DOH WSBOH

From: John Campbell <campkids2@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 3:30 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Public Comments for the State Board of Health January 13 Public Meeting

Attn. Washington St. Board of Health members.

The first dosages of Covid 19 vaccine have recently arrived here in the state, with the priority of vaccinating health care workers, elderly in congregate facilities and the immune system compromised, (I believe), and that seems to be a very reasonable priority. I don't know who will receive the next round of vaccine or whether that has yet to be determined but I hope that you, as the Wash. St. health board, (if you do have a say with this), would consider recommending that one of the higher priorities for use, would include another very vulnerable population that includes low income and homeless, as they generally have limited access to regular health care and with winter now upon us, be more likely to spend more time indoors in a congregate residential or emergency shelter situation.

I just want to mention that the people who are struggling with trying to prevent eviction and homelessness are most likely seeing this pandemic as just another one of the many risk factors that they face on a daily basis, and may not take it as something to be overly concerned about. So I hope we will consider this a priority group as it does seem to be a high risk area for a super spreader event.

John Campbell

Bellingham Wa.

DOH WSBOH

From: Doug Ross <DRoss@medical-lake.org>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 11:06 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Congrats to Dr. Bob Lutz!

Please forward my congratulations to Dr. Bob Lutz for his new appointment to the Washington State Board of Health. I corresponded with Dr. Lutz several times when he was the Public Health Officer for the Spokane Regional Health District and he was great to work with and always provided accurate and science driven answers. Please also convey to Dr. Lutz that currently public health in the Spokane region feels like an absolute rudderless ship dictated by politics not science.

--

Doug Ross
City Administrator | City of Medical Lake
509-565-5050 | dross@medical-lake.org | www.medical-lake.org

DOH WSBOH

From: douglas collins <dcc701@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 12:30 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Comments on proposed changes WA BOH regarding coronavirus/Covid

Dear WA BOH, c/o Kaitlyn Donahoe or others

Good state health has to be based on good data.

We already have rather bad data on Covid, and we should not make matters worse. There is, after all, pretty much a scientific consensus now that the PCR test, as currently typically administered, is extremely flawed, resulting in huge numbers of false positives. For this reason, some states have started regulating this test. That's what we should be doing too.

So this is certainly a terrible time to relax the definition of "case" as including lab detected results (with no provider involved) or including "suspected" cases.
Can you imagine how muddled our health reporting system would be if you applied the same ideas to other illnesses? The same, of course, is true of Covid.

Basically, the proposed changes would greatly increase the chance of unreliable numbers and false or wrongly identified "waves" of an illness.

The proposed re-labeling of "quarantine" and "isolation" are also not beneficial. Please do not disguise isolation and quarantine behind words such as “separation” and “limitation”. This is clearly PR rather than good policy.

Furthermore, do NOT permanently add positive coronavirus tests as an "immediately notifiable condition". The recovery rate, according to the CDCs is extremely high for this Covid, and most "cases" of this never develop Covid in the first place. It makes no practical sense to wage a permanent war against a largely phantom enemy that can pop up so easily with numerous false-positive tests. It's a really unhealthy witch-hunt.

Please instead adopt good policies of offering sensible, optional, targeted protection to truly vulnerable parts of the population during the limited remainder of the normal course of this virus. Any good epidemiologist would tell you the same.

Sincerely,
Douglas Collins
1408 N 135th PL
Seattle 98133

DOH WSBOH

From: Carol Collins <clcollins.wa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 1:18 PM
To: Donahoe, Kaitlyn N (SBOH); DOH WSBOH
Subject: Comments on Proposed Changes to Notifiable Conditions

Board of Health,

A "case" should not be redefined to include *suspected* diagnosis. (WAC 246-101-010(8))
A "case" should not be redefined to include a lab diagnosis without a seeing a health care provider. (WAC 246-101-010(8))
We need legitimate data on which to base decisions and policies, not suspicions and positive tests regardless of whether symptoms are present. The PCR test is a flawed test that produces false positives. (Ref. External Peer Review of RTPCT test... https://cormandrostenreview.com/report/)

The definition of "isolation" should not be changed from *restriction of activities* to *separation*. (WAC 246-101-010(22))
The definition of "quarantine" should not be changed to *limitation*. (WAC 246-101-010(38))
These redefinitions appear motivated to disguise true intent. Why would that be necessary, except as a PR move to soften mandate language? So much easier to get the masses to accept a "limitation" on their activities versus a "quarantine"... These redefinitions do absolutely NOTHING to protect public health.

