.
 - An additional vehicle for Public Health was purchased June, a 2023 Ford Escape that will be utilized for attending community Health Fairs, meetings, conferences, and flu clinics.
 - FPHS funding will be seeing another large increase for the July 2023-June 2024 fiscal year. The approximate amount is \$1.8 million in funding that will be split between reinforcing capacity and the focus area of investments. This is an increase from the approximately \$1.2 million that was appropriated last year. This next round of funding could be challenging to spend down since we are starting to reach our physical capacity for adding new staff.

2023 Meetings

September 18, 2023

November 20, 2023