

ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES OF MEETING - October 12, 1998

The Island County Board of Health convened in Regular Session on October 12, 1998 at 11:15 a.m., in the Island County Courthouse Annex, Coupeville, Wa. Board of Health members present included: Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman; Tom Shaughnessy, Member; and Mike Shelton, Member. Others Present: Tim McDonald, Health Services Director; Keith Higman, Environmental Health Director; and Jan Dahl, representing CHAB.

CHAB UPDATE

Ms. Dahl shared some successes that occurred over the last several weeks. The new public health program is about engaging community members in improving their health. The information has been taken out to people, the data reviewed and the community priority selected was youth and families in the community.

The North Whidbey community decided prevention was important, specifically in-home services for pregnant women and families with children up to school age. Two people were sent to San Diego for training on the California Model, and grants are being written to

national foundations to try to fund a project to provide an in-home visitor for all new babies in Island County. About 20% of families will have problems, and those programs can be identified very early and begin to funnel prevention efforts from the first few months of life.

Partnering in this effort includes: California Safe and Healthy Families, Readiness to Learn Foundation, South Whidbey School District, Health Department, Community Network and the University of Washington.

In Central Whidbey three imperatives were set out, then consolidated into one: support intergenerational activities. Partners in this effort include: Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Farmers Market, Town of Coupeville, Youth Coalition, Community Network, High School, National Honor Society and Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. The Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect provided \$1500 for the first activity which was the Children's Day celebration a week ago Sunday, held at the Farmer's Market. Some

1500 people went through that day and allowed much visibility for the project. Their second activity was to create a position in the community to coordinate community activities.

Major focus in South Whidbey is on mentoring activities so youth can be in touch with people in business, artists and crafts people. Partners include: Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Community Network, School District, Parks & Recreation District, Readiness to Learn, Home Schooling Program, South Whidbey Stay Program, Youth Center, Boy Scouts-Girl Scouts, Kiwanis, Rotary, Soroptimist, and several businesses. Some funding was received from the Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and sponsored a Children's Day celebration on October 3rd where 400 children participated. The second activity is an after school program at the Middle School, where community volunteers have come together to provide 20 activities after school.

Camano Island has an on-going process, with three main activities, one an intergenerational community center working with Stanwood. Partners include: businesses, law enforcement, churches, schools, Fire District and Island Transit. Their second activity is a fire house café focused on middle school students; and their third activity is working with the Senior Center to provide some space for intergenerational activities.

SERVICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND FAMILIES

WITH CHILDREN UP TO SCHOOL AGE

Jan Dahl explained that by using a very sophisticated screening tools professionals are able to identify disorders in the parent-child relationship, and those families would get priority for

follow-up visits. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide a wide variety of resources to families around, for example, around breast-feeding, child care, child development and hooking families in with child profile.

Tim McDonald further noted that two people were sent to the training: Carol McNeil, Nursing Supervisor, and Mickie Nolan, Director, Readiness to Learn. The purpose of the training was to understand the California Model and how grants need to be written to receive private funding. This would be a population base service for the entire community.

Ms. Dahl envisioned from the initial visit, offering to make a return visit, make some referrals for community services, connect the family up with resources in the community and provide on-going work with the family. In addition to having the skills to identify professionals also have a set of skills to help intervene.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next Regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled on November 9, 1998, at 11:15 a.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH

ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman

Tom Shaughnessy, Member

Mike Shelton, Member