But most importantly, coronaviruses (SARS, MERS, COVID-19) should NOT be permanently added as notifiable conditions.
This is a fear-based, overreaction to a virus with a very high recovery rate and many existing treatments. It seems like preparation to repeat/continue the misguided lockdowns, mandates and restrictions every time a bad cold or flu comes around. It smacks of a power grab.

The Board of Health and the Department of Health would better serve Washingtonians by focusing your resources to publicize existing treatments rather than expand your ability to artificially inflate case counts and gain more power to limit our freedoms.

Carol Collins
935 13th Avenue #1
Seattle, WA
98122

DOH WSBOH

From: Lena Mcginnis <lenamcginnis14@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 8:58 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Fw: Proposed changes to notifiable conditions

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Lena Mcginnis <lenamcginnis14@yahoo.com>
To: kaitlyn.donahoe@sboh.wa.gov <kaitlyn.donahoe@sboh.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020, 07:51:04 PM PST
Subject: Proposed changes to notifiable conditions

Dear Board and Department Members,

I am writing concerning the proposed changes to the Notifiable Conditions list. It is my understanding that these changes are in an effort to improve public healthy by tracking SARS-CoV-2. My concerns with the proposed changes are as follows:
1) the moving of "suspected" cases into data of "confirmed" cases creates unreliable data and interferes with accurate tracking of actual infection case numbers. As we know, PCR tests are flawed and can often produce false results, thus leading to falsely inflated "case" numbers.
a) Redefining "case" to include a laboratory diagnosis without the patient being seen by a licensed medical provider would make discerning false positive PCR tests from actual cases impossible, convoluting the data even more

2) Changing the word "isolation" (p.11) which includes *"restriction of activities of the infected or suspected infected person or animal"*, to solely "separation" "*of that individual from others"* along with the additional changes to the definition of "quarantine" to "limitation of freedom of movement of persons or domestic animals that have been exposed to, or are suspected to have been exposed to, an infections agent...In a way to prevent effective contact with those not exposed" (p.15) would likely lead to the wrongful and involuntary quarantine of healthy individuals who test "positive" (with the very flawed PCR test), and even the wrongful and involuntary quarantine of healthy individuals deemed "suspected"

The proposed changes surrounding the word "separation" with its lacking a clear definition could lead to an abuse of the public. The changes to what constitutes a "case" have the appearance of being politically motivated as they lack honest data collection methods and standards that separate clear and authentic research from everything else. The Board of Health and Department of Health would better serve the people of Washington by focusing resources on the publicizing of existing treatments of this disease (that has a very high recovery rate) rather than expanding the ability to artificially inflate case counts thus leading to more power and the end result being the limitation of the freedoms of the people of this state. To proceed with the proposed changes would be a significant disservice to the people of this state.

Best Regards,

Lena McGinnis

DOH WSBOH

From: Elizabeth Long <theotherbess@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 7:27 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: PFAS Drinking Water Standards

Dear WA Board of Health WA State Board of Health,

Please move forward with adopting strong drinking water standards for PFAS. It's crucial we act now to reduce these immune-compromising toxics and follow the lead of other states that have started turning the tap off PFAS pollution. The draft rule is a positive step to begin to address PFAS in drinking water supplies, but I urge you to keep the process moving and incorporate the following recommendations into the final rule:

1. Ensure the state action levels address all PFAS. The rule should recognize that other harmful PFAS may be present in water and should establish monitoring, limits, and action requirements designed to capture as many of the large PFAS class as possible.
2. All Group A water systems should be required to test on an ongoing basis to make sure contaminated water sources are identified; the rule should not exclude important water systems such as churches, motels, or allow for waivers.
3. Since detection of any of these compounds is an indicator of the presence of other PFAS, the final rule should require that water systems take action to address all PFAS when drinking water exceeds the state action levels.
4. Finally, resources should be sought from the state legislature to support testing of other water systems and private wells and to address contamination.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Long
70 Commercial St apt 403
Brooklyn, NY 11222

DOH WSBOH

From: mickeylarson7@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:01 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Emergency- Evictions Moratorium Needed!

