



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 14, 2020

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair Tye Menser called the meeting to order.

In Attendance:

Tye Menser, Chair; John Hutchings, Vice Chair; Gary Edwards, Commissioner; Ramiro Chavez, County Manager; Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; 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 the Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the December 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

2) Presentations and Proclamations

2020 Election of Officers for the Board of Health

Schelli Slaughter, Director of the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS), explained the Board of Health shall confirm the 2020 Board of Health Officers appointments made by the Board of County Commissioners at their December 10, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Hutchings moved to confirm Commissioner Menser as Chair and Commissioner Hutchings as Vice Chair for the 2020 Board of Health. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

Appoint Board of Health Administrative Officer

Ms. Slaughter requested the Board appoint her, the Director of the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department, as the Administrative Officer for the Thurston County Board of Health pursuant to RCW 70.05.040 and requested this appointment stay in effect until revoked by the Board.

Vice Hutchings moved to appoint Schelli Slaughter, the Director of the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department, as the Administrative Officer for the Thurston County Board of Health pursuant to RCW 70.05.040. This appointment shall stay in effect until revoked by the Board. As the Administrative Officer, Ms. Slaughter shall administer the operations of the Board of Health, except for duties assigned to the Health Officer as enumerated in RCW 70.05.070. In addition, Ms. Slaughter will supervise and direct the local Health Officer in the performance of her duties when hired. Ms. Slaughter however will have no authority to hire or remove the Health Officer. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

Proclamation – January Blood Donor Month

Ms. Slaughter introduced the Proclamation and spoke on behalf of the importance of donating blood. She then introduced representatives of Bloodworks Northwest: Jennifer McCoy, Donor Recruiter Representative for Thurston/Mason/Lewis/Grays Harbor counties; James Moore, Olympia Center and Mobile Supervisor; and Brandi Green, Volunteer Group Manager. Mr. Moore spoke on the current critical shortage of donated blood. He acknowledged and thanked all those in the community that donate and encouraged others to donate as well. Mr. Moore thanked the Board for the recognition. Vice Chair Hutchings read the proclamation proclaiming January as Blood Donor Month to increase public understanding of the importance of blood donation and urged community members to donate toward this lifesaving cause. A photo was taken with the Board members and all present in support of the Proclamation. The Board thanked everyone present for their support of this important issue.

3) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board - none

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Health Officer's Report

Ms. Slaughter reported on:

- Provided the status of the recruitment process for a new Thurston County Health Officer.
- Provided an update on the interim Health Officers and the conditions each are responsible for:
 - Dr. Alan Melnick, Clark County – Environmental Health issues
 - Dr. Kathy Lofy, WA Department of Health – Communicable Diseases
 - Dr. Chris Spitters, Seattle/King County – Tuberculosis
 - Dr. Dan Stein, Mason County – Vital Records and all other administrative issues
- On behalf of the interim Health Officers she reported on:
 - Provided a status of influenza in our community; noted it is not too late to get immunized; discussed masking of providers.
 - Discussed a Hepatitis A virus outbreak; encouraged Hepatitis A vaccination.
 - Investigation and Control of Disease staff investigated and followed up on 125 confirmed and suspect communicable disease cases.
- Expressed appreciation of the interim Health Officers.

Vice Chair Hutchings questioned if cases of Shingles are tracked. Ms. Slaughter was not aware but will check into the information and bring it back to the Board.

5) Director's Report

Ms. Slaughter reported on:

- The Washington Department of Health (DOH) tested drinking water at several North Thurston Public Schools as part of a voluntary program authorized by the Legislature in 2017 to reduce lead exposure for youth. On December 17, 2019 DOH released test results that found some water samples at the elementary schools exceeded the public health action level. The school officials removed fixtures, provided bottled water and will replace all fixtures.
- The PHSS Thurston Shellfish Growing Areas OSS Pollution Prevention proposal will be recommended for funding by the Puget Sound National Estuary Program (NEP). This will provide

\$300,000 over two years to prevent fecal coliform contamination of important shellfish growing areas by ensuring that all onsite sewage systems are functioning properly. The focus areas will be growing areas in Eld and Totten Inlets which have threatened or concerned marine monitoring stations and areas proposed for shellfish harvest in Budd Inlet. The project will continue efforts started in the Eld watershed that encourages proper septic system monitoring and maintenance using education, social media, monitoring results and incentives.

- Preparations for the 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless census count have increased with Faith Addicott, the PHSS Point in Time Volunteer, reaching out to partners, identifying supplies and materials, and development of the questionnaire and supporting materials. Ms. Addicott and Keylee Marineau, the PHSS Homeless and Affordable Housing Coordinator, continue to coordinate PIT activities with local jurisdictions, non-profits and other stakeholders to begin preparations for the Count.
- Tom Webster, Program Manager for the PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention (OHHP), and Ms. Marineau attended a meeting with ORCAA, City of Olympia and Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, to discuss unauthorized burning at the homeless encampment known as the Jungle. As a result of the meeting, OHHP proposed and received approval from Ramiro Chavez, County Manager, to spend approximately \$17,000 to provide garbage service to the encampment for 6 months. Logistics are still being finalized.
- PHSS Treatment Sales Tax (TST) staff are coordinating Mental Health First Aid training for County employees. The training will be offered three times in early 2020 at PHSS at the Lilly Road building.
- The TST program is contracting for parenting education for criminal-justice involved individuals with substance use disorders using Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funds.
- PHSS has contracted with the Washington Poison Center to provide after-hours telephone support services to manage the phone lines, triage calls and route calls to the appropriate PHSS point of contact.

