



UTAH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

151 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PROVO, UTAH 84601

MINUTES

July 26, 2010

Members Present:

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

Name	
Viola Ramos, MRC	✓
Jerry C. Washburn, Mayor	excused
Gary Anderson, Commissioner	excused
Diane Lohner	✓

Others present: Debbie Eyre - Board Secretary, Joseph K. Miner, M.D. - Executive Secretary, Ralph Clegg - Deputy Director

Utah County Health Department: Toni Carpenter, Andrea Jensen, Johanna Swenson, Stephanie Bennion, Terry Beebe, Dave Johnson, Karen Beaty, Brian Nielson, Stephanie Jones, Jen Tischler, Becca Baird, Shandi Hatfield, Ashlee Peterson

Jonalyn Meyers, Justin Ritter - Deseret News, Ana Porter, Nate Porter & Bry Porter - The Huka Bar & Grill, Angellica Hernandez and Sonali Rangel - Centro Hispano. Karen Goddess - Owner of a hookah pipe and products store in Provo.

1. Welcome and introductions - Dennis Hess, M.D.
2. Approval of minutes for May 24, 2010

MOTION: Diane Lohner made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Erin Maughan and passed by unanimous vote.

3. Public Hearing for a proposed regulation making hookah pipe tobacco smoke in Utah County subject to the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act restrictions.

Jen Tischler, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the harms and myths of hookah water pipe tobacco smoke. She advocated more regulation for the product because it is attractive to teenagers and young adults

because of its fruity flavors which masks the harshness of the tobacco smoke. The World Health Organization reports that hookah smoke presents the same health risks from heavy metals, nicotine, tar and cancer, as well as the risk of addiction as any other tobacco smoke. Youth are eight times more likely to experiment with hookahs. A video clip was shown and handouts were given out. Ms. Tischler explained that hookah pipe tobacco is not a safer alternative to cigarettes because all forms of tobacco smoking are harmful. Ms. Tischler further explained that although hookah users may smoke less often, they inhale longer and more deeply and smoke for longer periods of time when they do smoke. In a 45-minute hookah session, a smoker can inhale the same amount of smoke that would come from 100 or more cigarettes. The World Health Organization says that the process used in a hookah cools the smoke, but it is tobacco smoke just the same.

Dr. Miner explained that the question is whether hookah tobacco smoke falls under the Utah Clean Indoor Air Act. The Utah Indoor Clean Air Act prohibits smoking in all enclosed indoor buildings that are open to the public, including taverns and pubs. Thus, the proposed regulation would not allow hookah smoking inside hookah lounges.

Nate Porter, whose family owns the Huka Bar & Grill in Murray, came to encourage the Board of Health not to adopt this regulation. He said that although inhaling smoke isn't good for anyone, the smoke from hookah devices, which he said is mostly steam, dissipates much more quickly and does not present the same amount of secondhand smoke that cigarette smoking does.

Dr. David Allen, Porter's brother-in-law, said that from a health perspective and environmentally, the smoke from hookahs has not been found to be as harmful as cigarette smoke, based on studies that have come out of Pakistan. He also explained that the tobacco is not actually lit.

Karen Goddess, owner of the Hookah Collection on Center Street in Provo, said her establishment sells hookah products but is not a hookah lounge. Hookah is dangerous for smokers' health because of the tobacco smoke. She said that walking into a bar full of cigarette smoke is much more unpleasant than walking into a hookah bar. She does not allow anyone younger than 19 years old to buy products from her store. She agreed with the Board that hookahs should be regulated. Logically, it looks like the issue does fall under the Utah Clean Air Act.

MOTION: Chris Sorensen made the motion to close public hearing which was seconded by Sandy Huff and passed by unanimous vote.

4. Consider adopting the proposed regulation clarifying that hookah pipe tobacco smoke is subject to the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act

MOTION: Chris Sorensen made a motion to postpone acting on the proposed regulation until the State makes a decision on the issue. Sandra Huff seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

5. Request for variance from the Department Tanning Regulation

Dr. Hess said the individual who requested the agenda item was not at the meeting today and asked for a postponement to another time, which was granted by the board.

