

2106 Country Club DR.  
Lynn Haven, FL 32444  
July 16, 2009

Mrs. Jean Kline R.N.  
Deputy Secretary for Health  
Department of Health  
2585 Merchants Row Blvd.  
Bin -O7  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mrs. Kline,

I am writing to you on behalf of the former director of the Bay County Health Department, Dr. Jason Newsom.

My husband and I have been residents of Bay County for thirty years raising our children here. I trained as an R. N. and have been working in a walk-in clinic for the past eight years. My husband was the branch manager for Met Life for twenty five years and has recently semi-retired.

We do not know Dr. Newsom on personal level but believe he is "right on" in his approach to the obesity epidemic our nation is facing.

Dr. Newsom has been the most energetic, involved and dedicated health director our county has been privileged to have.

When we moved to Panama City I was carrying our second son. During my visits to the OB, the office air was thick with smoke as mothers to be were smoking. Look where we are now thirty years later regarding public smoking and the results of second hand smoke to humans. It takes dedicated people like Dr. Newsom to stand up for what he believes in and to incorporate those beliefs even in the work place—the BCHD.

During his time as director Dr. Newsom was very much "out and about" in our community. He spoke with and gave presentations to many businesses and civic organizations on health issues.

During the swine flu scare this past spring the medical office where I was working was updated by fax nearly every other day. Dr. Newsom is a very qualified physician and we ask that you would strongly consider reinstating him at the BCHD for the sake of health awareness and protection of our citizens.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sandy McElrath  
850-819-8033