

**Island County Board of Health
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 20, 2001**

Members Present: Commissioners William F. Thorn, Mike Shelton, Mac McDowell; Holly Schoenknecht, WGH Commissioner; Roger S. Case, MD, (Ex-Officio Member) Executive Secretary, Board of Health.

Absent: Captain Donald Jensen, MC, USN, Ex-Officio Member; Mayor Patricia Cohen.

Chairman William F. Thorn called this regularly scheduled meeting of the Island County Board of health to order at 5:05 p.m.

Agenda/ Changes: Commissioner Thorn wished to have Tim McDonald, Health Department Director, add an update of the issue of the burning of solid waste in Island County to his "Report From the Health Department" segment of the agenda.

Minutes: Commissioner Mike Shelton moved that the minutes from the July 16, 2001 meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Mac McDowell seconded. The minutes were approved for the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

Public Input: There was no input from the public.

Advisory Reports:

• **Opportunity Council of Island County – Lisa Clark.**

- Our Community Voice Mail program continues to be popular, and is providing excellent service to those in the community in need of a standard phone service in seeking employment, etc.
- A "collaboration for children" meeting was held on Camano Island and provided training to 37 attendees. Island County providers were appreciative of the opportunity to receive this training locally. Dr. Bob Wagner answered questions from the group for 1 ½ hours in the 'ask the pediatrician' segment. Three more such forums are being planned to provide ongoing training for childcare providers.
- The N. Whidbey Lions have collected supplies for our Backpack Project. These backpacks are stocked with \$20-\$25 of school supplies and are made available to students from kindergarten through high school, although they are most requested by 2nd through 5th graders.
- Our HUD project, Healthy Homes, is responding to reports that asthma rates in the general population are up 75%, and we will begin investigating possible triggers in the home environment. Also, plans are that our weatherization technicians will be trained to do testing for lead in the homes.

A general discussion of the increased hardships on low income families followed.

• **Island County-Stanwood Community Public Health Network-Kathleen McLaughlin.**

- The Network has met the Family Policy Council's criteria and was awarded continued funding. Eighteen Networks in the state did not receive funding as a result of State budget cuts, but they now have a sense of the Council's criteria so we can all identify where to concentrate our efforts. Community collaborations have been identified as being very important. Commissioner Shelton commented that the message the state is sending out is that they are organizing community-based programs and then potentially withdrawing funding after a couple of years, defeating any incentive for community volunteerism for these projects. He formally recognized that the Island County-Stanwood PH&SN has excellent community support. Current collaborations:

- Seeds of Change – a S. Whidbey substance abuse collaboration
- S. Whidbey Commons – a planned intergenerational center. A community potluck will be held on September 30 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Bayview Hall to celebrate work and present information regarding the center.

- Oak Harbor Student Assistance Program has applied for a Federal “Drug Free Community Grant”.
- Work is being done to coordinate the fourth annual “Children’s Day Celebration” to held on October 13.

Dr. David Hawkins, U of W, will speak at the September 6 Network Board meeting on “survey reporting and how to plan using those results.” Dr. Hawkins is an expert in the field of data collection and assessment. Three community planning meetings are tentatively scheduled for October 4, October 16 and November 1. Locations are to be announced at a later time.

Commissioner Thorn requested that Stanwood/Camano members might be considered in future updates to the Board

• **Community Health Advisory Board – Marshall Bronson.**

- The CHAB data task force will not have a presentation at our meeting in December due the large amount of information yet to be reviewed and assimilated. They have revised the scheduled completion date to April 2002 to coincide with Public Health Week, at which time they will also present the Health Hero of Island County Award.
- CHAB’s recently formed Environmental Health Task Force is working on funding for a Fellow/Intern to assist in implementing the Protocol for Community Excellence in Environmental Health – a multi-year project.
- The 8th Annual Joint Conference on Health will be held in Yakima on October 8. Members of CHAB and staff will make a conference presentation on the activities and function of the Island County Community Health Advisory Board.
- The thrust of CHAB for the next several months will be to assimilate and prioritize Census 2000 and BRFSS information, and to then assist the community in developing methods to address identified priorities.

There were no reports from the Mental Health, Substance Abuse or Developmental Disability Advisory Boards

- **Report from the Health Department:**

- There were no contracts to present for Board consideration.
- In response to Commissioner Thorn’s request, Director Tim McDonald stated that a current issue of concern is the proper disposal of forest debris. He explained that when one exports forest debris from the originating parcel, it then becomes solid waste. The storage and disposal of solid waste is governed by a substantial number of existing codes. Commissioner Mac McDowell expressed that he wants a reasonable solution in dealing with forest debris disposal in Island County. Director McDonald stated his intention to work very hard with the private sector and other government agencies to develop a procedure that is in compliance with state law and that will not be overly burdensome to the community. He stressed that this is not new code but existing code, and that there is no current policy in place for enforcement. Holly Schoenknecht, WGH Commissioner, asked how this problem became apparent and was told by Tim McDonald that an air quality complaint caused the Board of Commissioners to request the Board of Health to look into the issue. Commissioner Thorn suggested that the Board of Health consider possible alternative solutions such as the use of stumpage in constructing bulkheads and other opportunities of value for that material in uses other than chipping. He suggested investigating additional possibilities such as hauling the material to Everett to the co-generation facility or use by soil manufacturers. Commissioner McDowell pointed out that the Mallards Landing facility has historically taken both larger stumps and also smaller deposits that are not economically feasible for homeowners to take to county landfills.

A brief discussion of the quarterly inspection process of the solid waste facilities followed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Thorn adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m. The Board of health will reconvene Monday, September 17, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted: _____

Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 17th day of September 2001.

ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

William F. Thorn, Chairman