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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Health Committee

May 19, 2009

Committee Member Barbara Brenner called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

Carl Weimer
L. Ward Nelson

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Sam Crawford

DISCUSSION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT POLICY FOR DISTRIBUTING THE STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE ANTIVIRAL MEDICATIONS

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, submitted and read a handout on a draft policy for the use of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) antiviral medication (*on file*) and gave a staff report. The policy contains principals they will consider when prioritizing distribution, which will be different depending on the factors of each event.

The following people spoke:

- Greg Stern, Health Department Health Officer, answered questions.
- Bruce Deile, Bellingham citizen, described his experience with Lyme Disease and a rash he received after a massage.

Discussion included low income people who cannot afford the medication from a commercial supply; a policy question of releasing the antiviral medication when the commercial supply is gone or to supplement the supply for those who can't afford it; whether insurance companies would withhold their payment for this medication because the County would provide it at no cost; a pharmacy-based model for distribution; releasing the medication at the end of its shelf-life; the SNS supply competing with commercial supplies; using this medication on flues other than swine flu; whether the federal government would requisition the local supply; working with an emergency management structure to identify critical infrastructure and personnel to receive the medication; preparing an alternative system of care if regular systems are overwhelmed during an incident, and; outreaching to businesses to do their own pandemic strategic planning.

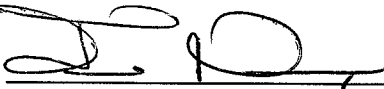
UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLAN (CHP).

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, submitted a handout on the Comprehensive Health Plan Outline (*on file*) and a handout on the Health Care System - Chapter 2 (*on file*).

Discussion included whether all policies are integrated by government exclusively or other agencies in the community.

1 **ADJOURN**

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3 The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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7 _____
8 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

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10 ATTEST,

11 COUNTY COUNCIL
12 WHATCOM
13 COUNTY

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16 _____
17 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



L. Ward Nelson, Committee Chair