



## 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 March 10, 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 Stacy Everett, Clerk of the Board of Health.

**Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:**

Chair Menser moved to approve the meeting agenda. Vice Chair Hutchings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

#### **2) Presentations and Proclamations**

**Proclamation – Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

Mark Moffett, Community Program Manager for the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Developmental Disabilities (DD) Program, introduced the proclamation and spoke on behalf of Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. He noted March has been recognized as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month since 1987 when Ronald Reagan called for the building of understanding and encouragement, and to provide new opportunities for people who have developmental difficulties and disabilities. Mr. Moffett noted Washington State is the most innovative with a 73% employment rate of developmentally disabled individuals which leaves 27% unemployed. He encouraged the Board to hire more developmentally disabled individuals for Thurston County government. Mr. Moffett then described and spoke briefly on three innovative PHSS DD Program services – Transportation; High School Transition; and Technology. He then introduced Jonathan Pleger, Morningside CEO, who addressed the Board. Mr. Pleger explained Morningside has evolved over the last 50 years and has built good relationships with counties and businesses in the community. He noted developmentally disabled individuals are contributing members in our community. He shared in 2019 Thurston County supported 611 developmentally disabled individuals and placed 91 in new jobs. Mr. Pleger thanked the Board for their support of individuals with developmental disabilities. Vice Chair Hutchings acknowledged Mr. Moffett and Mr. Pleger for their hard work and commitment to lowering the 27% unemployment. He also shared his rewarding experience of meeting a disabled state employee, who as a ward of the State had lost his right to vote, regaining his rights. Vice Chair Hutchings read the

Proclamation proclaiming March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Thurston County and calling upon all citizens, communities, state agencies, and elected leaders to increase public awareness of the needs and potential of individuals with developmental disabilities, and to recognize that persons with developmental disabilities are vital and vibrant members of our communities. A photo was taken with the Board members and all present in support of the Proclamation. The Board thanked everyone present for their support and acknowledgment of the developmentally disabled individuals in our community.

**Presentation – Developmental Disabilities Program (Social Services Division)**

Mark Moffett provided information about the following programs provided through the PHSS Department's Social Services Division: Developmental Disabilities Program that provides services that help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach their goals in an inclusive manner; Specialized Recreation Program an inclusive recreation program providing social and leisure activities in the community; and Veterans Program which provides financial assistance for indigent veterans and their families, and case management services for justice-involved veterans. Mr. Moffett then provided components for the DD program which include supported employment; Community Inclusion; High School Transition; Community Supports and Services; and serves Thurston and Mason counties. He then discussed what is new for the program: served nearly 500 clients; more than 73% employed; a Value Based Payments Pilot Program; a potential crisis bed partnership; and a successful State audit. Mr. Moffett acknowledged Program Supervisor Margaret Huff for the Specialized Recreation Program and discussed the program components: Social Activities - peers gather, foster friendships, and enjoy a common activity such as bowling, bingo, or dances; Community and Special Events - activities and destinations such as the County Fair, Ocean Shores, Christmas cruise, or overnight trips. He then discussed the Veterans Program components, acknowledging Program Supervisor Ashley Strauss: Veterans Assistance Program - financial assistance for basic needs, shelter beds; and Veterans Case Management - veterans in the Thurston County legal system who have mental health and/or substance use issues are connected to supports and services. He then discussed what is new for the Veterans Program: served over 80 clients; updated policy to expand services; served more than 100 veterans at the annual Thurston County Stand-Down; provided financial assistance to over 50 Veterans; and explained new initiatives for a proactive approach. Mr. Moffett shared additional information for the three programs: the DD Program funds 14 agencies to provide services in Thurston and Mason Counties, and partners with 20 high schools; the Special Recreation program provides over 100 activities each year; and the Veterans Program supports one-stop support services to veterans as part of the Lacey Veterans Hub. The Board thanked Mr. Moffett for his enthusiasm and work. Mr. Moffett noted the raising of eligibility levels has increased the ability to provide more assistance to Veterans. He thanked the Board for their support. The Board thanks Mr. Moffett for the presentation and his dedication.

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

#### 4) Health Officer's Report and Director's Report

Ms. Slaughter reported on:

- COVID-19 update:
  - Provided numbers of confirmed cases and deaths, noting information is rapidly changing, globally, in the United States, in Washington and in Thurston county.
  - Noted there are currently no confirmed cases reported in Thurston County.
  - Discussed social distancing and other measures being taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19; the current risk is alarming; the virus is spreading every hour.
  - Explained COVID-19 is 1 of 7 corona virus that we know about; this is a new one.
  - In response to the outbreak, PHSS Emergency Response Incident Command was activated one month ago.
  - Currently there are no medications or vaccine specifically approved for coronavirus.
  - Research on how the virus is spread is on-going and we still have a lot to learn, but the virus is believed to be transmitted through droplets.

Discussion ensued regarding incubation periods for the virus, symptoms and length of illness; social distancing for everyone; individuals that are at a higher risk to catch COVID-19; how the virus is transmitted; how social distancing is being implemented for the courts and jurors; availability of testing for COVID-19 and testing in general.