No vaccine and no stimulus will stop the immediate death and devastation that will hit every community if an Evictions Moratorium is not issued.
There is nowhere near a fraction of homeless shelter space available even during a regular freezing winter, let alone with the millions who will be put on the streets during this pandemic.
It is true that landlords are hurting too, and relief should be passed to assist landlords just like the relief proposed to assist small businesses and corporations, but if people are mass evicted the entire community will be exposed by the people and families who have no where to go to social distance. They will be on our sidewalks, parking lots. They will be exposed and infected going into Safeway, pharmacies, doctors, hospitals, convenient stores, exposing EVERYONE, not just the other evicted homeless.
It is easy to say that these are people who don't want to work or pay their rent. But that is a lie. A lie we tell ourselves so we can sleep comfortably at night while we bury our heads in the sand.
The overwhelming majority of these people are hard working families who are in a terrifying reality they never expected to be in.
(and even those few who aren't, will still be a huge threat exposing our communities).
We attempt to tell ourselves that there are resources and "rental assistance" programs for families facing evictions, but the truth is that those programs are overwhelmed, backlogged and unable to assist the majority of our citizens in need.
Children will be homeless and freezing on the streets.
Not only is it dangerous to evict people onto the streets in the middle of a pandemic in winter, it is morally and ethically reprehensible!
Yes, there is a vaccine on the way, but it will be of zero help literally for months.
We are all trying to hold on to make it until the vaccine is available to the general population and can make a difference.
But until then, the only thing that will matter and make a difference is if people and families have a safe place to live until they will not be an overwhelmingly increased risk of contracting and spreading this astonishingly contagious virus to the entire population.
An Evictions Moratorium is the only thing that can save us from an exponentially more devastating death toll until vaccines are available to all communities.
If any are evicted, it will affect us all!
Thank you for your time.

DOH WSBOH

From: Thomas Cooney <tcooney460@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 12:03 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Re: Public Comments for WSBOH Members for Oct 13, 2020 Online meeting and Conference Call

Dear WSBOH:

Please include the above emails in the official public comments for the next meeting of the WSBOH following its Nov 9, 2020 meeting. The reference in the subject line to WSBOH Oct 13, 2020 meeting is incorrect. -- Thank you, Thomas Cooney

On Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 12:07 PM Thomas Cooney <tcooney460@gmail.com> wrote:

> PS re: above typos --
>
> Second line in above email letter: "...rather than incoroporating due diligence". Correct spelling is "incorporating".
>
> Fourth paragraph from bottom: "SRHC" is spelled "SRHD".
>
> -- Thank you, TEC

On Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 11:54 AM Thomas Cooney <tcooney460@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear WSBOH:
>
> Below is a copy of the email I sent 7 Nov 2020 to Spokane Regional Health District Board regarding the Board's and Administrator Amelia Clark's performance at SRHD's Nov 5, 2020 board meeting, and performance leading up to the meeting. My concern is that Ms.Clark and SRHD Board acted recklessly and for political reasons, rather than incoroporating due diligence and science-based facts and goals. I ask that Ms. Clark's, Commissioner French's and the SRHD Board's actions be investigated, and that they be appropriately disciplined. You may find it necessary to educate SRHD Board and Ms. Clark on their official jobs, and request corrective action for their substantive and procedural mistakes.
>
> *"I am writing to express my dismay at the way Dr. Velazquez was voted into the Interim Health Officer position.*
>
> *At the Nov 5, 2020 SRHD Board meeting, SRHD board member French merely mentioned that he knew of a doctor who in some respects was better qualified than Dr. Lutz. His motion was seconded, and with absolutely no SRHD Board discussion, Dr. Velazquez was voted into his interim position as SRHD Health Officer. Comm. French did not advise SRHD board how Dr. Velazquez' credentials were superior to Dr. Lutz'.*
>
> *The minutes of the above mentioned board meeting do not reflect that SRHD board members were provided with any information about Dr. Velazquez' background, his resume, or curriculum vitae. No mention was made in the minutes that Dr. Velazquez was interested in performing the duties of Health Officer. He was not interviewed by SRHD board members or Amelia Clark, nor were his references checked.*
>
> *As it turns out, Dr. Velazquez may not have demonstrated himself to be a team player as CEO of PAML, a large medical laboratory in Spokane He has proved himself to be largely a self-promoter.*

KHQ news, despite reasonable efforts, was unable to obtain Dr. Velazquez' comment following his appointment as SRHC Interim Health Officer.

SRHD board action approving Dr. Velazquez as interim SRHD Health Officer stinks to high heaven. SRHD Health Board was reckless, and did not exercise due diligence in approving Dr. Velazquez.

