



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 December 15, 2020

Special Meeting

1) Call Special Meeting to Order

Chair Tye Menser called the special meeting to order at 5:17 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 minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Citizen: Bill Bode

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

Citizen: Kelly Golob

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

Citizen: Kelly Golob

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

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

3) Opioid Response Update

Katie Strozyk, PHSS Social Services Program Specialist and Opioid Response Coordinator, addressed the Board to provide an update on the Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force. In 2019, the Thurston County Board of Health adopted the Thurston County Opioid Response Plan. Since then the Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force, local organizations and community residents have been working

4) Climate Change and Health

Chris Hawkins, PHSS Education and Prevention Program Manager, noted he has been working on the Climate Change and Health topic for the last 10 years. He then explained the presentation will provide information on the health impacts associated with climate change also referred to as runaway Greenhouse Effect. Mr. Hawkins provided information and discussion on the following:

- Key points on climate change-
 - Climate impacts health in our community and is changing in ways that creates new challenges.
 - Thurston communities have been experiencing the health impacts of climate change already.
 - Two approaches to addressing this issue thru local climate action: adaptation and mitigation
 - Thurston County has been working together with local partners to do our part in stabilizing the climate and preventing the worst impacts.
- Shared a drawing showing anticipated climate changes in Western Washington
- Weather patterns and the health effects they cause-
 - Warmer temperatures, more heat waves, worse air quality effect asthma, heat stroke, heart diseases
 - Heavier rains, more flooding, mudslides effect food and water contamination, stress, barriers to health services
 - Sea level rise, more water
- Washington State has experienced more frequent and severe wildfires trends -
 - Fires = 4x more often and 6x bigger from 1987-2003 than previous 16-year period in Western states.
 - 2014 – ‘Worst ever’ fire season – Carlton Complex fire
 - 2015 – Fire season broke the 2014 record
 - 2016 - Present – Region-wide wildfire smoke events
 - 2020 – Massive fires CA and OR create smoke hazard here
- Changing Precipitation Patterns –
 - More concentrated precipitation
 - More flooding, mudslides, erosion
- Flooding effects –
 - Psychological stress
 - Contaminated food and water
 - Barriers to health services and medications
- Effects of more water and warmer temperatures overall –
 - Mold
 - Changing habitat – vector borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, Hantavirus from rodents, marine environment such as acidification, toxic algae, increases risk to food sources.
- Climate Action – what we can do:
 - Mitigation – action to reduce emissions that cause climate change
 - Adaptation – action to manage the risks of climate change impacts
 - The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Project – long term efforts with local partners
- Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan 2020 – shared a graph of 1027 measured emissions and the Thurston Thrives Climate Clean Energy Action Team’s Strategic map.

6) 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 – received many calls from citizens regarding schools not opening for in-person learning; questioned what other counties are doing regarding this issue; expressed his opposition to the Governor's guidance on schools; and is ready to vote to open schools.
- Vice Chair Hutchings – noted his family is healthy and practicing safe practices
- Chair Menser – Thurston Thrives Behavioral Health through Thurston Chamber of Commerce

7) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Abdelmalek reported on:

COVID-19 update:

- We are in high transmission of positive cases; 242.1/100,000 over the past 14 days.
- Increase of positive cases in workplaces and long-term care facilities (LTCF), schools and places of gatherings.
- There has been an increase in deaths over all due to COVID-19
- COVID-19 vaccine on the horizon: Pfizer vaccine has been approved; Moderna vaccine is being analyzed.
- Even after being vaccinated everyone still needs to practice safe practices.

Update on PHSS other activities:

- Disease Control and Prevention (DCP) program – investigations for infectious diseases are still going on.
- Influenza update – flu in our community is being monitored; although activity is low, she still recommends everyone be vaccinated.
- Shellfish closure – Washington State Department of Health, Shellfish Program and PHSS have closed the entire Budd Inlet in Thurston County to all shellfish harvesting due to elevated levels of Diarrhetic Shellfish Poison (DSP); this includes Percival Landing, Cooper Point and Boston Harbor; the toxin is not destroyed by cleaning or cooking; warning signs have been posted.

Dr. Abdelmalek addressed the Board's questions:

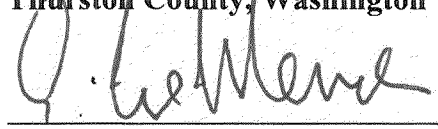
- Vice Chair Hutchings – questioned if statistics on deaths in other counties is easily obtainable for the last five years
 - She explained it would be a challenge; the information would come from the CDC.

- Vital Services – last year legislation made changes to the Vital Services birth and death certificate issuance process to protect privacy; Washington State Department of Health increased the birth and death certification fee to \$25 per certificate; the changes and increased fee goes into effect January 1, 2021.
- Thanked Commissioner John Hutchings on behalf of herself and PHSS for his leadership and advocacy for public health, Thurston Thrives, Veterans, cancer survivors, mental health, substance abuse and COVID-19.

Commissioner Edwards thanked PHSS staff for their work during the challenging 2020.

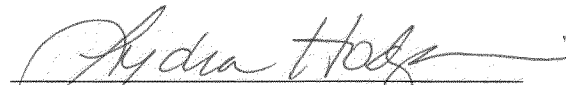
9) Adjournment at 6:42 p.m.– Chair Menser adjourned the meeting.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington



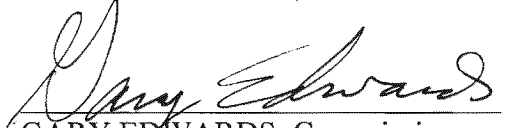
TYE MENSER, Chair

ATTEST:



Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair



GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

Date: January 12, 2021 

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.