



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 November 10, 2020

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair Tye Menser called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

In Attendance:

Tye Menser, Chair; John Hutchings, 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 Hutchings moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

Approval of meeting minutes:

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve meeting minutes from the September 16, 2020 Special Meeting; October 13, 2020 regular meeting; and October 13, 2020 Public Hearing. 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:

- Public Health – homeless drug users; the Board of Health needs to address the issue and uphold the law
- Board of Health meetings – change time to evenings to enable more public to attend

Citizen: Terry Ballard

Issue:

- Veteran fund should support Veterans
- LOTT – Health Department needs to respond to the daily number of gallons of sewage coming from the Olympia Plant

Citizen: Natasha Landram

Issue: Rainier School District – spoke against the district having to follow the current COVID school operating guidelines due to their size and the low number of positive COVID cases in their community.

Citizen: Sara Overbay

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Stephen Manning

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

The following citizens addressed the Board via telephone:

Citizen: Ms. Duncan

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: James Yates

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Erika Wall

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Katie Manning

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Frank (last name unclear)

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Renee Terry

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Jamie Downing

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Mark (last name unclear)

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Concerned citizen (name unclear)

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Vashte Gustafson

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Ms. Motts (name unclear)

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Citizen: Mr. Gustafson (first name unclear)

Issue: Spoke in support of opening schools for in person learning.

Chair Menser thanked everyone for the testimony and patience.

Commissioner Edwards commented on the importance of addressing the issue of schools not being allowed to open for in person learning at this time due to the COVID pandemic. He recommended an emergency Board of Health meeting be held on Friday morning (December 13, 2020) to discuss the topic further. Vice Chair Hutchings agreed with Commissioner Edwards but expressed concern about being able to schedule a meeting so soon. **Commissioner Edwards moved to hold a special meeting on Friday morning.** Dr. Dimyana Abdelmalek, Health Officer, and Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Director, noted they could both be available on Friday morning to attend an emergency meeting. **Chair Menser seconded the motion to hold a special meeting on Friday morning at a time to be determined.** Vice Chair Hutchings again expressed concern regarding the ability to meet all requirements for a special meeting in such short notice. Discussion ensued. **Commissioner Edwards withdrew the previous motion and moved to hold a Board of Health Special Meeting Work Session at the soonest possible date. Vice Chair Hutchings seconded the motion.** Assistant County Manager, Robin Campbell, noted a special meeting requires 24-hour notice to the public and an agenda. **The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.** Commissioner Edwards thanked Chair Menser and Vice Chair Hutchings for the consideration and support of holding a special meeting to address this important issue.

Discussion ensued regarding continuance of the agenda. Due to time constraints it was determined to continue with the agenda but defer the Opioid Response Update and the Climate Change and Health presentation to the December Board of Health meeting.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

3) Amendment No. 3 to the Lewis County Contract for the Purchase of Nurse Family Partnership Health Services

Gretchen Thaller, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Maternal Child Health/Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program Manager, explained Amendment No. 3 to the Lewis County Contract for the Purchase of Nurse Family Partnership Health Services is an amendment to an ongoing contract with Lewis County that enables PHSS to continue to provide NFP home visiting services to 50 clients in Lewis County. This amendment extends the contract through December 31, 2021 for an additional amount of \$309,822.25 for the calendar year 2021. **Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve and authorize the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services to sign, Amendment No. 3 to the Lewis County Contract for the Purchase of Nurse Family Partnership Health Services in the amount of \$309,822.25 for the calendar year 2021. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.**

4) **Opioid Response Update** – deferred topic to December meeting

5) **Climate Change and Health** – deferred topic to December meeting

Chair Menser apologized to Katie Strozyk, Social Services Program Specialist II and Chris Hawkins, Education and Prevention Program Manager, for deferring their presentations to the December meeting.

