



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 April 9, 2019

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair John Hutchings called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

In Attendance:

John Hutchings, Chair; Tye Menser, 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.

Excused Absence:

Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer.

Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:

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

Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Menser moved to approve the April 9, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

2) Proclamations and Presentations

Proclamation – Infant Immunization Week

Jeanie Knight, Communicable Disease Prevention Division Director, introduced the proclamation and spoke on behalf of Infant Immunization Week and the importance of immunizing children. She then thanked the Board for acknowledging this important issue. Vice Chair Menser read a proclamation proclaiming April 27-May 4, 2019 as Infant Immunization Week in Thurston County encouraging parents to make vaccinating their children a priority and to talk to family and friends about protecting their children with vaccines; and encouraging businesses, government agencies, community-based organizations, and service groups to spread the immunization message throughout our communities. A photo was taken of the Board members and all present in support of the proclamation. The Board thanked everyone for their attendance in support of infant immunization.

Proclamation – Sexual Assault Awareness

Schelli Slaughter, Director of the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS), introduced the proclamation. She spoke on behalf of Sexual Assault Awareness and shared statistics around high school students victimized by sexual assault. Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney, spoke on

behalf of sexual assault awareness noting sexual assault offenses are about power control not sex. Trish Gregory, Executive Director of the Family Support Center; Natalie Skovran, Deputy Director of Family Support Center; Tina Olson, with the Providence Sexual Assault Clinic; and Sarah Lloyd, Executive Director of SafePlace spoke on behalf of sexual assault awareness and briefly shared information about each of their organization's services for sexual assault victims. Vice Chair Menser read a proclamation proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Thurston County, urging all citizens to put consent into practice. "I Ask" is the statement by which individuals will demonstrate that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions. A photo was taken of the Board members and all present in support of Sexual Assault Awareness. The Board thanked everyone for their attendance, speaking on behalf of this important issue, and commended all of them for the services they provide.

Proclamation – Prescription Drug Take Back Day April 27, 2019

Chris Hawkins, Program Manager for the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Section, introduced the proclamation and discussed the National Prescription Drug Take Back Program. The Program is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs. He stated last year over 1 million pounds of prescription drugs were collected across the nation from over 6,000 sites. Mr. Hawkins shared additional information about the program and the benefits to public health, the community and our environment. He then acknowledged those present in the audience in support of the Prescription Drug Take Back Program: representatives of the Tumwater HOPES Coalition (Healthy Opportunities for Prevention, Empowerment, & Success); Jennifer Simmons, Education and Outreach Specialist with CEEP; and Tumwater residents Charlie Schneider, Pastor Brad Moral, Dan Defoe, Commander Jay Mason; and Kateri Wimsett, Education and Outreach Specialist with CEEP and coordinator for B-THAT (Bucoda and Tenino Healthy Action Team). Mr. Hawkins addressed the Board members' questions and provided additional information on the importance of not flushing pharmaceuticals of any kind into septic systems or sewers; the lack of a drop box in the City of Olympia; and Program's efforts to address the high number of opioid addictions in our community and the nation. He thanked the Board for their support of the program and the opportunity to share program information. Drop boxes to dispose of prescribed and over-the-counter medications are located at:

- Thurston County Sheriff's Office – open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day
- Lacey Police Department – open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day
- Rainier City Hall – open Mon-Thurs, 8am-5pm
- Tenino Police Department – open Mon-Fri, 7:30am-4pm
- Tumwater Police Department – open Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm
- Walgreens – 1510 Cooper Pt Rd SW, Olympia – open 7am-11pm
- Yelm Police Department open Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm

Vice Chair Menser read a proclamation proclaiming April 27, 2019 as Prescription Drug Take Back Day in Thurston County, urging all residents to participate and dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications at a local safe disposal location. The Board thanked all present for their support of Prescription Drug Take Back Day and the program. A photo was taken of the Board members and all present in support of the program.

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

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Homelessness a Public Health Crisis Update