SRHD Board should rescind its action appointing Dr. Velazquez as interim Health Officer, and follow careful hiring practices including interviews, submission of resume, and investigation of Velazquez' and other interested party's backgrounds. Based on prior recent experience, the interim Health Officer may be in that position for up to years before the permanent Health Officer is appointed. Dismissing the current Health Officer, and overly hastily appointing a person into interim status, never should have occurred during a pandemic. SRHD board is better than it has recently demonstrated, but it really messed up the above mentioned dismissal and interim appointment. Somebody needs to take control of and educate this undisciplined SRHD board. -- Thomas Cooney, Attorney at Law"

Thank you for your attention to the above. -- Sincerely, Thomas Cooney, Attorney at Law

DOH WSBOH

From: Ron Tussey <rtussey411@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 7:52 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Update

https://www.inlander.com/spokane/spokanes-new-health-officer-says-he-didnt-know-he-was-agreeing-to-be-health-officer-but-now-defends-his-experience/Content?oid=20614572&fbclid=IwAR11xa3Xm2ibYI_z59XYr5TmD3b8ULKX1phgJVZJOz0Tx2g4-bp3_CQK9uM

In reference to the firing of Dr. Bob Lutz.We now know that the replacement has no public health experience.
And "Mayor Woodward — who is not on the health board that fired Lutz, but did publicly clash with him over reopening plans — said Lutz's firing was "the best news I've heard in a long time." Velazquez, meanwhile, donated to Woodward's mayoral campaign. And when she won the election last year, he says he helped pay for a celebration party. (He couldn't recall how much he spent.) The Inlander
We need help here in Spokane. Corruption is amuck!

Thank you

Ron Tussey

DOH WSBOH

From: Barb Krahn <bakrahn62@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 5:30 PM
To: DOH Secretary's Office
Subject: Spokane Wa

I'm am a resident in Spokane area and my concern with firing of Dr. Lutz.
I believe it is both political and personal as in the whole world. People have two opinions and the one with more power will step out of bounds as will all people.
Wearing masks I believe makes a difference and no big gatherings. We stay home unless have to for living reasons. I always have a mother I help as well with special health needs.
Political in play because of those that believe in opening up and being "Normal". In house as far as mayors not trying hard enough to back health board, big problem when can't agree to disagree and try wearing it. Noting to do with rights or power.
Life's is what matter.

Thank you
Barb Krahn

DOH WSBOH

From: Jennifer Lott <jenniferhegel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 12:34 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Spokane's leaders valuing business over health and lives

I live in Spokane County and I am scared of what is happening here. I am thankful that the Board is investigating Spokane's Regional Health Board for illegally firing our Health Officer Bob Lutz. However, I am concerned that it will not address the potential effects of his firing. It will not address the issue of Spokane's Mayor, Nadine Woodward, and members of the Health Board appearing to be more concerned with whether businesses are fully open than they are with the lives of citizens. Nadine Woodward has made statements about Spokane's need to "open up," as has one of our county commissioners who is on the Spokane Board. And our Board is made up almost entirely of career politicians. While I know you cannot change that, I hope you can help in some way. Spokane is seeing huge numbers of cases and hospitalizations. A former boss of mine recently lost her husband.
With the holidays coming up I am so frightened of what our numbers will look like - I don't want more people to die. What gets me is the nearsightedness of local officials - sure, opening businesses is great in the short run, but over time, as this virus is less controlled, that will do more harm to our lives AND our businesses. I am so sad and tired of it. Please don't forget the Eastern side of the state, and please do whatever you are able to enforce COVID precautions in Spokane.

Thank you,

Jennifer Lott

DOH WSBOH

From: Kahler, Kelie (SBOH)
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 11:11 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: FW: Dr Lutz

From: Sherilyn Peters <SMP1055@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Kahler, Kelie (SBOH) <Kelie.Kahler@sboh.wa.gov>
Subject: Dr Lutz

Dear Kelie,
We are heart sick with the firing of Dr Lutz. This was a political move. We have a pandemic raging and writing a letter on behalf of guns in the realm of suicide prevention, mentioning to a co-worker there are healthier foods to eat than a cupcake and looking at co-workers ids for their names are not valid reasons for termination. Amelia Clark has performed so poorly the employees have filed a no faith claim in their Administration.
Lastly our Mayor Nadine Woodwards comment of "This is the best news I have heard in a long time" is very unprofessional. We have a Pandemic raging and firing of the one person who was leading us safely is the best news she has heard. This is disgraceful.
This situation needs to be investigated. I watched the entire Spokane County health meeting. During the meeting it became very clear this was politically motivated. What we have here is a great and repected Doctor being used as a political pawn.
Sincerely,
Sherilyn Peters.

