

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting
Adams County Courthouse
Ritzville, Washington

September 14, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
(Wednesday)

Call to Order

Chairman Weise called the meeting to order.

Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval/Addition of Agenda

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve the agenda as presented*. **Motion carried.**

Board of Commissioner Meeting – Recess @ 9:01 a.m.

Board of Health Meeting – Called to Order @ 9:01 a.m.

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve the Board of Health meeting agenda as presented*. **Motion carried.**

Present: Commissioners Weise, Blankenship, and Thompson, Health Board Members April May; Karen Potts, IHCS Director Guse and Dr. Brzezny (virtually). Board member Timm Taff was absent.

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

- **Covid** – Trends bivalent booster approved
 - Positive tests reported are declining
 - U.S. Covid hospitalizations are down
 - U.S. Covid-19 deaths remain high with a possible recent decrease
 - Immunized vs not immunized: Covid-19 rates for both

- Washington State rates of Covid-19 are declining
 - Washington State rates of hospitalizations are declining
 - Number of Covid-19 Covid rates within Washington Educational Service Districts
 - Incidence rates for Adams County school districts
 - Local Covid cases (Othello, Ritzville, L-R schools) coming down from highs in August
 - Bivalent booster authorizations – all citizens urged to get a booster
- Monkeypox
 - U.S. Monkeypox known case trends as reported to CDC
 - Reported cases are decreasing
 - Washington State Monkeypox case numbers by county, one in Grant County, 0 in Adams County, King County has the most cases at 408, with a total case count of 506 state-wide
 - Washington State cases are declining
 - Threat to the public in Adams County is low
 - Most people recover in 2-4 weeks, but the disease can be serious for immunocompromised people, children, and pregnant women.
 - Anyone with a close contact to Monkeypox infectious rash can contract the disease
 - Ten (10) doses of Monkeypox vaccine in Adams County for people who believe they may have been exposed to the disease
- Polio
 - New concerns with polio outbreak as a result of the war in Ukraine with vaccination rates low among that population
 - Polio detections in wastewater in New York– fifty-seven (57) positive samples
 - Symptoms of polio infection (high temperature, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, muscle pain)
 - Poliovirus infection is highly contagious and is spread mostly by the fecal-oral route, can also be spread through saliva or droplets from a sneeze or cough
 - Paralysis cases in the U.S. before and after polio vaccine introduction – virus was declared eradicated
 - Public health and community challenges – vaccine/vaccinations have become a traumatizing word to

- some; Covid-19 epidemic has increased vaccine hesitancy and distrust of government; pediatric immunizations have dropped worldwide; opens an opportunity for other diseases.
- Air Quality
 - A Washington air quality guide is available on-line for school and child-care activities

Placement of air quality monitors was discussed with the possibility of mounting one at the Benge School District. Director Guse will reach out to the school officials and see if they are willing.

Dr. Brzezny provided an update on Tuberculosis with two cases in Othello under direct care.

Board Update

Board of Health members reported on their attendance at the Board of Health training held in Spokane. There was discussion as to who is authorized to perform the duties of a regional health officer in his/her absence; noting regional health officers have no authority unless appointed by a county during a health officer's absence. The process is not defined by the state. Currently, the state health officer has statutory authorization to step in and perform the duties of a regional health officer, if necessary.

The preparation of meetings, as well as the structure of meetings, was discussed noting the second Wednesday of the month for the Board of Health to meet is working well. Additionally, it will be necessary to draft by-laws for approval. Commissioner Weise noted that the public works conference room will be utilized for future Board of Health meetings.

Other Business

2022-2024 Consolidated Contract CLH31001, Amendment #7

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Consolidated Contract CLH31001, Amendment #7, between the State of Washington Department of Health and Adams County Integrated Health Care Services for a decrease in funding of \$444,157, for a total contract award of \$2,718,142, for the contract period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. Motion carried.* (Decreases funding allocated in Amendment #6.)

Environmental Health

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse requested and received **consensus authorization to begin the process of advertising for an Environmental Health Specialist position.**

Executive Session – None

Adjourn

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Thompson seconded, to *adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 11:11 a.m.* **Motion carried.**

Board of Commissioner Meeting – Reconvene @ 11:15 a.m.

Integrated Health Care Services

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP)

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse reviewed job descriptions for RNP Outreach Navigator and RNP Case Manager. Director Guse requested and received **consensus authorization to begin the process of advertising for two (2) new SUD positions (Outreach Navigator, Case Manager) for the Recovery Navigator Program.** Resolutions creating the positions; adopting the job descriptions; and establishing the compensation level will be prepared for approval.

Director Guse reported that IHCS employee Dennis Borgman has submitted his notice of retirement, effective January 31, 2023. Should Director Guse wish to hire a replacement for Mr. Borgman's position for training purposes, prior to his retirement, the Board will need to review the appropriate budget.

Executive Session

At 11:40 a.m. Chairman Weise announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for fifteen (15) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.” Additionally present were Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse; Prosecutor Flyckt; and, Human Resource Manager Campbell.

At 11:55 a.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action taken.

At 11:55 a.m. Chairman Weise announced the Board would recess back into Executive Session for fifteen (15) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or

to review the performance of a public employee.” Additionally present were Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse; Prosecutor Flyckt; and, Human Resource Manager Campbell.

At 12:09 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action taken.

Recess @ 12:10 p.m.

Reconvene @ 1:07 p.m.

Human Resources

Human Resource Manager Campbell requested and received **consensus authorization to obtain a county issued credit card for use in her department.**

Sheriff’s Department

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve Grant Agreement No. E23-048 between Washington State Military Department and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Adams County Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$73,125 for the period September 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024; and, sign the Signature Authorization form.* **Motion carried.**

Adams County District Court

Judge Benzel, Adams County District Court Position No. 2, previously reported district court employee Margarita Alfaro has assumed the duties of Court Administrator for district court and requested Ms. Alfaro be compensated at Range 1, Step 4, of the Adams County Exempt Employee Salary Schedule.

The Board provided **consensus authorization for Ms. Alfaro’s salary placement at Range 1, Step 2, of the Adams County Exempt Employee Salary Schedule, effective September 6, 2022, based on the qualifications and level of experience of Ms. Alfaro.**

Broadband Project Professional Services

It being the date and time set for bid opening on the Adams County Broadband Project Professional Services, bids were opened from:

Petrichor Broadband, LLC	\$150,000.00
Port of Whitman County	
302 N. Mill Street	
Colfax, WA 99111	

Adjournment @ 2:24 p.m.

Submitted:

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

Edited and Approved:

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