Keylee Marineau, the PHSS Homeless and Affordable Housing Coordinator provide an update on the actions taken on the Homelessness Public Health Crisis in Thurston County. Thurston County hosts the regional Hazardous Weather Task Force (HWTF) that developed and manages the ***Extreme Weather Shelter Plan*** intended to provide shelter and other accommodations for unhoused citizens during episodes of extreme cold or hot weather. Her presentation included a wrap up of the Cold Weather Shelter season - including a Code Blue Incident Report regarding actions in response to the 2018-2019 cold weather season; efforts in re-drafting the 5 Year Plan; updates on the State local plan guidelines; and efforts to lessen harm for citizens living outside of the shelter system. She discussed the February 2019 12-Day Code Blue response which involved 1) an expanded shelter capacity - the Task Force mobilized an inter-agency team of trained staff to work with volunteers to manage the following shelters: Family Support Center, Community Youth Services Rosie's Place Shelter, and Salvation Army Church; and 2) "Shelter in Place" (SIP) - through a collaboration with the Task Force and Inter City Transit volunteers and staff used Intercity Transit (IT) Community Vans to distribute survival goods to several homeless camps in the urban hub. Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE), provided coordination of volunteer drivers for SIP activities, PiPE and Interfaith Works obtained donated and purchased survival items for SIP activities, and the City of Olympia, PiPE, Family Support Center, Thurston County, and community volunteers drove and distributed items to those in the community who did not want to leave their sites. Ms. Marineau discussed the beginning preparations for hazardous smoke situation responses and noted a training program for volunteers is in the works for future Code Blue events. She explained the shelters are still operating at nearly full capacity but noted as of April 30th the cold weather Shelter Season will end which will mean over 100 individuals will not have beds after May 1st. In response to Chair Hutchings' question she explained there were some left over supplies from the February Code Blue which are being stored for future use; discussions with the Salvation Army are taking place to store the stock in one place. At Vice Chair Menser's request, she then discussed the process of re-drafting the 5 Year Plan for which the public comment period will be in July or August of this year. Chair Hutchings questioned if South County residents are reached out to for assistance by the Task Force for which Ms. Marineau shared the outreach efforts. The Board thanked Ms. Marineau for the update and her efforts.

5) Thurston County Medical Reserve Corps Update – Emergency Preparedness and Response

Jennifer Dixon, Education and Outreach Program Assistant with the PHSS Emergency Preparedness Program, explained the presentation was to share the efforts of several Thurston County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and their experiences supporting public health emergency responses. The MRC is a network of volunteers, organized locally and committed to improving the health and safety of their communities both locally and nationwide when needed. Volunteer activities and deployment assignments focus on supporting public health threats, improving emergency response capabilities, and building community resiliency. The Thurston County MRC was initiated in 2003 and currently consists of 90 volunteers which include medical and public health professionals, as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds. Randy Moeller, MD and his wife Kernie Moeller, RN addressed the Board sharing their backgrounds and participation in MRC events; Teresa Garrett-Hill, RN, shared her

background and experiences volunteering for the Hurricane Florence Deployment; and Britt Smith, MD, shared his background and experiences volunteering in North Carolina and deployment for the Clark County Measles outbreak response. The Board thanked Dr. and Ms. Moeller, Ms. Garrett-Hill, and Dr. Smith for their commitment to our community. A photo was taken of the Board, MRC volunteers, and staff.

6) Surface Water Program Update

Art Starry, Director of the PHSS Environmental Health Division, introduced Jane Mountjoy-Venning, a Senior Environmental Health Specialist and the PHSS Water Quality Program Supervisor. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning addressed the Board providing a Surface Water Program update. She explained the purpose of water quality monitoring is to identify problems, advise the public, track trends and determine program priorities. This monitoring includes ambient streams and lakes; algae bloom response – test for toxins; monitoring county swimming beaches; shellfish Biotoxin monitoring; and investigation/response to spills or water quality concerns. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning shared a map designating the 36 monitoring sites on 28 streams, rivers, and 10 lakes. She then discussed the water quality index (a means by which water quality data is summarized for reporting to the public in a consistent manner) for several watersheds in the County. She then discussed Toxic Blue-Green Algae monitoring done by program staff and noted the program also relies on partnerships with volunteers and homeowners on lakes to report and provide information on blooms. To report a bloom or to receive algae alerts – call (360) 867-2626 or email environmental_health@co.thurston.wa.us. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning discussed monitoring of swimming beaches. She then discussed partnerships for the Biotoxin Monitoring Network which includes Washington State Department of Health (WDOH) who coordinates the State-wide program; the Thurston County staff which collects mussel samples at Boston Harbor Marina; and WDOH and Tribes who collect samples at other South Sound locations. The DOH Biotoxin Hotline can be reached at (800) 562-5632 and information can be obtained at www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety.htm. Mrs. Mountjoy-Venning noted the program also responds to problems and emerging issues such as pollution complaints, spills, health alerts and special investigations. At Commissioner Edwards' request she discussed well water monitoring in Scatter Creek area; well head protection monitoring; and special projects. She noted a Water Quality Program Board briefing is scheduled later this month (April 24, 2019). Vice Chair Menser expressed concern about keeping water quality safe for our kids. He expressed his appreciation of an opportunity at the upcoming Board Briefing to dig deeper into subcategories. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning noted a new monitoring station has been placed at Tumwater Falls Park for ambient monitoring. Vice Chair Hutchings expressed appreciation that funding has been obtained for monitoring to keep our kids and families safe. At Commissioner Edwards' request, Ms. Mountjoy-Venning discussed ambient monitoring and the situation of Summit Lake as a vulnerable drinking water source. The Board thanked Ms. Mountjoy-Venning and Mr. Starry. The 2016-2017 Water Resources Monitoring Report is available at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehrp/annualreport.html. The 2018 data is being worked on and will be available soon. For additional information Ms. Mountjoy-Venning may be reached at (360) 867-2643 or by email at venningj@co.thurston.wa.us.

7) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Commissioner Edwards:

- Expressed his appreciation for the professional staff at Capital Medical Center over last week on a personal level.

Vice Chair Menser:

- Attended the Governor's signing of the Foundational Public Health Bill No. 1497.

- Attended a Thurston Thrives Coordinated Council meeting – noted the Council will play an active role in the upcoming update of the Thurston County Health Assessment which happens every 5 years.
- Noted a Kaiser Permanente grant to Thurston Thrives will help fund staffing for the Health Assessment to improve our community health. Ms. Slaughter provided additional information.

8) Health Officer's Report

Ms. Slaughter, PHSS Director, provided a report on behalf of Dr. Rachel Wood:

- Communicable disease - Staff investigated suspect cases of foodborne illness, investigated and followed up on 100 confirmed and suspected cases Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis B, and C, Herpes, Influenza, suspect measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Salmonellosis, E.coli, Syphilis, and Tuberculosis (TB). Most of these illnesses can be prevented by hand washing, immunizations and safe sex practices. Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer, encourages everyone to take care of your own health to prevent these illness.
- Influenza - cases of Influenza A reported through the hospital surveillance system in Thurston County are elevated with 30% testing positive for Influenza. Influenza like illness reports are well above baseline. There have been 114 influenza deaths in Washington State with 6 in Thurston County in individuals over the age of 65. There is concern that Influenza activity is increasing across the country as it tends to be more severe in those 65 and older. We are experiencing a later peak in flu this year than in previous years.
- Measles – there are 73 confirmed cases of measles in Clark County; surveillance activities continue by PHSS staff. Measles starts with fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat; followed by a rash that spreads over the body; is highly contagious and spreads through coughing and sneezing; prevention is through vaccination.
- Syringe Services Program - Staff have collected 369,629 syringes for disposal through the 29th of March. 20% of the total syringes collected are for disposal only meaning the Program is taking in more syringes for disposal than they are distributing. Staff has dispensed 696 doses of Naloxone through March 28th.

9) Director's Report

Schelli Slaughter reported on the following:

- Acknowledged PHSS staff for all the work they do in all PHSS programs for the well-being, safety, and health of our community. She noted last week (April 2nd) the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged and proclaimed April 1 – 7, 2019 Public Health Week.
- County Health Rankings – Thurston County has moved up to #5 in the National Public Health Rankings; she explained the rankings, areas we did well, and areas where we need improvement.
- House Bill 1497 has been signed; thanked the Board for their efforts; and acknowledged Art Starry for his legislative work.
- House Bill Tobacco 21 has also been signed. As of January 1, 2020 anyone under 21 years of age will not be allowed to purchase tobacco or vape products.
- Thanked the Board for their enormous support of public health.

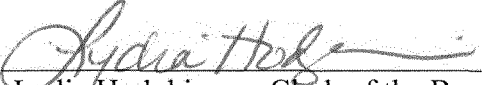
Additional discussion ensued around the Tobacco 21 law including other States that have passed similar laws and PHSS reaching out to other partners to share their best practices to implement the law. County Manager Ramiro Chavez noted 11 other states have passed similar laws.

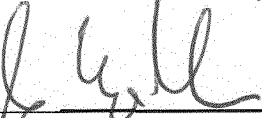
- 10) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Menser moved to adjourn the meeting of April 9, 2019. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington

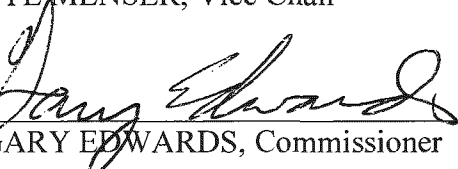
ATTEST:


JOHN HUTCHINGS, Chair


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board


TYNE MENSER, Vice Chair

Date: May 14, 2019


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.