DOH WSBOH

From: David Beine <dkbeine@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 9:37 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Public comment (complaint) about Dr. Bob Luz termination

Dear Members of the WSBOH:

Thank you for your decision to investigate the termination of Dr. Bob Lutz as Spokane's Regional Health Officer. Listening to the past WSBOH meeting, however, if sounded like your called-for investigation would be limited to the order of Ms. Clark's termination of Dr. Lutz. I am writing to ask you to consider widening the scope of your investigation as this incident may just be a symptom of a larger systemic problem at the Spokane Regional Health Board. After listening to all of the discussion and watching all of the various public meetings here in Spokane, I would ask you to further investigate the Spokane Regional Health District Board for their apparent failure to ensure compliance with all applicable chapters of state law.

Beyond the issue of out-of-order termination of our local health officer, Dr. Bob Lutz, by the administrator Ms. Amelia Clark (which has already been brought to your attention), Ms. Clark and the board seem to be acting with an understanding of authority structure that doesn't appear to align with the RCWs associated with each position. Watching the meeting, it became clear very quickly that Ms. Clark and Dr. Lutz have very different views of their roles and responsibilities. As a reminder, RCW 70.05.045 provides a description of the regional health district administrative officer's responsibilities. It reads, "The administrative officer shall act as executive secretary and administrative officer for the local board of health, and shall be responsible for administering the operations of the board including such other administrative duties required by the local health board, except for duties assigned to the health officer as enumerated in RCW 70.05.070 and other applicable state law." And the same legislative publication lists the local health officers powers and duties as: "The local health officer, acting under the direction of the local board of health or under direction of the administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040 or 70.05.035, if any, shall:

(1) Enforce the public health statutes of the state, rules of the state board of health and the secretary of health, and all local health rules, regulations and ordinances within his or her jurisdiction including imposition of penalties authorized under RCW 70A.125.030 and 70A.105.120, the confidentiality provisions in RCW 70.02.220 and rules adopted to implement those provisions, and filing of actions authorized by RCW 43.70.190;
(2) Take such action as is necessary to maintain health and sanitation supervision over the territory within his or her jurisdiction;
(3) Control and prevent the spread of any dangerous, contagious or infectious diseases that may occur within his or her jurisdiction;
(4) Inform the public as to the causes, nature, and prevention of disease and disability and the preservation, promotion and improvement of health within his or her jurisdiction;
(5) Prevent, control or abate nuisances which are detrimental to the public health;
(6) Attend all conferences called by the secretary of health or his or her authorized representative;
(7) Collect such fees as are established by the state board of health or the local board of health for the issuance or renewal of licenses or permits or such other fees as may be authorized by law or by the rules of the state board of health;

(8) Inspect, as necessary, expansion or modification of existing public water systems, and the construction of new public water systems, to assure that the expansion, modification, or construction conforms to system design and plans;
(9) Take such measures as he or she deems necessary in order to promote the public health, to participate in the establishment of health educational or training activities, and to authorize the attendance of employees of the local health department or individuals engaged in community health programs related to or part of the programs of the local health department."

It would seem clear, both from the length of descriptions given and the difference of language used in each description, that the role and authority of the administrator should be more limited than Ms. Clark, and perhaps the local board itself, seems to understand it to be. The first description (one sentence long) infers more of a role of coordinator/facilitator, rather than the "big boss" with whom all final authority resides. The second (a lot more extensive), explicitly outlines the power and authority resident in the health officer position. In fact, the titles given in the codes itself ("responsibilities" of the administrator versus "powers and duties" of the health officer) seem to reveal the intention of the legislative code, under which all local boards of health are to comply. Again, it seems clear that both Ms. Clark and perhaps the board members who supported her call for Dr. Lutz' termination, have a different view than that implied by the state legislative code under which the board is to ensure compliance. If it is, in fact, the intent of the code that the administrator's main responsibility is expected to be more of a facilitation/coordination role and his or her authority is only over areas that do not conflict with the authority given to the health officer, then it seems clear that perhaps at the heart of this issue resides a fundamental misunderstanding of the roles intended and authorized by the WSBOH. And if the SRHD board acted on these misconceptions of total authority on the part of Ms. Clark, accepting her claims of insubordination on the part of Dr. Lutz in areas that seem clearly to be under the authority of the medical officer, not the administrator, then it seems that Ms. Clark and the board are acting in a way that is out of compliance with all applicable chapters of state law. Perhaps Dr. Lutz, because he also sits on the WSBOB, has a clearer understanding of these legislative codes that are to direct local health administrators and local health board than does Ms. Clark and the local board? If this is the case, perhaps Ms. Clark and the local board need to be corrected in this matter to bring their actions into compliance with the state legislation?

