



# UTAH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

151 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
PROVO, UTAH 84601

## MINUTES

*November 23, 2009*

### Members Present:

Name	
Erin Maughan, PhD	✓
Clyde Nielsen, RPh	✓
Dennis Hess, MD	excused
Saundra M. Huff	excused
Chris Sorensen	excused
Debbie Eyre, Secretary	✓

Name	
Viola Ramos, MRC	✓
Jerry C. Washburn, Mayor	✓
Gary Anderson, Commissioner	✓
Joseph K. Miner, MD, MSPH	✓
Ralph L. Clegg, MPA	excused

**Others present:** Utah County Health Dept: Lance Madigan, Terry Beebe, Lanty Ross, Jen Tischer, Eric Edwards, Lynn Flinders  
Dianne Orcutt - Utah County Attorney  
Luke Mease - Walter Reed Army Medical Center Preventive Medicine Resident  
Casey Heap - BYU pre-med student  
Logan Jones, Zach Gillen, Jen Tischer, Brian Tello, Austin Nerdin, Elias Atkinson, Sandra Howells - OUTRAGE Youth Group  
Heidi Toth - Daily Herald  
Andrea Turner - Utah Asthma Coalition  
Caitun Bronson - Daily Universe  
Ben Witt - A.O.S.

1. Welcome and introductions - Mayor Jerry Washburn, Chair

Dr. Miner introduced the following individuals: Dianne Ocrutt - Utah County Attorney, succeeding Paul Wake who has been assigned to work with the juvenile court, Dr. Luke Mease - Public Health Physician Resident in training with Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and Casey Heap - BYU pre-med student.

2. Approval of Minutes for September 28, 2009

**MOTION:** Clyde Nielsen made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Viola Ramos and passed by unanimous vote.

3. Individual Waste Water Disposal Variance Request - Terry Beebe, Division Director of Environmental Health, explained that an owner of an older home in the West Mountain area is desiring to upgrade his home. There is no record of a waste water system there, so a PERC test was performed which found ground water at five feet. Whenever ground water is discovered closer than 6 feet, the area has to be monitored for a year to see where the water stabilizes so we'll know what can be done for a wastewater system.

The home owners wish to take advantage of the interest rates and begin building as soon as possible. Environmental Health staff are proposing some options they feel will work in this situation. Mr. Beebe believes that whatever they have on their property is probably polluting the ground water because of where the water table is. A lot next door had ground water testing done in 2001, and the water table was at 16 inches, which would preclude putting in a conventional system.

Mr. Beebe suggested putting in a packed bed media system if necessary, based on state rule, which allows ground water to be within 12 inches of the bottom of the trench. Our Department's more restrictive regulation for a packed bed media system requires that ground water has to be at least 24 inches below. He proposed that we grant the home owners a variance from our rule and go with the State rule of 12 inches and allow them to put in a packed bed media system if that becomes necessary.

A building permit would be granted, based on the fact that the owners will monitor while they are building to what level the water table actually rises to. If the level is more than the 16 inches below, they will be able to put in a conventional system. The worst-case scenario would be that the water table is within 12 inches, which would require a packed bed media system. Mr. Beebe proposed that because this is an existing residence with an unapproved wastewater system already, that they be granted a variance from our current department regulation as discussed above.

A contractor in the audience recommended the Board consider adopting the same standard that the State is using. Mr. Beebe explained that our department is considering changing our more restrictive regulation to the same as the State. However, this change will require a formal public notice and a public hearing, which will take more time than these homeowners want to delay their construction.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Anderson made the motion to grant the waste water disposal variance request, which was seconded by Erin Maughan, and passed by unanimous vote.

4. Novel H1N1 Influenza Update & Distribution - Dr. Miner explained that the H1N1 influenza is a pandemic, but no more deadly than seasonal influenza. However, since H1N1 affects a lot more people, there are also more serious complications.

H1N1 cases have peaked and are now decreasing. It is estimated that 22 million Americans have been affected, resulting in 4,000 deaths. Young children and pregnant women are over represented in the deaths. It was believed that people over 60 had enough immunity that they were less susceptible, but it has been shown that although this age group is getting infected less because they don't associate as much with young children and teenagers, who are the largest carriers of the

disease, when people over 60 do get infected, their mortality rate is proportional to their percent of the population.

People with chronic health conditions, regardless of age, should have the immunization. The incidence of H1N1 has decreased and is starting to plateau, but there could be another peak after the first of the year.

Last month, two H1N1 immunization clinics a week were held at the Health Department, and over 80,000 doses of vaccine given out County-wide. This number represents less than one-seventh of our population. There are many who are still not immunized. The policy at the health department has been to keep about 50% of the doses for our clinics and distribute the other 50% to hospitals and clinics county-wide.

