



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 June 11, 2019

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair John Hutchings called the meeting to order.

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; Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

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 accept the May 14, 2019 meeting minutes. Chair Hutchings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

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

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

3) Acceptance of Board of Health Work Session Summaries

Vice Chair Menser moved to accept Board of Health work session summaries for March 5, 2019; March 12, 2019; April 2, 2019; April 9, 2019; May 1, 2019; May 7, 2019; May 14, 2019; and May 22, 2019. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The Motion carried.

4) Homelessness a Public Health Crisis One Year Update

On June 14, 2018 the Board of Health adopted Resolution No. H-2-2018 declaring homelessness a public health crisis in Thurston County, directing the Director of Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) to lead the response, committing support for community wide efforts to reduce homelessness, and resolving to convene the Hazardous Weather Task Force (HWTF) and implement the hazardous weather plan. Keylee Marineau, the PHSS Homeless and Affordable Housing Coordinator, provided a one-year update on the actions taken on the Homelessness Public Health Crisis. She commented on the connection between mental health and its relation to unsheltered/homelessness. Ms. Marineau gave an over of responses to the Resolution Sections one (1) through eight (8) as follows:

- Section 1: Homelessness is declared a county wide public health crisis – shared a 2019 Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Snapshot and discussed the results.
- Section 2: The Board declares support for and solidarity with the City of Olympia and other municipalities' efforts to address homelessness in our County – discussed the partnership with Olympia in organizing the 2019 PIT.
- Section 3: PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention (OHHP) efforts - discussed partnerships with Thurston County offices, Municipalities, and Non-Profits; and noted vaccinations being made available to the homeless by PHSS Housing & Homeless Prevention Division; shared Syringe Services Program (SSP) statistics.
- Section 4: Board of Health Leadership – discussed the roles and participation of the Board of County Commissioners, Community Investment Partners (CIP), Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council, Opioid Task Force, Homeless Housing Hub, Housing Action Teams.
- Section 5 and 6: Hazardous Weather Task Force – was formed in the fall of 2017 to address the need for an efficient and effective hazardous weather response system, discussed 2018-2019 Code Blue Activities noting the responses now include “all” severe weather, not just “cold”.
- Section 7: Hiring a Homeless Response Coordinator and her activities – Ms. Marineau was hired for this position on January 2, 2019; she discussed the revision of the Thurston County 5-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan.
- Section 8: Address Underlying Causes of Homelessness – shared percentages of homeless individuals in our county and discussed methods of addressing causes of homelessness.

Ms. Marineau shared a draft County Homeless Crisis Response System Overview. She then discussed the next steps: understand intersections, respond regionally, support our cities, address concerns, explore options, strengthen the system, increase data quality, finalize the 5-year plan, strengthen Coordinated Entry, engage the community, plan ahead, and Shelter-in-Place. Ms. Marineau addressed Board members' questions regarding the lack of shelters in the City of Lacey and City of Tumwater and the number of additional shelter beds needed to meet the community needs; the Housing Action Blue Team's work around affordable housing incentivizing; additional PIT result information; additional information about SSP overdose reversals; and information on dollars spent on affordable housing including mini-houses. The Board thanked Ms. Marineau for the presentation and information.

5) Adopt the draft Thurston County Opioid Response Plan

Mary Ann O'Garro, PHSS Epidemiologist, addressed the Board expressing her appreciation of the Opioid Task Force and acknowledged Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Department Director; Jon Tunheim, County Prosecuting Attorney; and members of the Task Force. She then explained on June 14, 2018 the Board signed Resolution H-1-2018 declaring the opioid epidemic a public health crisis in Thurston County, and directing the Director of the Thurston Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) to convene a Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force to develop a response plan for approval by the Thurston County Board of Health; a Task Force was convened in July of 2018; a draft Opioid Response Plan has been developed. Ms. O'Garro explained the Task Force is now asking for adoption of the plan. She then discussed the five (5) Resolution Goals: Goal 1 – Health Care; Goal 2 – Treatment and Support Services; Goal 3 – Overdose Prevention; Goal 4 – Data; and Goal 5 – Innovation and Disparities. She discussed the Task Force's Goal 6 – reduce exposure and access to opioids amount infants, children, youth and families; for a total of 25 Strategies. She then discussed Oversight and Accountability beginning with the Board of Health to the Opioid Response Task Force to the Strategy Leads (one community leader for each strategy) and the Work Groups (Criminal Justice, Data, Pregnant and Parenting, Treatment, and Prevention). Ms. O'Garro then explained the Response Plan's progress will be measured using SMART objectives –