Unless Ms. Clark and the board are willing to reexamine her role in this light, I would like to add my voice to the vote of no confidence in the administrator cast by 121 Spokane Regional Health District members (almost half of the listed 250 SRHD employees) and their union. Further, I would like you to urge the SRHD to ensure compliance with all applicable chapters of state law, which is their mandate. The board seems to be acting with an understanding that Ms. Clark has authority over Dr. Lutz IN ALL AREAS, even though the statue above explicitly specifies differently.

Again, I am asking the WSBOH to please consider widening their investigation into SRHD Board's handling of the termination of Dr. Bob Lutz as indicated above. And if either the administrator or the board is found to be acting out of compliance with any part of RCW 70.5, then perhaps a remedy or removal as outlined by RCW 70.05.120 (points 1 and/or 2) is appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Dr. Dave Beine
Spokane, Washington

DOH WSBOH

From: David Camp <david@campcreative.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:56 AM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Spokane County board dysfunction

Dear Washington State Board of Health Members,

I'm writing to ask your help in establishing better oversight of county health districts such as ours in Spokane County, which, due to its lack of qualified medical experts and overabundance of very partisan politicians, is now failing in its response to the covid crisis, with cases spiking as never before. Our hospitals are also now filling with patients from Idaho next door, where even more politically driven nonsense has prevented effective response.

As you know, our Spokane County Board of Health has recently fired a highly qualified and effective public health officer, Dr. Bob Lutz, due to his insistence on following scientifically sound responses to the crisis – and, frankly, due to the fact that his previous discussions with the board on items such as the close relationship between guns and suicides had previously rankled the area's political conservatives. I believe that Dr. Lutz had been politically targeted for some time.

The Spokane Regional Health District's Board of Health's twelve members include three County Commissioners, three Spokane City Council members, two Spokane Valley City Council members, the Mayor of suburban Millwood, plus three conservative appointees; a former Spokane Valley City Council member, a dental hygienist, and a naturopath who is a conservative political activist.

Politically speaking, the three Spokane City Council members are the only liberals on the board and they represent 43% of the county's voters. Most of the board is political leaders representing the county's more conservative suburban and rural voters and several of these conservative political leaders represent the most extreme and vocal wing of the Republican Party. These extremists led the firing of Dr. Lutz.

Simply put, Spokane County's health has become a victim of Trump-era national politics, with a right-wing board majority pushing hard against any and all restrictions. This overwhelmingly conservative board does not even reflect the political leanings of Spokane County, whose citizens consistently vote close to the center. Because board membership is allocated among municipal jurisdictions, it is dominated by conservatives because there is just one urban jurisdiction but several suburbs. By giving outsized board representation to the conservative suburbs, the board suppresses liberal members from the city. As a result, the county Board of Health is now politically stacked and packed with several profoundly anti-scientific people.

Why can't the Washington State Board of Health establish higher medical qualification standards for county boards? Shouldn't at least half of a county health board have some medical background, and shouldn't we also have barriers against boards packing themselves with partisan political leaders whose motives are often at odds with public health?

I realize that you face a very full agenda amid this pandemic, so I thank you even more for your attention to this urgent matter.