Mr. Starry provided information in response to the Board Members' questioning if the NEP funding work would include Johnson Point. He explained this funding is focused on Eld and Totten Inlet but there is separate funding for work at Johnson Point. He noted additional information will be provided to the Board at a February 26th Board of Health Briefing. At Vice Chair Hutchings request, Ms. Slaughter provided additional information about the Mental Health Training for staff explaining the December session was well attended by staff and the training aligns with the County Strategic Plan Initiative No. 2 - Improve community health, wellness, and safety.

6) Homeless Presentation on Point in Time Count

Keylee Marineau, the PHSS Homeless and Affordable Housing Coordinator, discussed and provided an update on the 2020 Point in Time (PIT) Count to be completed on January 23, 2020; shared the 2020 Point in Time Plan; and provided a handout showing the Thurston County PIT Team. She also briefly reviewed the PIT survey questionnaires for adults and youth. Ms. Marineau addressed the Board Members' questions regarding services being provided to the homeless during the PIT count; explained the charging stations which are for phones, etc.; discussed a few differences in the adult versus youth questionnaires; and agreed to provide additional clarification for the "welfare cash assistance" on the Supplemental Youth Survey. The Board thanked Ms. Marineau for the information.

7) 2020 Social Services and Public Health Legislative Priorities

Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director and Chair of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) Legislative Committee, explained during the 2020 Legislative Session PHSS staff will be asked to provide information to and support efforts by WSALPHO, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and partner agencies such as the Washington State Department of Health and Ecology on key legislative issues. He then discussed the 2020 Legislative Priorities for WSAC, WSALPHO and the Association of County Human Services (ACHS). Mr. Starry provided a brief review of 2020 legislative top priorities, other public health bills and items of interest that may come before the 2020 legislature. He also briefly discussed the Car Tab initiative and how it will affect state funding. Mr. Starry explained staff provide recommendations and support for legislation consistent with Thurston County priorities and when authorized by the County Manager; and will provide facts data and objective information to legislative staff upon request. The Board thanked Mr. Starry for the information.

8) Solid Waste Compliance Successes

Patrick Soderberg, the PHSS Solid and Hazardous Waste Section Supervisor, gave a presentation on the PHSS Solid Waste Program which regulates solid waste handling and disposal facilities as well as responding to solid waste dumping complaints. He explained in 2019, staff performed nearly 600 property inspections to evaluate solid waste complaints; and with the assistance and persistence of staff, property owners were persuaded to clean up about 80 properties and remove 150 junk vehicles and over 800,000 pounds of solid waste. Mr. Soderberg shared the program goals which are to prevent spread of disease by rats, flies and mosquitos; protect drinking water and surface water; protect and maintain clean air; avoid exposures to toxic materials; reduce solid waste; and increase re-use and recycling of useable items. He then discussed program processes such as education and technical assistance; coordination with ORCAA, local city jurisdictions, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, the Thurston County Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department, and the Public Works Department; Permitting for solid waste handling and processing facilities; Regulation of WAC 173-350 and the Thurston County Sanitary Code; and Enforcement by Notice of Violations, Civil Penalties, Court Orders. Mr. Soderberg explained solid waste complaints are received by referral from other county departments and coordinating agencies; by direct phone calls to the Solid and Hazardous Waste Hotline and the PHSS Website complaint form. Mr. Mark Koster, Hazardous Waste Specialist II, continued the presentation by sharing the barriers and challenges of the program such as the property is gated/posted; the property is vacant and in a foreclosure process; the property is not developed and it is difficult to make contact with the owner; the property owner is deceased; and/or the property is not owner occupied – the renters are creating the issue. Mr. Koster then shared information, photographs, and the end results of solid waste investigations for five (5) properties some beginning in 2015 through 2019. He shared the following program information for 2019: 129 new complaints received, 589 property inspections performed, 78 gained compliance; \$0.00 in Civil penalties which are used as leverage to obtain compliance; 115 junk vehicles removed/recycled; 35 junk buses removed/recycled; and 941,252 pounds of waste removed. Vice Chair Hutchings expressed his appreciation of the program from a citizen's viewpoint and a property owner's. Mr. Koster clarified the cost of disposing of the solid waste is funded in part by a DOE grant and Tipping Fees, but the renter and/or property owners are also responsible. Ms. Slaughter noted this program work is performed by a team of only four (4) hard working staff and this is only a small portion of their work they are responsible for. Mr. Koster noted if a complaint on a property extends into another jurisdiction (city) within the County, the program refers the complaint

to the appropriate jurisdiction and offers assistance. The Board thanked Mr. Soderberg and Mr. Koster. For solid waste complaints and technical assistance contact:

- Hotline: (360)867-2664
- Complaint Website: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/eh-problem.aspx>

9) Board of Health Members' reported on health related activities

Commissioner Edwards reported on:

- Biosolids

Vice Chair Menser reported on:

- Opioid Task Force Meeting – mental health diversion
- Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization

10) Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned.


BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


TYNE MENSER, Chair


JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair


GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: February 11 2020

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.