

## **COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**

**Regular Meeting  
Adams County Courthouse  
Ritzville, Washington**

**October 13, 2021**  
(Wednesday)

***Relocated to the Public Works Conference Room***

**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 the Commissioners, acting in their capacity as Board of Health, updates on the following:

- Covid cases and deaths in the United States
- Covid cases and related hospitalizations (currently in the 5<sup>th</sup> wave) r
- adult vs. pediatric cases of Covid
- children's Covid vaccination rates vs. Covid hospitalizations
- Covid rates in counties with, and without, school mask requirements
- total Covid urgent care daily visits are decreasing in Washington
- critical care capacity remains strained
- Adams County is seeing a decline in Covid cases
- Covid rates per school districts in Adams County
- Adams County has a 63% rate of vaccination
- Covid hospitalization rates are 20 times higher in the unvaccinated population vs. fully vaccinated population among 35 – 64-year-old individuals
- Covid hospitalization rates among 65+ year old individuals are nine times higher in the unvaccinated population than in the fully vaccinated population
- school staff vaccination requirements

- criteria for classroom closures – health officers may exercise additional considerations to keep a classroom open or to recommend a closure
- steps in eliminating a pandemic – must be controlled among children – Covid vaccines may need to be considered with other school entry vaccination requirements in the future (together with other already required vaccines) – more safety data and extensive community education and messaging needed on this issue.
- cumulative risk of myocarditis in children less than sixteen years of age
- fewer childhood vaccines have been given during the Covid trend
- opioid use in Washington – overdoses are on the rise
- increasing psychological distress related visits in youth and adults
- 2021-2022 influenza season is expected to be worse than last year
- individuals with previous “fully” vaccinated status now being told a booster is necessary.

### **Environmental Health**

Environmental Health Director Taff reported on departmental activities relating to the following:

- vaccines – five vaccine presentations to 200+ Simplot employees; seven vaccination clinics were held in cooperation with Aristo Health with 55 vaccinations given
- Covid conference calls with health officer and school districts twice weekly
- producing PIO communications for health and media updates
- weekly public health staff updates
- agricultural worker Covid updates
- permanent food establishment inspections; forty-eight (48) hour mobile food unit closure resulting from multiple failed inspections
- purple air monitors installed and available in Othello and Washtucna – Lind and Ritzville are pending
- on-site septic final inspections
- short plat evaluations for onsite sewage treatment, water potability and setbacks
- continued clarification of duties in personal health department and updating continuity of operations plan.

Additionally, H2A farmworker housing was discussed with Taff sharing details of a conference call held in July, 2018. The following are the

conclusions of the conference: “Projects permitted through Washington Department of Health’s Temporary Worker Housing Program assume DOH and the “Authority Having Jurisdiction” (AHJ) and will be reviewed and permitted through DOH Construction Review Services (CRS). Should CRS request “boots on the ground” support, Adams County will be a willing participant per MOU or written documentation; and, Temporary Worker Housing projects applying and permitted through Adams County Building/Planning will consider county departments as the AHJ and assume sole responsibility for all aspects of said projects.”

### **Public Health**

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse reviewed Adams County Health Department revenues for vital statistics (birth and death certificates); departmental proposed to actual budget overview through August, 2021; public health Covid tracer update; emergency housing outcomes through September, 2021; nursing updates; and, a behavioral health productivity report during September, 2021.

### **Integrated Health Care Services Contracts**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Contract #21AS02483, Amendment No. 4, between Spokane County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington, by and between Spokane Regional Behavioral Health (SCRBH), a division of Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department (CSHCD), (hereinafter “CSHCD SCRBH”), and Contractor (hereinafter “Contractor”) identified as Adams County Integrated Health Care Services for additional funding of \$20,000 (workforce development) for a total grant award of \$151,914 for the period October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Motion carried.*

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Contract #K2734, Amendment No. 3, between Washington State Health Care Authority and Adams County Health Department to provide ABCD (Access to Baby and Child Dentistry) Local Activities for an increase of \$9,354 (expansion and outreach work beginning October 1, 2021) with a maximum consideration of \$107,838. Motion carried.*

### **Integrated Health Care Services Staffing**

Director Guse reported the following vacant positions in the IHCS Department:

- two (2) DCR crisis/therapist positions
- one (1) peer support specialist for the behavioral health program
- one (1) crisis interventionalist for behavioral health program
- one (1) community health director.