- Ways we can protect ourselves to prevent spread of the virus:
  - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Cover your mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
  - If soap and water are not available use hand sanitizer.
  - Avoid contact with people including hand shaking.
  - Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
  - Wipe down surfaces with a sanitizing solution.
- Discussed Governor Inslee's resolutions regarding long term care; social distancing; and reducing crowded conditions, etc.
- Explained the Governor, the State Health Officer; local Boards of Health and the local Health Officer are empowered to impose restrictions for the community.
- Provided additional information about testing for COVID-19; testing in Washington has increased; University of Washington and private labs have capacity to run tests.
- Explained COVID-19 is a notifiable condition; providers are to report positive cases to PHSS immediately. Testing is highest priority for health care workers, first responders, and high-risk individuals.
- For additional information contact:
  - Visit the PHSS website at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health)
  - Washington State Hotline for information, 6am – 10pm 7 days/week:  
1-800-525-0127
- Masks and other PPE (personal protection equipment) – there is a shortage of PPEs; current supplies are being reserved for the medical providers and first responders.
- Ms. Slaughter expressed gratitude to the State Department of Health (DOH), Thurston County Emergency Management, healthcare response partners, hospitals, medical providers, and PHSS

staff for their hard work and commitment. She also thanked people in the community who are looking out for vulnerable individuals and supporting each other.

- At Chair Menser's request, Ms. Slaughter explained COVID-19 symptoms are similar to influenza, such as headache, fatigue and can develop into pneumonia.

**5) Director's Report** – see item 4

**DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

**6) Opioid Response Update**

Katie Strozyk, PHSS Opioid Response Coordinator, gave an Opioid Response Update. Ms. Strozyk provided a background for the Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force and Response Plan: The Board adopted Resolution H-1- 2018 in June 2018; the Opioid Task Force Convened in July 2018; Opioid Response Plan was adopted in June 2019; and the Task Force continues to meet. She then shared the Task Force's areas of focus: Health Care; Treatment and Support; Services; Overdose Prevention; Data; Innovation and Disparities; and Children, Youth and Families. She then discussed strategies which include: 25 total strategies; 33 SMART Objectives; and discussed the 2019 2020 timeframe. Ms. Strozyk discussed five completed goals: 1) provided one training, facilitated by Arcora Foundation to dental care providers on opioid prescribing and use of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP); conducted a survey of local prescribers regarding attitudes and barriers to becoming waived and prescribing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT); hosted three buprenorphine (DATA 2000) waiver trainings; amended all treatment court policies and procedures to allow the use of all medications approved by the FDA for treatment of opioid use disorder; completed one report describing naloxone use in Thurston County; and obtained State approval of one strategic plan for a higher risk community in Thurston County. She shared other progress outside of specific Task Force goals: increase in naloxone distribution; bi-monthly MAT prescriber meetings; prioritization of communication; strategies and combatting stigma; positive media attention; and community support. Ms. Strozyk then shared community progress: obtainment of new and increased funding for strategies; development of the Thurston Mason Recovery Coalition; Opioid Use Reduction & Recovery; Employer Forum; Recovery Help Line's MAT online location finder; and adding to the evidence base around treatment approaches. She then discussed upcoming projects: Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) proposals with Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office / Public Health & Social Services Department, the Olympia Police Department and the Health Care Authority (HCA); MAT induction for individuals incarcerated in Thurston County Jail; and community education and engagement events. For additional information contact:

Katie Strozyk at (360)867-1261; [katie.strozyk@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:katie.strozyk@co.thurston.wa.us)

Task Force Webpage: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/opioid-response.aspx>

The Board thanked Ms. Strozyk for the presentation and acknowledged the Task Force for the work being done.

## **7) Thurston Thrives Update**

Liz Davis, Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW) Division Director, addressed the Board and introduced Krosbie Carter, the Thurston Thrives Director. Ms. Davis noted next month the Thurston Thrives Initiative will be six years old and commended the Thurston County Chamber Foundation for their continued support of the initiative. Ms. Krosbie provided additional information about the Initiative explaining it is funded by public-private partnerships. She shared its mission which is to improve the health and safety of all people in Thurston County. She then explained the Thurston Thrives' Coordinating Council serves as the leadership of the network. The Initiative brings together over 80 different nonprofits, businesses and government agencies on a monthly basis to find new ways of working together to address our community's priority issues such as ending homelessness, improving graduation rates, preventing child abuse and neglect, improving physical and mental health. Ms. Krosbie explained Thurston Thrives consists of "action teams" that focus on different elements of community health – Community Design, Environment and Climate Change; Education and Resilience; Food and Nutrition; Housing and Homelessness; Public Safety and Justice; Clinical and Emergency; and Economy and Poverty Reduction. The Action Teams each hold monthly meetings which are open to the public. For additional information contact:

[info@thurstonthrives.org](mailto:info@thurstonthrives.org)  
[www.thurstonthrives.org](http://www.thurstonthrives.org)  
(360) 357-3362

The Board thanked Ms. Krosbie for the information and requested she let them know if there is anything the Board can do to support the Action Teams.

## **8) Resolution – Appointment of Temporary Health Officer**

Schelli Slaughter introduced the topic explaining in April the Board approved Resolution H-01-2020 appointing four interim health officers for Thurston County until the appointment of a new permanent health officer. She then explained, with the current COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Kathy Lofy, the State of Washington Health Officer, is no longer able to serve in this capacity for Thurston County. Ms. Slaughter stated Dr. Diana Yu has graciously agreed to serve as the interim Health Officer as a temporary part-time employee until a permanent health officer can be appointed. The proposed Resolution H-02-2020 will amend H-01-2020 replacing Kathy Lofy, MD, MPH with Diana Yu, MD, MPH for communicable disease matters including COVID-19. **Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve Resolution H-02-2020 for appointment of a temporary Health officer to focus on COVID-19. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.**

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

Commissioner Edwards reported on:

- Biosolids
- On-site Septic Systems
- Drinking Water

Vice Chair Hutchings reported on:

- PHSS Webinar on COVID-19
- Vaping in public places proposed resolution

Chair Menser reported on:


- PHSS Webinar on COVID-19
- Opioid Task Force Meeting

10) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

  
TYNE MENSER, Chair

  
JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair

  
GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Stacy Everett, Clerk of the Board

Date: July 14, 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.