

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: 11/08/11 Time: ~~10:30~~^{10:00} am Length: 30 mins

Presentation Title: Board of County Commissioners responsibilities as Local Public Health Authority and Local Board of Health

Department: H3S – Community Health

Presenters: Marti Franc, Jennifer Eskridge, Rich Swift

POLICY QUESTION

There are no policy questions. The purpose is to review the broad roles and responsibilities of the Board related to Public Health.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Study Session is twofold:

- To provide the BCC with an overview of its roles as the Local Public Health Authority and the Local Board of Health.
- To describe the accreditation process

Roles and Functions

Public Health – Public Health services focus on the entire population and are an organized effort to reduce health risks and improve health and well-being. Public health envisions healthy people in healthy communities, with an understanding that health is more than just the absence of disease. In Clackamas County, our services are grouped under the headings of health protection and health promotion and operate within the Community Health Division of the Health, Housing and Human Services Department.

Local Public Health Authority – ORS 431.375 states that the Board of County Commissioners is the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA), assuring that public health rules and laws are carried out, public health services are provided to County residents and funds intended for public health purposes are used appropriately. State defined public health services are listed in ORS 431.416:

- Epidemiology and control of preventable diseases
- Parent and child health services, including family planning
- Collection and reporting of health statistics
- Health information and referral services
- Environmental health services

The rules also state that additional health programs and services should be provided or assured, according to community health needs. The LPHA - submits a yearly plan Triennial plan to the Oregon Health Authority defining the services planned for the coming year.

Local Board of Health – ORS 431.405 states that the Board of County Commissioners constitutes the Local Board of Health for the purpose of encouraging improvement and standardization of the health department, in order to provide more efficient and effective public health services. The Local Board of Health is the governing body for the local public health department and sets public health policy, adopts rules to carry out policies, adopts fees and appoints a Local Public Health Administrator. In Clackamas, the H3S Community Health Division and the Public Health Manager are designated to carry out these functions.

Services Provided:

- Food service facility licensing
- Drinking water and pool inspections
- Communicable disease investigation
- Immunizations and community clinics
- Health emergency preparedness
- Health education and community assessment
- Mother and child home visiting

We also work in partnership with Multnomah and Washington counties on regional public health issues. In fact, we jointly fund the Office of the Public Health Officer which serves all three counties.

Accreditation

One way to assure the improvement and standardization of public health services is to participate in the national accreditation process for local public health departments. Accreditation will improve the quality, performance and infrastructure of Clackamas County Public Health according to statutory requirements and recognized best practices with the long range goal of improving health and well being of County residents

The national Public Health Accreditation Board has undertaken a multi-year process to define the domains of a well-functioning local health department and organized them within the framework of 10 essential public health services. These areas are accompanied by standards which address *how* health departments should work in communities with community partners and policy-makers to protect and promote health. These standards also provide the basis for measurement and evaluation as we seek to improve the health of Clackamas County.

Many counties are seeking accreditation and we expect the state will require it in the near future. To that end, we have secured a grant from the Northwest Health Foundation to underwrite funding for a strategic planner to guide us through the planning process.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

There are no questions for consideration.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

None associated with this presentation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of County Commissioners will understand their role as the Board of Health and will support Public Health Accreditation preparation activities.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____
Department Director/Head Approval *J. Eskridge*
County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Jennifer Eskridge@ 503-742-5956

*2/2008 Version