



BOARD OF HEALTH

The Thurston County Board of Health has responsibility
and authority for public health in both incorporated
and unincorporated areas of the County.

Minutes for January 12, 2021

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Tye Menser called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

In Attendance:

Tye Menser, Chair; Carolina Mejia, Vice Chair; Gary Edwards, Commissioner; Ramiro Chavez, County Manager; Robin Campbell, Assistant County Manager; Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; Dr. Dimyana Abdelmalek, Health Officer; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:

Vice Chair Mejia moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

Approval of meeting minutes:

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the December 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Chair Menser seconded the motion. Vice Chair Mejia abstained. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

1) 2021 Election of Officers for the Board of Health

Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Department Director, explained as per RCW 70.05.40 each year local Boards of Health must appoint board officers within 30 days. **Vice Chair Mejia moved to confirm Commissioner Menser as Chair and Commissioner Mejia as Vice Chair for the 2021 Board of Health. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.**

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

The following citizens addressed the Board in person:

Citizen: Jon Pettit

Issue(s): spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction; voiced concerns regarding individuals with mental health issues and drug addiction living on our streets

Citizen: Sara Overbay

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

Citizen: Steve Manning

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

Citizen: Casey Taylor

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

The following citizens addressed the Board via telephone:

Citizen: Rana Longworth

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

Citizen: Laura Madsen

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

Citizen: Rebecca Cornelius

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

Citizen: Tracy Songoff

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

Citizen: Katie Manning

Issue: spoke in support of opening schools for in-person instruction

3) CONSENT ITEM

a) Description: Acceptance of Special Meeting Work Session Notes for Board Briefings

Action: Commissioner Edwards moved to accept special meeting work session notes for Briefings on September 16, 2020 and November 4, 2020. Chair Menser seconded the motion. Vice Chair Mejia abstained. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Vaccination presentation

Schelli Slaughter, Director of Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) explained Dr. Dimyana Abdelmalek, Health Officer, would provide a presentation on vaccine planning and a follow-up on the COVID-19 pandemic status.

Dr. Abdelmalek provided information and discussed COVID-19 as follows:

What is COVID-19-

- Viral respiratory illness spread primarily through respiratory droplets
- Close personal contact
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands
- Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus

How to prevent COVID-19 illness:

- Stay at least 6 feet from other people
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Wear cloth face covering over nose and mouth
- Do not touch eyes, nose, or mouth
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
- Stay home when sick
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

Data through December 16, 2020 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for –

- National estimate of COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 by age group; noting incidence highest in younger individuals in the U.S.
- National estimate of COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 by age group; noting mortality highest in elderly individuals in the U.S

Long term symptoms after COVID-19 infection as per CDC (learned in recent months) –

- Most common: fatigue, shortness of breath, cough, joint pain, chest pain
- Less common: difficulty with thinking and concentration, depression, muscle pain, headache, intermittent fever, fast-beating or pounding heart

Long term complications of COVID-19 as per CDC –

- Cardiovascular: inflammation of the heart muscle
- Respiratory: lung function abnormalities
- Renal: acute kidney injury
- Dermatologic: rash, hair loss
- Neurological: smell and taste problems, sleep issues, difficulty with concentration, memory problems
- Psychiatric: depression, anxiety, changes in mood

Data on Excess deaths in the U.S. and Washington State during the COVID-19 pandemic as per CDC –

- Deaths due to all causes versus deaths related to COVID-19

COVID-19 in Thurston County as of 1/10/21 -

- Confirmed Diagnosed with COVID-19 – 5,456
- Deaths – 58
- Hospitalized (ever) – 322
- Recovered/Recovering - 4,687
- COVID-19 congregate care setting – 4 ongoing; 40 total-to-date

Data through January 8, 2021 for Thurston County of rate per 100,000 of new confirmed and probable cases during the prior two weeks -

- 279 cases per 100,000 over the last 14 days
- Highest number of positives cases on one day last week – 133

A graph of positive COVID-19 cases by date from March 2020 through January 6 in Thurston County; noting clusters of cases around the holidays.

COVID-19 vaccines

- Discussed the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines
- Explained how vaccines work in the body
- County residents are strongly encouraged to get the Vaccine when available; noted vaccines are not required at this time
- Vaccine may not be for those with certain allergies/conditions
- Side effects
- Vaccines are available at no-cost
- It is unknown if COVID-19 can still be spread even by those who have received both vaccine doses
- Masking, distancing, handwashing, quarantine/isolation will still be necessary
- Vaccination to occur in phases; informed by CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) framework and decided by Washington State Department of Health (DOH) with local advisory groups
- Thurston County is following the WA State DOH Phased Guidance
- Criteria:
 - Risk of acquiring infection
 - Risk of severe morbidity and mortality
 - Risk of negative societal impact
 - Risk of transmitting infection to others
- Starting with those at highest risk of getting COVID-19 as well as those at highest risk of severe illness
- Estimated timeline for Phase 1 Tiers A and B
- Find out if it is your turn at www.FindYourPhaseWA.org
- Discussed Phases –
 - Phase 1A –
 - Facilities enroll as COVID-19 vaccine providers with DOH
 - Allocation for vaccine comes from DOH with input from Local health Jurisdictions
 - CVS/Walgreens partnership to vaccinate residents and staff at Long Term Care Facilities
 - PHSS's Role - Provide reliable information to community; ensure equitable access to vaccine
 - Supply vaccine for everyone eligible; facilitate coordination between local partners; assist individuals in 1A who are not enrolled providers to access vaccine through a voucher process
 - Connect unenrolled Long-Term Care Facilities with pharmacies who can assist with vaccination
 - Phase 1B
 - Announced on 1/7/21 by WA DOH
 - Involves larger population to be vaccinated
 - Divided into groups based on risk and to preserve flow throughout the vaccination process

