



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 August 13, 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 June 11, 2019 meeting minutes. Chair Hutchings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

2) Proclamations and Presentations

Proclamation – National Breastfeeding Month

Kateri Wimsett, a Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Education and Outreach Specialist II, introduced Amelia Grube, PHSS Community Health Nurse, and PHSS Lori Montoya, Community Health Nurse II, present to speak on breastfeeding in recognition of August 2019 National Breastfeeding Month. Ms. Grube, Ms. Montoya, and Ms. Wimsett provided a presentation on the benefits of breastfeeding, the PHSS Nurse Family Partnership's program involvement with breastfeeding, shared breastfeeding support groups, discussed the Babies at Work Initiative, and what society can do to support continued breastfeeding. The Board Members spoke in support of breastfeeding. Vice Chair Menser read a Board of Health Proclamation proclaiming August as National Breastfeeding Month, in furtherance of United States Breastfeeding Committee's role to advance breastfeeding on our Nation's agenda through collaboration, leadership and advocacy, so that all families will have the opportunity to breastfeed. A photo was taken of the Board members and all present in support of the Proclamation.

Proclamation – Immunization Awareness Month

Jeanie Knight, PHSS Disease Control and Prevention Division Director, introduced the Proclamation, spoke in support of the Immunization awareness, and shared the challenges of residents protecting themselves and their children with vaccines. Vice Chair Menser read a Proclamation proclaiming August Immunization Awareness Month, and encouraged all community members to recognize the importance of vaccinations for people of all ages in every community across the country, to reflect on the progress of science and medicine in the eradication of contagious disease, and for all residents to do their part to help

maintain the health of our community by staying up to date on immunizations. A photo was taken of the Board members and all present in support of the Proclamation.

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

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) 2019 Back-2-School Clinics

Jennifer Dixon, PHSS Education and Outreach Program Assistant, shared information regarding the upcoming 2019 Back-to-School Immunization Clinics and their impact on improving emergency response capabilities. The no cost immunizations are available to students entering pre-school through 18 years of age and include the following:

School required immunizations:

- DTaP/Tdap (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Hepatitis B
- IPV (inactivated poliovirus)
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Varicella (chicken pox)

Recommended immunizations:

- HPV (human papillomavirus)
- Meningococcal

The free Immunizations clinics are being held:

August 15 (Thursday) – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Little Red Schoolhouse @ Komachin Middle School
3650 College St SE, Lacey

August 22 (Thursday) – 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Peter G. Schmidt Elementary
237 Dennis St SE, Tumwater

September 21 (Saturday) – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Kaiser Permanente Olympia Medical Center*
700 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia

**you do not have to be a Kaiser member to participate*

Ms. Dixon explained these clinics are primarily staffed by the Thurston County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) who utilize their professional skills and expertise to administer immunizations in the event of an emergency. She also acknowledged Kaiser Permanente for providing the September 21st Clinic to non-members and on a day they are normally closed. She then introduced Leslie Van Leishout, Director of Student Support for the North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) and Jennifer Gould, Community Schools Coordinator for TOGETHER!.

Ms. Gould addressed the Board explaining TOGETHER!'s *Community Schools*, an Initiative that assists struggling students and their families navigate the maze of services and resources by bringing a school-based coordinator into schools where they are accessible to assist. She then discussed the 2019 Back to Basics program events that provide no cost sports physicals, immunizations, school supplies,

transportation, hair cuts and many other services. Ms. Gould thanked the Tumwater School District and acknowledged the MRC volunteers.

Ms. Van Leishout discussed the NTPS *Little Red School House Project* to be held at the Komachin Middle School on August 15th which provides donated clothing, school supplies, free immunizations and more resources to help families in need. She then shared the opening of a NTPS Family and Youth Resource Center located at the former Bally's fitness center on Sleater-Kinney Road NE. The Center, set to open in October, will offer school supplies, food and clothing, a place to do laundry, take a shower and potentially meet with other social service providers. Ms. Van Leishout thanked the Board for their support of immunizations in the County.

Ms. Dixon thanked the Board for their support. The Board acknowledged the MRC volunteers, Kaiser Permanente, the Tumwater School District, North Thurston Public Schools, Komachin Middle School, and TOGETHER!.