6) **Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities and Accomplishments** - none

7) **Health Officer's Report**

Dr. Abdelmalek provided a COVID-19 update:

- 62 positive cases between Noon yesterday (11/9/20) and Noon today (11/10/20); this is the most cases in one day since the beginning of the pandemic
- Only 4 of the 62 cases are associated with a long-term care facility (LTCF); now managing 11 LTCFs
- We are at 96.6 cases per 100,000 people over past 14 days
- We have had high transmissions since October 23rd
- Noted it will take all of us to bring down our transmission rates
- Discussions took place last Friday (11/6/20) regarding a recommendation for schools to return to remote learning
- Watching the hospitals response capabilities closely in regards to increased outbreaks
- Looking at statewide and nationwide data to ensure data is most up to date
- COVID Vaccine: good news – a vaccine from Pfizer may be available soon; 2 doses are required; refrigeration of vaccine is required
- Apple and Google are partnering to create a cell phone app to assist in tracking positive COVID cases; participation will be voluntary
- Communicable disease investigations continue for staff not related to COVID

Dr. Abdelmalek addressed the Board's questions:

- Vice Chair Hutchings – requested clarification about the Apple/Google app
 - She will provide information at the upcoming work session.
- Commissioner Edwards - for positive COVID cases how many people are severely sick and require hospitalization?
 - Explained there is a wide range of symptoms. She will research the cases that have required hospitalization and their level of sickness; will provide information at the work session.

Chair Menser noted public comments received today regarding other County's school districts opening for in person learning will be addressed at the work session.

8) **Director's Report**

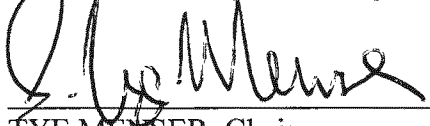
Ms. Slaughter reported on:

- Thanked the members of the public who addressed the Board.
- Thanked staff who created the presentations that were deferred to the next meeting.
- COVID-19 Response:
 - 279 days of response for over 100 staff, volunteers and other County staff
 - A special thank you to veterans for their work on COVID response
 - Noted 62 positive cases in one day is alarming
 - Encouraged all that may have been exposed to get tested as quickly as possible.
 - Recommended individuals check the PHSS website to find other testing locations as the Providence Hawk's Prairie drive-up testing site is overwhelmed causing very long delays
 - For those that test positive and are in isolation and quarantine PHSS does have support available; she instructed them to let the contract tracers know assistance is needed
- Environmental Health Hazardous and Solid Waste Program update:
 - 194 solid waste site visits in spite of COVID
 - 33 sites have been brought into compliance
 - 3,363 pounds of waste has been cleaned up
- Housing program:
 - Rental assistance – dispersed over 1.8 million dollars to 600 households of which 1.6 million dollars was through CARE funding
 - 2021 Point in Time (PIT) count has started; more information to be provided in December
- Board of County Commissioners has allocated \$530,000 funding to help address the public health safety issue due to the homeless currently located on Ensign Road which is effecting access to the hospital by emergency vehicles.
- Racial Equity in our community – the Racial Equity Plan will be brought to the Board soon; Mary Ann O'Garro, PHSS Senior Epidemiologist, continues to update the community; several presentations are being planned.
- Opioid Response Program – received 552 Naloxone kits from the Washington State Health Care Authority and provided overdose education and Naloxone administration training to 44 individuals from the Tenino Police Department and Tenino Community Services.
- Hepatitis C and HIV testing – these services are being offered by the Syringe Services Program on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon – 5:00 at 1000 Cherry Street SE, Olympia; 21 tests were completed in October.
- Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program has completed 451 home visits with families through tele-health.
- Suicide Prevention – PHSS has provided funding and training for community partners through the Familiar Faces Program in partnership with Family Education and Support Services and other community partnerships.
- PHSS held two medicine take back events in Tenino and Tumwater; a presentation at an upcoming Board of Health will provide more information about substance abuse prevention efforts and the safe disposal of medication new drop boxes.

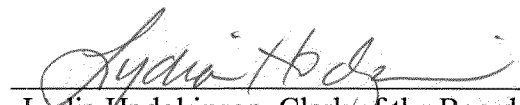
- Veterans Advisory Board met on October 19th; the Veterans Assistance Fund will be recommending to the Board of County Commissioners that additional funding be made available to veterans who are struggling in light of COVID-19.

9) Adjournment at 5:57 p.m.– Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

**BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington**

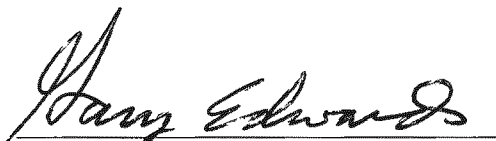

TYE MENSER, Chair

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board


JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair

Date: December 15, 2020


GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

Thurston Community Television (TCTV) - The Board of Health meetings are aired on TCTV each week on Sundays at 3:30 p.m., Mondays at 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m.