

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

### Regular Meeting Adams County Courthouse Ritzville, Washington

**May 12, 2021**  
(Wednesday)

*The meeting was held virtually via GoToMeeting.*

#### **Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Present:**

Chairman Dan C. Blankenship  
Vice-Chairman Terrance J. Thompson  
Commissioner Jay R. Weise

#### **Board of Health Update**

Dr. Brzezny, Adams County Health Officer, provided updates on the following:

- Current situation with COVID-19;
- Decrease of approximately 30% in cases as of May 11, 2021;
- Risk of SARS-CoV-2 – infection varies according to the amount of virus to which a person is exposed; transmission from inhalation of virus in the air farther than six feet from an infectious source can occur;
- Fourth wave of COVID in Washington State started prior to sufficient vaccination rates achieved;
- Hospitalizations due to COVID are down in the U.S.;
- Lind-Hatton-Ritzville School District COVID incident rate;
- Othello COVID incidences are higher than other cities/towns in Adams County;
- 46.2% of the U.S. population has been administered at least one dose of the vaccine;
- 30% of Adams County residents are fully vaccinated; 25% have received one dose of the vaccine;
- Washington State is one of the lower performers regarding vaccinations; and
- Variants of COVID.

Additionally, Dr. Brzezny identified the challenges to Adams County Health Department as follows:

- high risk community for spread, hospitalizations and deaths;
- high risk county for disease spread;
- high vaccine hesitancy in the county/region;
- lack of broader community support to public health efforts, demoralizing and discouraging lack of support and understanding by community at large; and
- community health leadership staffing: hiring climate highly unfavorable, including pay, experience, education requirement and location.

### **Integrated Health Care Services**

Karen Potts, RN, reviewed COVID vaccination data related to special populations in Adams County such as agricultural workers; homebound individuals; homeless; jail and corrections; healthcare workers; school staff; and, youth.

Additionally, Potts provided updates on departmental activities within Integrated Health Care Services and staff associated with such as follows:

- Integrated Health Care Services immunization program for vaccine preventable diseases;
- Tuberculosis (TB) program;
- Other communicable disease (STD's, etc.);
- Emergency preparedness and response;
- WIC – Women/Infants/Children;
- YMPEP – Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program;
- ABCD – Access to Baby and Child Dentistry program; and
- Maternal/Child Health program.

Environmental Health Director Taff reviewed departmental activities involving COVID issues such as presenting/discussing with organizations on changing event guidelines; and, vaccination questions/guidelines regarding agricultural workers, labor contractors; and H2A contractors.

Additionally reviewed were food inspections; temporary food permits as well as on-site sewage system permits and design reviews.

Taff reported on current projects his department is involved in as follows:

- transition of files from Township/Range/Section to Alphanumeric Street;
- developing a credit card system for online payments; and
- transitioning to Emergency Preparedness/PHEPR responsibilities/reporting

### **Contracts and Agreements**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign 2018-2021 Consolidated Contract #CLH18235, Amendment #20, between State of Washington Department of Health and Adams County Health Department for an increase of \$816,705 for a total contract award of \$2,511,410. **Motion carried.** (Amends Statement of Work for COVID-19 Coordinated Response, effective 7/1/2020; Division of Emergency Preparedness & Response COVID-19, extended to 12/31/2021; and, Office of Drinking Water Group A Program, continued funding for 2021.)*

*Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to authorize the Chairman to sign Agreement #750-720-1535, Amendment #2, between Spokane Regional Health District and Adams County Health Department. **Motion carried.** (Funding decreased based on spending.)*

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Agreement #750-720-1538, Amendment #2, between Spokane Regional Health District and Adams County Health Department. **Motion carried.** (Funding decreased based on spending.)*

### **Staffing**

IHCS Director Guse reviewed a written proposal for reduced hours for the Substance Use Disorder Profession position as well as an alternative proposal, should the position no longer be eligible for reduced hours. No action was taken.

Additionally, Guse reviewed staff vacancies and requested authorization to fill a vacant Billing Clerk/Interpreter position. It was noted by the Board that should a position become vacant, and currently approved in the budget, Board authorization is not necessary to fill the position, however notification is appreciated.

### **Executive Session**

At 12:00 p.m. the Board recessed into Executive Session for thirty (30) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – “...to discuss with legal counsel

representing the agency litigation or potential litigation...”. Additionally present were Prosecutor Flyckt and Senior Deputy Prosecutor Lehman.

At 12:28 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action taken.

**Adjournment @ 12:28 p.m.**

Submitted:  
s/Patricia J. Phillips, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
s/Dan C. Blankenship, Chairman  
s/Terrance J. Thompson, Vice-Chairman  
s/Jay R. Weise, Commissioner