6. Mosquito Abatement Report

Robert Mower, Division Director of Mosquito Abatement gave a power point presentation updating everyone on the progress of mosquito control in the County. Mr. Mower explained that Utah County is divided up into 13 districts, each with a vector control person. Nine fogging trucks and a variety of traps are used to monitor and collect mosquitos. Biker employees monitoring catch basins have treated over 13,000 catch basins.

There is also a device which finds active flight times of mosquitos, as well as a weather station that tells the temperature, humidity, and wind speed at the time. Mr. Mower explained that typically the most active time for mosquitos is between 9:00 p.m. and midnight. When the temperature drops below 50 degrees and wind speeds are above 5 mph, most mosquito activity stops.

The spraying is very calibrated and very effective. Only one ounce of spray per acre is put out. West Nile Virus numbers in animals and humans are significantly down from 2008. This is due in part to June being very cool (below 50 degrees every night). The sprays used are contact sprays and it doesn't sit on vegetation. The droplets actually have to hit the mosquitos to kill them.

The mosquito population has been less this year than last. The office received over fifteen hundred service requests last year. This year we've received significantly less. Utah still has no human cases of West Nile Virus. Late July and August are when West Nile typically comes into the State, so protect yourselves. They're still out there!

7. Recreational water monitoring for E-Coli

Dr. Miner explained that the Department of Environmental Quality has begun a new EPA program to monitor surface recreation water for E-Coli. This bacteria comes from the intestines of animals and humans. Salem Pond and Utah Lake are being monitored in Utah County and Salem Pond has exceeded the EPA standard limit many times. All surface water is always contaminated with E-Coli and can be harmful anytime, but the higher the numbers the greater the risk for water-borne infections and illness.

Salem City has been posting warning signs, although we don't know how effective the signs are. There are several areas where the public plays in surface water including canyon ponds and reservoirs and pressurized irrigation systems meant to water lawns. The public needs to be informed that all of these sources of water are a risk for causing illness. The Health Department will work with the managers of these water sources to post signage that the water is not safe for drinking or immersing your head under.

8. Annual Report 2009

Dr. Miner referred to the final version of the annual report for 2009. The report hits the year's highlights, reviews the budget, demographics, health indicators that compare our county with the State and the nation regarding physical health, chronic health conditions, access to health care, preventive screenings, injury prevention, etc.

Dr. Maughan pointed out that the school nurse ratio in Provo School District is a serious problem. Dr. Miner pointed out that Provo School District used to have the best school nurse to student ratio of all three school districts. However, funding was cut in this area. Nebo and Alpine School Districts have maintained their nurse to student ratios.

9. Utah County Asthma Plan

Toni Carpenter, the Environmental Health Educator, received an award from the Health Education Association of Utah for innovation in health promotion due to the work she has done with the Utah County Asthma Coalition. Toni explained the five-year grant which we received and our accomplishments to date. Dr. Miner read his letter to the Utah County residents introducing Utah County's first local asthma plan to improve the life for over 58,000 Utah County residents diagnosed with asthma.

Dr. Miner explained that another employee, Andrea Jensen received the Shelley Fuller Health Education Award, largely based also on her work with the Asthma Coalition.

10. New Employees

Dr. Miner reviewed the list of employees hired and those leaving. Except for one full time Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, all other hires are part time/temporary or seasonal. Nursing is in the process of hiring two nurses to fill a couple of the several vacancies they have.

11. Other Business

In a future Board of Health meeting, Dr. Maughan will share her experiences working out of the country with malnourished children and other humanitarian projects.

Dr. Maughan reminded Board members of the Utah Association Local Boards of Health annual meeting on September 10. The responsibilities of the local board of health will be discussed. This is a great opportunity to meet members of other boards of health.

12. Next Meeting - September 27 in the H&J Building, Suite 2500

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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

Dennis Hess, M.D., Vice-Chair
Utah County Board of Health