

**BOARD OF HEALTH
Special Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2010**

Call to Order

Chairman Bob Koch called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Dr. Jecha called the roll: The following were:

Present: Chairman Bob Koch, Board Members James Beaver, Leo Bowman, Max Benitz Jr., Brad Peck, Rick Miller and Executive Secretary Larry Jecha, M.D.

Staff Present: Cody Lewis, IT Manager; Amy Serven and Becky Mellinger, Administrative Services; Rick Dawson and Susan Shelton, Environmental Health Supervisors; Bruce Perkins, Director of Environmental Health; Sandy Owen, Director of Preventative Health; Shelley Little and Annie Goodwin, Preventative Health Supervisors; Nancy Klotz and Karen Queen, Public Health Nurses; Gretchen Patrick, Representing Washington State Nurses' Association; Rosie Tobias, Representing Local 17; Robin Albrandt, Emergency Preparedness Supervisor.

Visitors: Brooke Dubois, Citizen; Linda Ivey and Carrie Huie-Pascua, Human Services; Chris Mertens, Legal Council for Benton Franklin Health District.

Approval of Agenda

Max Benitz Jr. moved, seconded by James Beaver to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Organizational Transition

Chairman Koch stated that Dr. Jecha has been working with the Board to come up with a transitional plan for the Health Department as Dr. Jecha looks to the future and eventual retirement. Chairman Koch stated what the Board would like to try to do was have Dr. Jecha be a partial time Health Officer as the Board actively looks for an Administrator. Dr. Jecha would help transition to the new organizational structure. This would allow for a smooth transition and when Dr. Jecha was ready for retirement he could. Chairman Koch stated the purpose of this special meeting was to make sure the Board of Health was in agreement and wanted to move forward with this plan. Chairman Koch announced he had been in contact with Secretary of Health Mary Selecky to solicit her help to guide us through the transition process.

Mr. Benitz Jr. stated he believes this transition is vitally important for the Benton Franklin Health District. Though Dr. Jecha has done a superb job, he should not have to continue to be saddled with two very big areas of responsibility. Mr. Benitz Jr. stated in

light of budget restraints, which look to continue this is an opportunity to look at ways to provide the services and still ensure we protect the public health of Benton County. Mr. Benitz Jr. stated he felt this was the right determination and approach at this time.

Dr. Jecha stated he wants what is best for the Health District and this is a good plan as he is getting to the point of looking toward retirement. He stated he is familiar with the process of reorganization when working with Spokane as they looked at restructuring. Dr. Jecha informed the Board that Spokane utilized workshops, focus groups and public health officials as part of their process.

Leo Bowman stated succession is always an issue for any organization. He was not in opposition of hiring an Administrator separate from a Health Officer. He expressed appreciation for Dr. Jecha's willingness to help with the transition and process.

James Beaver stated he is pleased Dr. Jecha will help us through this transition. He also feels it is important at this time for the board to consider all the assets available in the Benton County building. He stated that if Human Services currently pays \$96,000 to the private sector, would it not be economical to move them into this facility to help offset the costs of the building for everybody? Mr. Beaver stated Ms. Selecky had indicated in an e-mail that either she or key members of her staff could assist on how to move forward with future plans.

Brad Peck clarified that he agrees it doesn't make sense to have vacant space in the building when it could be leased out and offset the cost of the Health Department but we must remember that we (the Board Members) wear a different hat when speaking of Human Services but that did not preclude looking at a multi-tenant arrangement. Mr. Peck feels we would be much better served with a part-time Health Officer and a full-time health orientated Administrator. He stated this was in no way a reflection on Dr. Jecha and his services but the economic situation and needs of the organization. He feels the real question isn't the process but the timing. He feels that it is appropriate for the Board to first decide this is what they want and then ask staff and Doctor for the best timeline for implementing the transition.

Mr. Miller stated he is in favor of the organizational transition.

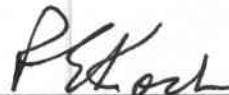
Chairman Koch asked the Board what next step is. Mr. Benitz suggested the Chair and Vice-Chair put together a recommendation based upon advice from Dr. Jecha and management staff. He proposed an organizational chart showing both the administrative and service sides of the health district be brought back to the board and then if outside agencies are needed for consultation that would be fine. He asked for a very short time window for making these changes happen.

Chairman Koch would like to bring Ms. Selecky in for background and options either as a whole Board or just to meet with a few members. Mr. Peck feels that before we invite Mary Selecky here, the board should have a clear definition of the problem or issue we are trying to solve. Mr. Benitz Jr. expressed confidence in the chair and vice-chair to

solicit advice and come back to the board with a recommendation. Mr. Peck wanted the minutes to reflect he was opposed to moving forward with that process because feels if this Board has any responsibility at all it is to give clear direction and did not think clear direction had been given to the chair and vice-chair beyond meet with Ms. Selecky and investigate options and feels that is too vague. Mr. Beaver stated he and Chairman Koch would report back to the board within a short time frame with recommendations for future organizational structure changes.

At 2:39 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:
Amy Serven, Administrative Assistant
Benton-Franklin Health District



Bob Koch
Chairman of the Board



Larry Jecha, M.D.
Executive Secretary