Many thanks,
David Camp
Spokane

DOH WSBOH

From: Amy Compestine <acomp4274@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 9:43 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Unqualified Interim Public Health Officer

To the Washington Board of Health,

a.Commission French quickly attempted to force approval of Dr.
Velazquez as an interim replacement for Dr. Lutz without creating space for other BOH members to offer other options.

b.It appears that Dr. Velazquez does not have any relevant public health experience and has primarily worked in management roles: His focus is on the business side of medicine which aligns with our opinion that the termination of Dr. Lutz is motivated by a profits over people approach to pandemic management. Also, as a pathologist, Dr. Velazquez does not work directly with patients.

c.We are concerned that the board has appointed someone who does not appear to meet the minimum qualifications for this position according to Washington State Legislative Code, which states that a local health officer must hold an active medical license AND a degree in public health. A master's degree in healthcare management is not equivalent to a public health degree.

d. Dr. Velazquez does meet the qualifications for a provisional health officer because he holds an active medical license, but will require three months of coursework in public health OR an on the job self-training program, which he will be getting during a pandemic. We do not understand why the board is choosing to appoint someone who would fall under the category of provisional officer in the midst of a pandemic. This decision is willfully detrimental to public health

5. Our final concern is regarding the blame placed on Dr. Lutz for the present number of cases. We believe that the county commissioner and governing body of the SRHD have not handled the COVID response well and put numerous barriers in place to prevent Dr. Lutz from doing his work.

We demand accountability.

Washington state citizen,
Amy Compestine

DOH WSBOH

From: Petra Hoy <petrahoy737@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 10:29 PM
To: public_comment@srhd.org
Cc: DOH WSBOH
Subject: SRHD BOH - Does Dr. Valazquez meet provisional LHO requirements?

Additionally, will Dr. Francisco Velázquez be following through with the requirements of a provisional LHO per RCW 70.05.053? I understand that he's been hastily selected, however it is critical (especially during a pandemic) that we have experts leading us.

https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70.05.053

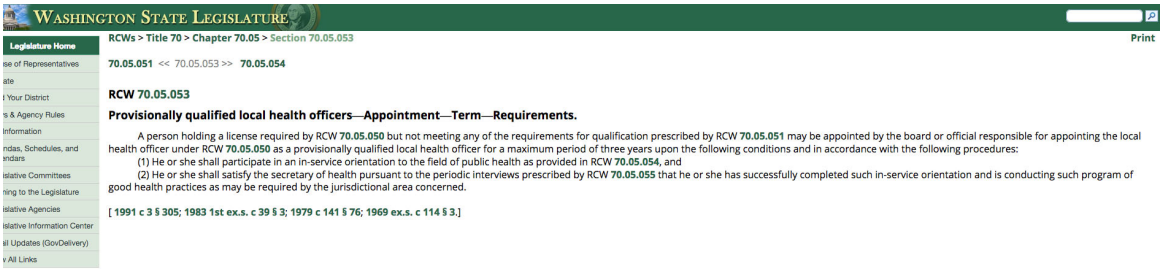
RCW 70.05.053

Provisionally qualified local health officers—Appointment—Term—Requirements.

A person holding a license required by RCW 70.05.050 but not meeting any of the requirements for qualification prescribed by RCW 70.05.051 may be appointed by the board or official responsible for appointing the local health officer under RCW 70.05.050 as a provisionally qualified local health officer for a maximum period of three years upon the following conditions and in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) He or she shall participate in an in-service orientation to the field of public health as provided in RCW 70.05.054, and

(2) He or she shall satisfy the secretary of health pursuant to the periodic interviews prescribed by RCW 70.05.055 that he or she has successfully completed such in-service orientation and is conducting such program of good health practices as may be required by the jurisdictional area concerned.



Sincerely,

Petra Hoy

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 11:17 AM Petra Hoy <petrahoy737@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Board of Health members,

I read Shawn Vestals article yesterday and it perfectly summarizes how I feel about the current situation with the Spokane Health Officer.

https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/nov/29/shawn-vestal-the-health-board-hired-a-replacement-/

I'm sorry to say that this fiasco with the firing of Dr. Lutz has made many of us lose faith in the BOH, Amelia Clark and the state of the Corona Virus response.

Cases are spiking and we know it will get worse. You have removed the person who was the face of the response. The person we trusted and now it feels like the community is on their own. The employees at the SRHD are doing their best, but the public needs to step up and do better to get us to the point where we can be protected by a vaccine. It seems that for some of you, your position is to not step on toes or offend anyone. In a democracy we hear a lot about rights, but we also have responsibilities which include looking out for our brothers and sisters. Today that means wear a mask, wash your hands - is it really that much to sacrifice?

We will all suffer the consequences of firing Dr. Lutz. I hope you will have the courage to do better.

Sincerely,

Petra Hoy

DOH WSBOH

From: Tom Dickinson <tpdickinson1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:27 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Re: Dr. Lutz

Thank you all. We are very happy for Dr. Lutz!

