



DATE: November 12, 2014

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Environmental Health Committee
Keith Grellner, Chair

SUBJECT: CLANDESTINE DRUG LAB COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION – RESULTS

Background and Summary:

Under RCW 70.05.120, any person may complain to the Washington State Board of Health concerning the failure of the local health officer or administrative officer to carry out the laws, rules or regulations concerning the public health. The board shall, if a preliminary investigation so warrants, call a hearing to determine whether the local health officer or administrative officer is guilty of the alleged acts.

On July 9, 2014, Secretary of Health John Weisman received a complaint from Mr. Barry Ellis of Port Townsend, Washington. Mr. Ellis requested an investigation to determine if Jefferson County Public Health improperly handled a complaint about a rental property that may have been a methamphetamine lab prior to his occupancy in 2011-2012.

The board authorized a preliminary investigation into the complaint on August 13, 2014. The preliminary investigation has been completed and the results are provided under tab #9. Today, I will present the preliminary investigation findings and answer questions from the Board.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board may wish to consider the following motion:

Based on the results of the preliminary investigation of the complaint submitted by Mr. Ellis, the State Board of Health finds that Jefferson County Public Health did not fail to carry-out the applicable statute or the Board's rules and regulations concerning contaminated properties and decontamination of illegal drug manufacturing or storage sites with respect to the property in question, 1507 – 31st Street, Port Townsend, WA, and, therefore, concludes that no further action under RCW 64.44 or WAC 246-205 is warranted at this time..

Staff Contact: David DeLong