In the beginning, people were standing outside in the cold for 3 or 4 hours to get the vaccination, so a ticket appointment system was implemented to make much shorter wait times. We may also arrange access to tickets online. Interest in the vaccine is waning so it may be offered soon to people over 65 with chronic illness and to the general public.

The clinics have gone well, thanks to the hard work of the staff. Lance Madigan explained that the H1N1 hotline is updated regularly. The hotline number is 851-2222. Information is also available on Facebook, Twitter, and the Utah County website. Next year, the H1N1 vaccine will be included in the seasonal flu shot.

5. "OUTRAGE" Youth Group - Jen Tischler from Health Promotion introduced the anti-tobacco youth group and gave an update of their activities.

On November 24, 2008, the Board passed the Smoke Free Parks Regulation, which includes outdoor venues, and mass gatherings of 100 or more people. Since then, OUTRAGE has been actively promoting smoke-free parks and outdoor events. The group won three awards this year, which couldn't have happened without the support of the Board of Health.

Jen showed the three awards: From the State - The "UPHA Award" from the Public Health Association, The "Community Champions Award" from Molina Healthcare, and from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the "President's Youth Environmental Health Award." The group raised their own funds to pay for the trip to Washington, D.C. to receive the award. They talked about their experiences in Washington, which included attending the awards banquet, visiting national monuments, and meeting with Senators Bennett and Hatch.

Ms. Tischer explained that the group has been very busy educating people about smoke-free parks at numerous events and encouraging public support. They also volunteered at the "Relay for Life" event and gave out more information. Response from the public has been positive because the main focus has been on protecting children against second-hand smoke. The group will take thank you cards to the City Council members. Jen shared a letter of appreciation that she received from a Provo resident.

Smoke-free park signs have been ordered and will be posted. The city mayors were also given signs to post in their parks. More signs will be ordered as the budget allows. The group wants the message to be positive - that they are against second-hand smoke, not smokers. A contest with

children is being held where kids can draw pictures of what a smoke-free park would look like. The winning entry will be put on a sign and posted in the parks.

OUTRAGE is looking for recruits. Anyone interested in serving must be between 12 and 18 years of age with an interest in stopping second-hand smoke. The Health Department is working to make their campus smoke-free also. The Board expressed their appreciation and congratulations for the efforts and accomplishments of the OUTRAGE group.

6. Legislature Outlook for 2010 - Dr. Miner explain that there is a projected large budget deficit for State Government, which will be a challenge for the Legislature. Cuts to the local health department funding are small because we receive very little State funding from the Legislature.

Senator Stowell sponsored Senate Bill #82 last year, but the session adjourned before it was passed. The bill would require county commissioners to designate a mill levy for local health departments and reduce their general fund by the same amount. Senator Stowell plans to sponsor the bill again, but we don't have the support of the Utah Association of Counties. The bill wouldn't increase taxes, but it would decrease slightly the flexibility commissioners have setting taxes.

7. Budget outlook for 2010 - Dr. Miner said the commissioners are faced with some of the same budget issues particularly from and decreases in sales tax revenues.

The Health Department usually gets \$2 .5 million funding from the County from taxes and Health Fund surplus. In 2010, half will come from our health fund surplus and half from another county fund. The same amount of money is there from County sources as we've had in previous years.

8. New employees - Dr. Miner read the list. The only full time employees that have been hired are in Substance Abuse and Senior Services. The Senior Program Director retired and that position was changed to a Program Manager. Also, an assistant was hired for the Foster Grandparent program.

Substance Abuse has hired two clinical therapists. Everyone else has hired part-time/temporary employees. All the full-time employees in Substance Abuse are employees who are supported by grants. Many of our grants have been renewed annually for over 30 years. Most of the Substance Abuse employees are replacements. Last year Substance Abuse had a reduction of full-time staff, some of which were replaced with part time temporary staff.

9. Other business - Dr. Maughan gave handouts from the annual UALBH symposium that she attended in September. Dr. Maughan said that the conference was very helpful.

The conference included a presentation on the importance of disposing of unused prescriptions properly. Commissioner Anderson said legislation is being discussed where pharmacies will dispose of drugs. The website: [cleanoutthecabinet.org](http://cleanoutthecabinet.org) explains where drugs can be taken for disposal.

Mr. Nielsen said there had been two more drug-related deaths in his city this month. Utah County has one drug-related suicide a week, and another 70 drug-related deaths a year. In Utah, more people die from drug abuse than from automobile deaths.

10. Next meeting - January 25, 2010 at 4 p.m. in Suite 2500 of the Health & Justice Building.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Anderson made the motion to adjourn, which was passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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Joseph K. Miner, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Utah County Health Department

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Mayor Jerry Washburn  
Chair  
Utah County Board of Health