On Fri, Nov 6, 2020, 8:25 PM Tom Dickinson <tpdickinson1@gmail.com> wrote:

> We watched the SRHD firing of Dr. Lutz as the Spokane county regional health officer yesterday. How they (SRHD Administration and county officials) treated him was highly disturbing. We hope the board can apply some justice to this situation.
>
> Tom Dickinson
> (Spokane resident)

DOH WSBOH

From: Petra Hoy <petrahoy737@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 6:47 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Cc: Petra Hoy
Subject: Dr Bob Lutz, Spokesman Review 2020 Difference Maker

Happy New Year!

I just wanted to make sure that in light of your investigation into Amelia Clark (SRHD) that you knew that Dr. Lutz was selected as a 2020 Difference Maker for his amazing work!

https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/dec/31/difference-maker-when-a-pandemic-came-to-town-dr-b/

Thank you for helping protect our community. We can't let politics get in the way of public health.

Sincerely,

Petra Hoy

DOH WSBOH

From: Patricia Butterfield <rubyjbutterfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Patricia Butterfield; DOH WSBOH
Subject: Public comment commending Dr. Bob Lutz for being selected as a positive Difference Maker in the Spokane community

Dear Members of the WA State BOH

I just wanted to make sure that in light of your investigation into Amelia Clark (SRHD) that you knew that Dr. Lutz was selected as a 2020 Difference Maker for his amazing work!

https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/dec/31/difference-maker-when-a-pandemic-came-to-town-dr-b/

Thank you for helping protect our community.

Sincerely,

Patricia Butterfield, PhD, RN
--
Patricia Butterfield
Winescape

DOH WSBOH

From: Kathryn Drakejohansen <kathryndrakejohansen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:26 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Communicating With Board Members: re. Pierce County Council undermining citizen public health care during Pandemic

Hello,
I am asking for your help in whatever capacity of influence to prevent The passing of bill sponsored by Pam Roach for an administrative change to our current Public Health Department.
This is a dangerous, selfish, self-serving move that in anyway serves and improves the public health care of our county.
I have been a RN for 40 years and the last 15 as a Psychiatric ARNP. I work at a co-occurring residential treatment center, Prosperity Wellness Center, and have worked closely with TPCPHD due to recent pending outbreaks. The investigators are wonderful to work with. Very professional and human at the same time.
The medical director of our health dept. Dr. Chen has a Masters of Public Health from Harvard.
What is driving the council to make this move during a pandemic. This is insane behavior. This will put their own political needs before the well being and health of their constituents.
I am reaching out for your help at this time when we have just got through 9 months of insane mishandling of the pandemic nationally due to a narcissist president. This move smacks of this same behavior.
Thank you for your time and service.

Kathryn Johansen ARNP, PMHNP-BC
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner MAT prescriber
253-370-2737
12916 86TH Ave East
Puyallup, WA 98373

Sent from my iPad

DOH WSBOH

From: Robby and Alysha Stracke <strackefamily@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:36 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: Public Comments for the State Board of Health January 13 Public Meeting

Where there is risk there must be choice! Whether it is a risk of adverse reaction or risk of loss of income or risk of mental health problems. The government should not be able to force closures, limit businesses, or force medical procedures. Period. Limit Inslee's power. Save small businesses. End the epidemic of depression, anxiety, suicide and relapse. Represent me.

Alysha Stracke.

DOH WSBOH

From: Merry Harris <drmerryharris@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:48 PM
To: DOH WSBOH
Subject: informed choice

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a functional numerologist and also a chiropractor. I've been in practice since 1995 in WA state and completed the Childhood Development Disorders course in 2018. Since 2018, I have treated and continue to examine and treat children with autism. The parents of most of these children not only claim that they are autistic due to vaccine injury, but when they reported this to their pediatrician, their doctor said that the reactions could not possible have been due to vaccination. This shocked and continues to shock me. Many of these children will be a burden to society, as they cannot communicate or take care of the simplest things for themselves. PLEASE make vaccines a CHOICE for parents. Truly, it is the most educated parents who choose to not vaccinate their children.

This is my absolute simplest request. I would like all vaccinations to be double blind studied for controls vs autistic children. To my shock, this has not been done, since vaccines are technically not considered pharmaceuticals, they apparently do not have to undergo such reasonable rigors.

Very sincerely,

Dr. Merry Harris
Woodinville, WA

DR. MERRY HARRIS
CHIROPRACTIC NEUROLOGIST
Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Neurology Board
425-802-4501