

Carolyn Edmonds, *Board of Health Chair*

BOH Members:

Richard Conlin
Dow Constantine
George W. Counts
Jan Drago
Carolyn Edmonds
Ava Frisinger
Larry Gossett
David Hutchinson
David Irons
Kathy Lambert
Frank T. Manning
Bud Nicola
Margaret Pageler
Alonzo Plough

BOH Staff:

Maggie Moran

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING PROCEEDINGS

December 10, 2002
King County Council Chamber

Roll call

- Carolyn Edmonds, Chair
- Larry Gossett
- Richard Conlin
- David Hutchinson
- Ava Frisinger
- Alvin Thompson
- Karen Van Dusen
- Joseph Pizzorno

Members absent:

- Dow Constantine
- Jan Drago
- David Irons
- Kathy Lambert
- Margaret Pageler
- Kent Pullen

Call to order

A joint meeting of the King County Board of Health (KCBOH) and the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) was held at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center at 17620 Pacific Highway South, SeaTac, Washington. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Carolyn Edmonds, KCBOH Chair and SBOH Member.

Introductions/Welcome

Linda Lake, Chair, Washington State Board of Health and Carolyn Edmonds, Chair, King County Board of Health and SBOH member, welcomed the Board members and public to the joint meeting of the SBOH and the KCBOH. Chair Edmonds stated that one of her goals when she joined the King County Board was to have a joint meeting with the State Board. She mentioned that the governor had made public health funding a priority and that the Tri-Association was working on a joint legislative package for which the second highest priority was public health. SBOH Chair Linda Lake also welcomed people and encouraged them to stay around for the afternoon SBOH meeting. She then called for introductions from Board members and staff.

Human Genomics - Implications for Public Health

SBOH Executive Director Don Sloma directed the Board members to the materials behind Tab 2 and briefly discussed possible changes in public health practice as a result of human genomics. Maggie Moran, introduced Maxine Hayes, M.D., State Health Officer, and Wylie Burke, M.D. Ph.D., Chair UW Department of Medical History and Ethics.

Dr. Wylie Burke reviewed the activities of the Human Genome Project and the implications of that work for public health.

Dr. Maxine Hayes invited members to think ahead to April 2003 when the Human Genome Project would be completed. The question, then, would be: "Now what? What do we do with this information?" She discussed the difference between genetics-the study of single genes- and genomics-the studies of the functions and interactions of all genes in the genome. She asked what did it mean for public health? "The science is amazing, she said, but we don't really yet know what all this new information means and how we can integrate it into public health communities." She discussed genomics activities of health departments, the creation of new centers for genetics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and activities of National Association of County and City Health Officer and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers. Dr. Hayes said that far more information was needed about the impacts of genetic information on populations. Would, for example, the frequency of a genetic variant justify doing something different in population health? She stated that they needed to associate genomics with the 21st century just as they associated communicable disease with the 20th century. Many genetics tests - and there are 900 available - are not ready for prime time. She suggested that public health use the Ten Essential Services as a guide (including community involvement and development of the public health workforce).

Board members then discussed whether genetic testing might encourage people to avoid high-risk behaviors, whether a short communications tool existed that politicians could use to convey information about genetics at the community level, the role of local boards in facilitating discussion regarding the ethics around genomics, medical school training for physicians, and genetic privacy and workplace accommodations.

Public Policy Development in Addressing Health Behaviors

Mr. Sloma introduced James LoGerfo, M.D., Director of the Community Health Program, Harborview Medical Center. Dr. LoGerfo discussed the role of government in influencing healthy behaviors-including nutrition and physical activity. Board Member Thompson, cited the importance of asking who is being marketed to---because there are socioeconomic considerations. Board Member Conlin spoke to the role of public investments in sidewalks and other infrastructure and asked about a communications strategy that would yield long-term results. Dr. LoGerfo recommended a 10- to 15-year strategy.

Seattle Public Schools Demonstration

Ed Adams, physical education teacher at Dearborn Park Elementary introduced SCATS, a 30 year old award winning physical education program of the Seattle Schools. A group of some twenty students provided a demonstration of tumbling, juggling, and other gymnastics activities taught in the program that have been demonstrated to be successful in involving all students in non-competitive physical activity.

Department of Health Update

Secretary of Health and SBOH Member Mary Selecky provided an update about Department of Health activities. She discussed three items: (1) the DOH Strategic Plan; (2) the state and DOH budget, and (3) smallpox preparedness.

Recognition of Retiring Health Professional Members

Chair Edmonds acknowledged the importance of including health professionals as members of the KCBOH. Ms. Edmonds presented Board Members VanDusen, Thompson and Pizzorno with resolutions and gifts, and thanked them for their contributions to the KCBOH.

Overview of State BOH Legislative Relations Process

Linda Lake, WSBOH Chair, encouraged future discussion about the legislative issues between the two boards.

Adjournment

Chair Lake and Chair Edmonds adjourned the meeting at 12:30.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Carolyn Edmonds, Chair