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound. Vice Chair Menser noted he has joined the Task Force and expressed his appreciation for the Group. Commissioner Edwards noted, and Ms. O'Garro confirmed, the Response Plan is a work in progress. Ms. O'Garro and Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer, provided additional information as requested by Chair Hutchings' regarding Goals 3 and 5 preventing deaths and identifying and reducing overdoses. County Manager Ramiro Chavez noted a Board Briefing has been scheduled for a discussion on Fentanyl Test Strips. Ms. O'Garro provided data collection information for Goal 4 – using existing data and enhanced data collection efforts to detect opioid and other illicit drug misuse/abuse. She then addressed Commissioner Edwards' question regarding what it costs society to treat over dose cases and when do they become a burden on society. Commissioner Edwards expressed his desire for the City of Olympia to participate in the Take Back Prescription Drug program. Ms. Slaughter noted last year (2018) the Board of County Commissioners agreed to join into the lawsuit against the manufacturers of Opioid drugs. Vice Chair Menser moved to adopt the Thurston County Opioid Response Plan and send it forward to the Thurston County Opioid Response Coordinator and Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force, Strategy Leads and Workgroups for implementation. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board members voted unanimously. The Motion carried.

6) Youth Substance Use Prevention – Marijuana, Tobacco/Vaping and Other Drugs

Chris Hawkins, Program Manager for the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Section, introduced Kateri Wimsett, and Jennifer Simmons, both CEEP Education and Outreach Specialists. He then explained PHSS engages the community to prevent youth substance use, noting prevention delays initiation of substance use by youth, age 17 and younger, using positive, proven community-based approaches; and discussed community trends. Ms. Wimsett shared the Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention slogan – “Vaping. Not as harmless as you think.” She explained this work is funded by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH); noted it is the #1 cause of death; provided statistics; and noted tobacco use by youth is low but vaping is increasing. Ms. Wimsett discussed partnership and funding for the Bucoda-Tenino Healthy Action Team (B-THAT). Ms. Simmons discussed Youth Marijuana Prevention work which includes the “Don't drive while drugged” initiative and signage for Schools. She shared a change in how substance use offenders at schools are being responded to differently. Ms. Simmons then discussed Tumwater HOPES Coalition - Healthy Opportunities for Prevention, Empowerment, and Success; the Coalition meets every month; and shared their work which includes *Good Behavior Game*, designing a website and training. Mr. Hawkins responded to Vice Chair Menser's question regarding smoking rates before vaping. Ms. Wimsett provided substances used for vaping in response to Chair Hutchings' request. Mr. Hawkins noted the Nurse Family Partnership program is included in the Tenino program. The Board thanked the Team for their work and presentation.

7) Summer Safety (Bats and Brats)

Sammy Berg, Senior Environmental Health Specialist and Supervisor for the PHSS Food and Environmental Services Section (FESS) provided an overview of Summer Safety which included food safety for the summer and rabies. Mr. Berg discussed bats and other animal exposures in our area and explained which carry rabies. He shared ways to keep your family safe from rabies, such as: you're your pets vaccinated, keep bats out of your house, do not touch bats, if a bat is in your house call the PHSS (Health department) or 911 after hours and keep the bat contained. Dr. Wood recommended maintaining screen on all windows, keep doors closed as much as possible, and close fireplace flues (vents). Mr. Berg then shared Summer and food safety simple practices to avoid foodborne illnesses – wash hands before

cooking, after touching raw meat and before eating; and follow the practice of “Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill”. He then shared food safety tips for eating and cooking outdoors including tips for packing coolers with large quantities of ice to keep its temperature at 40 degrees or below; keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood separate from ready-to-eat and already cooked foods such as beverages and produce; and load coolers into the passenger compartment of the vehicle where it is cooler. The Board thanked Sammy for the information.

Report a bat - Health Department contact numbers: (360)867-1468 or (360)867-2667

For tips to catch a bat: www.BatCon.org

Rabies – additional information: www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Rabies

