

Houses passes Moeller's bill aimed at halting prescription abuse

Prime-sponsored by state Rep. **Jim Moeller**, House Bill 2876 would require health-care boards and commissions to adopt rules regarding pain management, including the prescribing of opioids.

The measure, which cleared the House unanimously early yesterday afternoon, "recognizes that Washington is among the national leaders in two undesirable rankings: prescription-drug abuse and opiate deaths.

As an addictions counselor for more than 25 years, Moeller noted in his remarks urging support for the bill that he has seen a dramatic increase in opiate addictions in recent years.

This past December, an Oregon high-school student died after smoking an oxycodone pill that originally had been prescribed by the clinic in Vancouver. You don't have to be a physician to prescribe these controlled substances in Washington. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants can prescribe them, too.

Moeller said that while people who live with chronic pain are often under-served, they paradoxically are also, and all too often, the victims of the over-prescription of opiates.

"There simply aren't enough medical professionals who have pain-management training to serve the public," Moeller pointed out. "We should re-emphasize high-quality, up-to-date care for these folks. A big part of that re-emphasis is [to place] the focus on appropriate patient care."

Moeller continued: "Prescribers are frequently in the no-win situation of sincerely wanting to provide appropriate help for the patient, and yet possessing incomplete guidelines as to the best way to go about providing the most appropriate help. The various professional associations for doctors, nurses, and other health-care professionals must be a big part of the solution – and the Legislature will take action if the associations don't do so."

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants for a vacancy on its DRA and CCRA boards

The DRA, an urban renewal corporation separate from, but created by, the Vancouver City Council, is the owner of the Vancouver Hilton Hotel and Convention Center, and its board oversees the operational, financial and promotional aspects of that facility.

The CCRA, an urban renewal corporation, separate from, but created by, the Vancouver City Council, is responsible for overseeing downtown redevelopment consistent with the Vancouver City Center Vision plan (VCCV), and in that capacity advises City Council on the business aspects of redevelopment projects and agreements in the VCCV plan area.

The scope of work and responsibility of the two boards is functionally interdependent and best served through common board membership. Therefore, the vacant position on the two boards will be filled by the same individual. Board members work in a voluntary capacity under the scope and purview of the charter and bylaws of each board.

Members should be civic or business leaders with experience relevant to the purpose of the Authority in such fields as finance, real estate development, law or construction management. There are no residency requirements for service on these boards. Beginning with this appointment, expiration dates of board member terms are staggered. The term of this position expires December 31, 2010, with the potential for an additional four-year expansion at that time. Appointments to vacancies are made by a vote of the Vancouver City Council.

For applications or further information, contact **Jill Bingham** in the City Manager's Office at City Hall, 210 E. 13th St., P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668, or call **487-8609** or fax **487-8625**. Applications must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 26.

Mental Health Advisory Board seeks new members to fill vacancies

The Clark County Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) is recruiting candidates to represent consumers and family advocates.

The board assists and advises the county commissioners in creating a community mental health program, to help people experiencing mental illness maintain roles in the community.

Applicants for the three openings are encouraged to have a working knowledge or strong interest in mental health issues. Members serve a three-year term and meet on the last Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Clark County encourages people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to apply by submitting a letter of interest and resume by March 5 to Board of Clark County Commissioners, Attention: **Jennifer Clark**, P.O.

Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666-5000.

Specific questions may be directed to **Connie Mom-Chhing** at 397-2130.

News Briefs

SW WA PubTalk is having another seminar on Intellectual Property: Protection & Commercialization, from 5:15 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at AHA!, 415 W. 6th Street, Suite 605. Cost is \$15 for OEN members and \$20 for non-OEN members. To register, [click here](#). <> Evergreen Habitat for Humanity will be holding its 5th annual golf tournament at Camas Meadows Golf Club on Thursday, May 27, 2010, to benefit low-income families seeking adequate housing. Voted "Best Golf Tournament in Clark County for 2009," the tournament features free range balls, golf carts, BBQ luncheon, live auction, free spirits, golf challenges, and a superior raffle prize drawing with over 100 prizes for players and participants to win. To sign up for teams or corporate and tee box sponsorships, contact **Justin Myers**, VP at West Coast Bank, at 260-0823 or myersj@wcb.com. Those interested may also contact Evergreen Habitat for Humanity directly at 737-1759. <> "Share the Love for Haiti," a Valentine's Day concert by **Michael Allen Harrison** and special guests **Julianne Johnson** and **Tanner Johnson**, who are performing to raise money for Medical Teams International (NW Medical Teams), and help support their efforts to help heal the Haitian earthquake survivors. General admission ticket prices are \$19.50, and reserved ticket prices are \$25.50. For tickets and concert dates and times, visit <http://www.michaelallenharrison.com> or call Harrison at 503-255-0747. <> Celebrate Royce--A Roast, Toast and Boast Gala, which will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, in the Hilton Convention Center, 301 W 6th Street, Vancouver. The event will be a night to thank **Royce Pollard** for his 14 years of service as mayor of America's Vancouver. There will be dinner, no-host cocktails, entertainment, and an auction of mayoral memorabilia to benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters. To register for the gala, visit www.vancouverusa.com or call 694-2588. <> Dick Hannah Honda has created a program aimed at encouraging high school students in the Green Mountain, La Center, Battle Ground, Hockinson, Vancouver, Evergreen, Camas and Washougal school districts to improve their grade point average in the 2009-2010 school year by offering a new 2010 Honda Civic or \$15,000 in cash to the winning student. Visit www.facebook.com/dickhannahhonda and select the "win a free car?" link provided on the fan page from entry information. For more information, contact **Mark Dominguez**, social marketing manager, Dick Hannah Honda at 944-3491 or by emailing him at mdominguez@dickhannah.com. <> The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will host its annual fundraiser, "Symphony Stems & Steins," at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, in the grand ballroom of the Hilton Vancouver in downtown Vancouver. Preparations are being made for the annual symphony auction and dinner, which will include beer and wine tasting, Spanish-inspired treats and featured entertainers Maestro **Salvador Brotons** and vocalist **Valerie Day**. Cost of individual tickets are \$50, and tables can be purchased for \$750, which offer attendees added benefits as well as reserved seating. Both can be purchased online at www.vancouverSymphony.org/ or by calling the VSO office at 735-7278.

Calendar

Join Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation from 5 to 8 p.m. tonight, Feb. 11, at Whole Foods Market, 815 Southwest 160th Avenue, for exclusive samples of chocolate-inspired food and products. Cost is \$5 for a "passport." Proceeds will provide additional books at the new Cascade Park Community Library. <> Ridgefield City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Feb. 11, in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 North Main Avenue. <> Port of Camas-Washougal meets for its PLPAC meeting at 7 p.m. tonight, Feb. 11, at the Port of Camas-Washougal. <> There will be a ribbon-cutting mixer for the Executive Center Northwest from 4 to 6 p.m. today, Feb. 11, 4001 Main Street. Call 694-2588 for more information.

Thursday on the air

Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)--5:55 p.m. CVTV

Community Choices Report Card Forum - "What Does It Take To Be Healthy?" (2-3)--11 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and Weather

Sam Van Meter enjoying days off from work. <> **Rebecca Davis Howard** heading back to home. <> **Thursday**, light rain, 53-45. **Friday**, rain, 52-46. **Saturday**, showers, 57-49.