5) Kindergarten Readiness

Liz Davis, PHSS Child, Family and Community Wellness Division Director, addressed the Board discussing kindergarten readiness in general and in our community. She explained experiences early in life are essential for healthy development. She noted across our state, and in Thurston County, many young children face challenges that have long-term implications for their wellbeing. Ms. Davis discussed the statewide WaKIDS assessment, the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills. An informational handout regarding WaKIDS was provided to the Board in both English and Spanish. As part of this assessment, at the beginning of each school year, all Washington State kindergarten teachers observe their students during everyday classroom activities which helps them find out what each child knows and can do at the beginning of the school year. They are assessed in the following 6 domains: Social-emotional, Language, Literacy, Physical, Cognitive, and Math. Readiness for Kindergarten is defined as demonstrating skills appropriate for five-year-olds in each of these domains. Ms. Davis then shared statistics for kindergarten readiness of children in Thurston County which show only 50% of our children are ready for kindergarten by age 5. She then discussed our county's Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program one of the most effective ways we can help infants and toddlers get a great start in life. Ms. Davis acknowledged there are many other wonderful programs and organizations here in our County that do amazing work to help children be ready for kindergarten and beyond. She then introduced community partners Jennifer Williamson-Forster, the Executive Director of the South Sound Reading Foundation, and Gary Burris, the Executive Director of the Child Care Action Council both present to talk about early learning and kindergarten readiness.

Ms. Williamson-Forster spoke on the importance of parents reading and engaging with their child at an early age and the positive effects it has on their future learning. She discussed services the South Sound Reading Foundation provides which includes not only providing books to the community but providing education to families. Ms. Williamson-Forster then explained their family education services which includes healthy brain development, kindergarten readiness, and family bonding to promote a language and literacy rich environment for their child.

Mr. Burris provided a brief background of the Child Care Action Council (CCAC) a Thurston County based non-profit organization serving parents and child care providers in Thurston, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson, and Clallam counties. He noted in 2017 the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in support of the importance of child care developed a *Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow* Report, which

outlines actions the business community can do to advance access to high-quality childcare. He then discussed CCAC's participation in *Early Achievers* a quality rating and improvement system for licensed child care providers which offers coaching, training, and resources to support each child's learning and development; and connects families to child care and early learning programs. Mr. Burris discussed a partnership with NTPS in the *Top of the State Preschool* Program which will provide preschool for 75 three and four olds. This program is funded through the State Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP). He explained they are also partnering with school districts on a transition program connecting child care providers with the schools and helping parents understand the enrollment process. He discussed the *Raising A Reader* early literacy program which helps families of young children develop, practice, and maintain habits of reading together at home and the *Play and Learn* Groups held at St. Peter Family Medicine and Family Support Center for parents and caregivers to bring children birth to 5 years of age to join a facilitator one day a week to play, read, and sing. Mr. Burris thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Vice Chair Menser spoke in support of WaKIDS. Dr. Rachel Wood requested information on the connection between the two organizations and local libraries for which Ms. Williamson-Forster and Mr. Burris shared their information. Chair Hutchings spoke in support of reading to your kids. The Board Members thanked all who were present in support of Kindergarten Readiness.

6) Thurston County Homelessness Update

Keylee Marineau, PHSS Homeless and Affordable Housing Coordinator, provided an update on the Hazardous Weather Task Force regarding potential poor air quality for homeless individuals and the upcoming cold weather season. She reminded everyone that at this time our county has from 800 to 1,000 unsheltered individuals with only 350 shelter beds which are all full. She explained the Hazardous Weather Task Force was initiated in 2017, for the 2017/2018 cold weather season, engaging with stake holders in the community including the three local contracted shelters: Community Youth Services, Family Support Center and the Salvation Army. Prior to 2017 the opening of cold weather shelters was based on a projected temperature for that night of 32 degrees or below. Beginning in 2017 the contracted shelters are required to operate at full capacity for a season - November 1st through the end of March. Ms. Marineau noted other non-contracted organizations - Union Gospel Church, the Catholic Church's Sacred Heart and St. Michael's, provide shelter beds also. She then noted last August the poor air quality due to wildfire smoke brought to the Task Force's attention they did not have anything in place to respond to that type of event. She explained during last February's snow fall the PHSS Director, Schelli Slaughter, declared a "Code Blue" event for which extra shelter capacity was provided. Ms. Marineau noted during that event it was determined there were many homeless individuals who did not want to leave their unsheltered locations for various reasons and described the new operation of a shelter in place model to bring survival materials to them. In regard to another potential poor air quality event, she then described the Task Force's coordination with the three contracted organizations to keep the shelters open year-round and other partnerships to provide shelter in place services. Ms. Marineau noted the Task Force has now done what they had hoped to do at the very onset of the Task Force. She explained the Task Force continues to meet as stake holders; in the event of adverse conditions they will convene to discuss and provide recommendations to the PHSS Director and the Health Officer who will then determine when to declare a hazardous weather event. She then explained the 5-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan is in final draft and has been emailed to PHSS Director, Schelli Slaughter, for her final edits; once the Plan is returned to Ms. Marineau it will be returned to the core jurisdictions and the work group; and then to the Board for final acceptance. The Board thanked Ms. Marineau.