Additionally, Guse noted there are currently six (6) Covid tracers working in the health department.

### **Integrated Health Care Services Updates**

Emergency housing revenues and expenditures were reviewed with the number of individuals served and behavioral health staff hours. Additionally discussed were staff requests for leave without pay with it noted, in the absence of a county policy, discretion is given to the department head in deciding the matter.

### **SCRILS**

Discussion was held regarding Spokane County Regional Interlocal Leadership Structure (SCRILS). Commissioner Weise requested Commissioner Blankenship discuss the matter further with Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner, at the next Eastern Washington Council of Governments and report back.

### **Department of Health Fiscal Monitoring**

Director Guse reviewed the results of a fiscal monitoring review from the Department of Health.

**Recess @ 11:58 a.m.**

**Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.**

### **Budget Workshops**

Afternoon workshops for the 2022 Budget were held as follows:

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse reviewed the following programs within Fund #104:

Developmental Disabilities – monies levied to support the program were discussed.

Mental Health – capital outlay equipment expenses in the amount of \$22,000 were identified.

Mental Health (WISe) – a capital outlay equipment expense in the amount of \$7,000 was identified.

Chemical Dependency – no capital outlay expense identified.

Prevention – no capital outlay expense identified.

Environmental Health – no capital outlay expense identified.

Personal Health – no capital outlay expense identified.

Environmental Health – no capital outlay expense identified.

Additionally, Guse requested the following transfers from Current Expense to the following programs: \$51,711.75 to Environmental Health; \$193,257.25 to Personal Health; and, \$78,749 to Substance Use Disorder.

#### Treasurer

Treasurer Meise reviewed Fund #030 proposed revenues and expenses. There are no major changes in expenditures over 2020 and no capital outlay expense was identified. Fund #114 Treasurer O&M – no changes in expenditures from 2020. Fund #323 Real Estate Technology – no expenditures were identified.

#### Assessor

Assessor Rodriguez reviewed fund #040. A capital expense item in the amount of \$1,500 was identified. The Board requested Rodriguez prepare a 2022 supplemental budget due to staffing changes.

#### Sheriff

Sheriff Wagner, along with Undersheriff Coronado, Commander Williams, E911 Coordinator Shepherd, and, Administrative Assistant Ferderer reviewed the following funds:

Fund #065 Police Operations – Sheriff Wagner requested a reclassification of the Administrative Assistant position. New positions requested are: one (1) new full-time civil department clerk position was requested for assistance in the civil department; one (1) new road deputy position; one (1) additional sergeant position, within the current roster, was requested; requesting an additional \$2,000 for firearms qualification and ammunition.

Fund #103 E-911 – Coordinator Shepherd reviewed fund revenues and expenditures noting the following expenses: uniforms \$3,500; overtime pay \$10,000; new employee testing \$4,500; equipment maintenance \$100,000; and, dispatch chairs \$3,000. Spillman revenues were reviewed. One (1) new dispatch sergeant position was requested. Two (2) new dispatcher positions were requested.

Fund #070 Care and Custody – Commander Williams reviewed expenditures noting an increase of \$1,000 in the inmate clothing budget; and, an increase of \$1,800 for inmate cell maintenance and repairs. Four

(4) additional APX radios, priced at \$2,500 each for a total of \$10,000, were identified as a capital outlay expense. Two (2) additional correction officer positions were requested. Additionally, Sheriff Wagner requested one (1) new evidence technician position funded through Fund #070.

Fund #131 RSO – no changes from the 2021 budget.

**Adams County Fairgrounds Commercial Building**

The Board provided consensus authorization for the Public Works Department to move forward with the rental of the Adams County Fairgrounds commercial building to a group requesting to hold a prom. The leasing party will be notified that set guidelines, currently in place in the rental contract, will need to be followed. It was noted that no propane heaters of any kind or open fire pits will be allowed. Additionally, pursuant to the Governor's masking mandate, masks will be required for all in attendance.

**Correspondence Sent:**

Letter of support of OIC Prosperity Center's grant application to the State of Washington Department of Commerce *Outreach to Historically Disadvantaged Communities* grant program

**Proposed Superior Court Classification**

Prosecutor Flyckt will review the materials and provide his opinion to the Board on Monday.

**Adjournment @ 4:45 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