- Will be completed in priority order of sub-groups before next phase
- Anticipate Phasefinder will be available so people can determine phase and will link to Vaccinefinder so individuals can locate vaccination facilities with availability
- PHSS role - provide reliable information to Community; ensure equitable access to vaccine supply for everyone eligible; facilitate coordination between local partners; promote and support vaccination events and providers; provide multiple vaccination sites and mobile vaccination clinics to target eligible groups as we move through phases
- Phase 1B tiers –
 - Tier 1 - All people 70 years and older; People 50 years and older in multigenerational households
 - Tier 2 - High-risk critical workers 50 years and older who work in certain congregate settings
 - Tier 3 - People 16 years and older with 2 or more co-morbidities or underlying conditions
 - Tier 4 - High risk critical workers under age 50 in certain congregate settings (as noted above in Tier 2); people (residents, staff, volunteers) in congregate living settings (e.g., correction facilities, prisons, jails, detention centers; group homes for people with disabilities) and people experiencing homelessness that access services or live in congregate settings (e.g., shelters, temporary housing)
- Beyond Phase 1B
 - Future phases will be determined by Governor/WA State DOH
 - May change based on supply, federal/state policy
 - Continued focus on equity and ensuring all Thurston county residents have the opportunity to receive vaccine as quickly and efficiently as possible
 - Future larger scale vaccination sites/events
 - Volunteers and providers needed
 - Latest information and updates on PHSS website and social media platforms

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Private schools are open, when will all schools be allowed to open for in-person teaching?
- Board requested clarification on her recommendation in the last Health Officer letter to the community.
- What are the ages for long term symptoms from slide show?
- The Board requested answers regarding schools reopening as it is too detrimental to students to not be in school.
- What is County's plan to accelerate vaccine distribution?
- Why aren't vaccinations approved for children?
- Are vaccinated individuals still able to spread COVID-19 or not?
- Board requested clarification of Phases and vaccine roll out; why are teachers not being vaccinated now.

Chair Menser thanked Dr. Abdelmalek.

5) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities and Accomplishments

The Board Members reported on public health and social services involvement since the last Board of Health meeting:

- Commissioner Edwards –
 - COVID-19
 - schools reopening
 - health issue of flooding at Nisqually Valley
 - COVID-19 vaccination
- Vice Chair Mejia – none
- Chair Menser –
 - Opioid Task Force Meeting
 - New advisory committee – a Providence Community Health Care Project
 - Climate related to health committee

6) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Abdelmalek reported on:

- PHSS Disease Control and Prevention (DCP) program investigated 82 confirmed cases of a wide variety of illness over the last month, in addition to COVID response.
- COVID mitigations have attributed to no influenza deaths for 2021, including no deaths in long term care facilities.

7) Director's Report

Ms. Slaughter reported on:

- Thanked constituents who shared comments.
- Thanked staff and volunteers for COVID- 19 work 24/7 and now adding vaccination.
- Maternal Child Health/Nurses Family Partnership (MCH/NFP) – nurses have completed 351 tele-health visits to women/children in need; also participated in COVID-19 contact tracing, case investigation, and vaccination work.
- Developmental Disabilities program – continued work with students through the high school transition program to get them back to work.
- Veterans program – 13 new veterans are receiving support which is an increase from previous months.
- Housing and Homeless Prevention Program – 2.9 million dollars in rental assistance; 2.6 million dollars in emergency housing.
- Annual Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Census count will take place on January 29, 2021; due to COVID-19 the count will happen differently with a statistical count of sheltered individuals and a visual count of unsheltered; without the usual outreach.
- Education and Prevention Program provided the following trainings:
 - In partnership with ESD 113 thirty people were trained on youth suicide prevention.

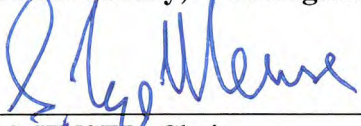
- As follow-up to the Board's adoption of a new Tobacco and Vaping policy county-wide, education has been provided to the public and over 10,000 businesses.
- Fourteen local childcares were provided with safe cleaning products to sanitize for the next 6 months.
- Treatment Sales Tax Program – accepting applications for those interested in assisting with behavioral health to serve on their advisory board; information may be found at the PHSS website.

Commissioner Edwards questioned if citizens are recognized that serve on advisory committees for their service. Ms. Slaughter believes volunteers are recognized but will check into it further

Vice Chair Mejia thanked Ms. Slaughter.

8) Adjournment at 5:22 p.m.– Chair Menser adjourned the meeting.

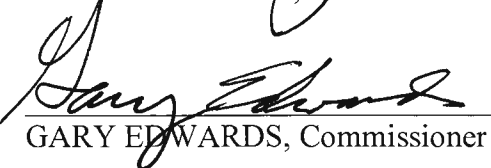
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington



TYNE MENSER, Chair

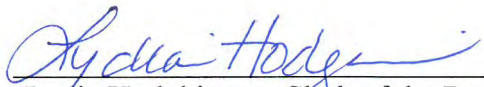


CAROLINA MEJIA, Vice Chair



GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: February 9, 2021