8) Wild Fire Health and Safety

Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, introduced Vivian Eason, Emergency Management Coordinator for Thurston County Emergency Services (ES) present to share information on protecting our homes from wildfires. Ms. Eason explained the catastrophic 2017 Scatter creek fire brought to Emergency Services attention we are at risk and the need to provide public education. She discussed the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) explaining these are areas where homes are built next to dense vegetation areas. Ms. Eason explained this year ES was awarded a fire wise grant to bring in two extensive professional 2-day trainings - one was held in April; the second training will be held in October which opened up to include CPED staff, other county staff, emergency management neighborhoods and first responders. Ms. Eason provided public education handouts to the Board – *Wildfire Risk Reduction 10 Safety Tips* (2018 National Fire Protection Association); *Fire Adapted Communities* (www.fireadapted.org); *Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide – Ready, Set, Go!* (www.wildlandfireRSG.org). She explained she has been invited out to several neighborhoods to provide fire preparedness education to protect their homes. She then shared tips to improve home survivability especially if you live in a WUI; for example – landscape with more rock less bark; remove leaves and pine needles from gutters; cover exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8” wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home; remove dead vegetation especially within the first 5 feet of the home. Additional information is available at: www.co.thurston.wa.us/em. The Board thanked Ms. Eason.

Mr. Starry shared and reviewed a Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook map for July 2019. The map and additional information are located at <https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/outlooks.htm>. He then shared and discussed Washington Air Quality Advisory (WAQA) information which provides levels of air quality conditions from good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy for everyone, very unhealthy for everyone, to hazardous for everyone. Mr. Starry then shared and demonstrated Washington’s Air Monitoring Network interactive map showing air quality across the State. The map is located at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/>. Mr. Starry discussed the May 20, 2019 Drought Declaration areas and map. The map is located at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-availability/Statewide-conditions/Drought-2019>. Dr. Wood noted Health Officers and Environmental Health Division Directors across the State are working together to prepare Wildfire response guidance for consistency across the State. Mr. Starry thanked Ms. Eason for attending and providing information.

9) Health Equity: Accelerating Progress in Thurston County

Mary Ann O'Garro, PHSS Epidemiologist, shared current and future work being undertaken by the Department, in partnership with community stakeholders, to address health equity using training, education, and local data. To achieve equity, we need to better understand health disparities and be committed to a course of action that reduces and ultimately eliminates them. Ms. O'Garro stated according to the National County Health Rankings Thurston County is the 5th Healthiest in the nation. She then explained what health equity is: a commitment to a course of action that reduces and ultimately eliminates, health disparities so that health for all is possible; equity: achieving the highest level of health for all; and disparity: reducing or eliminating avoidable differences between groups of people. Ms. O'Garro provided examples of current and future work in partnership with Local Impact Network - Dental Health Disparities, and Thurston Thrives – Health Equity Community Health Assessment; current and future work for the Department: Language Access – provide handouts and presentations in other languages, and Organizational Action Plan – Workforce Development. She then provided information about the 2019 Community Health Assessment Process which is in partnership with Thurston Thrives and completed every five (5) years. The Board thanked Ms. O'Garro.

10) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Commissioner Edwards: commented on the concern of Biosolids in Yelm and the community's concerns.

11) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood provided a report on:

- She has been collaborating with partners to educate school nurses before school is out for the summer about the new MMR Vaccination Exemption Law going into effect in July that removes the personal and philosophical option to exempt children from the MMR vaccine required for school and child care entry.
- Commented on Crisis Standards of Care in the event of a world-wide epidemic or severe earthquake; she is providing education to her clinical colleagues; and provided a talk to Family Medicine Residents at Providence St. Peter's hospital recently.
- Wildfire smoke – need to discuss when to take action in the community; available to provide the Board with additional information or discussion.

12) Director's Report

Schelli Slaughter reported on the following:

- Thanked all present for their presentations and hard work. Recognized our community partners and the Board of Health for their support. Acknowledged all PHSS staff for the work they do every day.
- On May 28, 2019 PHSS Environmental Health Division staff were notified of a sewage overflow at South Puget Sound Community College; staff investigated, and confirmed sewage flowed into a wetland, Percival Creek and Budd Bay; bacterial levels were high; recommends the public stay out of the effected waters.
- Community Health Nurses Bonnie Peterson and Gretchen Thaller completed and submitted a Maternal Child Health needs assessment for Thurston County to the Washington State Department of Health.

- Staff investigated and followed up 162 confirmed notifiable conditions.
- Staff collected 605,133 syringes for disposal; 19% are for disposal, meaning more syringes are taken in than distributed; and staff dispensed 1,147 doses of Naloxone from January 1st through May 30, 2019.

At the Board's request, Art Starry provided additional information regarding the sewage spill in Percival Creek. He also addressed the possibility of fecal contamination to Percival Creek being caused by homeless encampment.

The Board thanked everyone for the informative meeting. Ms. Slaughter noted the Board will not hold a meeting in July.

13) Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington

ATTEST:

JOHN HUTCHINGS, Chair

Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

TYE MENSER, Vice Chair

Date: _____

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.