7) Climate Change Mitigation Plan and Thurston Thrives Update

Chris Hawkins, Program Manager for the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Section, introduced Cynthia Pratt, City Council Member/Deputy Mayor of the City of Lacey. Mr. Hawkins was to provide an update on the mitigation plan that Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater are working on together to reduce the emissions that are causing climate change; and an update on other local actions to address climate change, including the efforts of the Thurston Thrives Climate & Clean Energy work team.

Ms. Pratt shared actions the City of Lacey has taken to reduce emissions which include: LED traffic signal change outs; replaced several street lights with LED lights; changed residential building codes – residences must be solar ready, and roofs must hold solar panels; solar smart communities; and additional vehicle charging stations. Ms. Pratt thanked the Board.

Mr. Hawkins provided a presentation on Climate Change Impacts to Community Health in our County and What can Be done to Halt it. He discussed weather patterns and their health effects; discussed the Scatter Creek Fire of 2017 near Rochester; and shared and discussed the Climate and Clean Energy Strategy map. He then discussed what has been happening in our community to address climate change from 2009 to 2018:

- 2009-10 – Health impacts project at PHSS
- 2011-13 – Sustainable Thurston identifies carbon neutrality goal for the region
- 2015-17 – Thurston Thrives Climate & Clean Energy Work Team established, Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) county-wide survey by public/private partnership
- 2016-18 – Climate Adaptation Plan developed and adopted; first South Sound climate action conventions held
- 2018 – Board of County Commissioners approved agreement with local cities to work together on climate mitigation

Mr. Hawkins then discussed the Climate Mitigation Plan a collaboration of Thurston County and 3 large cities working together to figure out how best to reduce emissions. Their first job was to set revised emissions reduction targets and are now engaging the public about what actions will best meet those targets. A final plan is estimated to be ready in less than a year. Mr. Hawkins discussed the Climate Action Team's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions for Thurston County from 2010 to 2017 and emissions by activities such as on-road transportation and building environment. He then shared actions partners are working on: TCAT has pursued resources to increase effort for driving down emissions, example - Thurston Energy; Cities and County are considering early actions to start or continue before the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan is complete; and Private sector - local solar enterprises, individual residents.

At Commissioner Edwards' request, Ms. Pratt provided additional information regarding vehicle charging stations. The Board Members stated they are on board to work with partners to support what needs to be done to reduce emissions.

8) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Vice Chair Menser: Behavioral Health Conference, True Blood Presentation, in late June.

Chair Hutchings: Acknowledged those that supported him with his recent loss of two family members.

9) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood provided a report on:

- Wildfire Smoke – recommended the public stay informed of the air quality in the event of wildfire smoke; provided resources to obtain local air quality conditions:

- www.AirNow.gov
- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/OutdoorAir>
- Load weather apps to cell phones to check temperatures and air quality

Provided recommendations for the public, especially those with breathing conditions, to protect themselves from smoke: stay informed, limit outdoor exposure, visit friends out of town, avoid strenuous activity, keep indoor air clean by closing windows and doors and setting air conditioners to recirculate, watch your symptoms and seek medical care if needed.

- Expressed appreciation for Immunization Program; shared information about a case of a rash illness in an unvaccinated auto immune person; recommended individuals ensure their MMR vaccinations are up to date to protect themselves, their families, and those that cannot be immunized.

The Board thanked Dr. Wood for all the work she does to keep our community safe and healthy.

10) 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.
- Attended the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) conference last month.
- Immunization Clinic – reviewed dates for the 2019 Back-to-School Immunization Clinics; noted Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Child, Youth and Families (DCYF) have partnered with the Safeway Pharmacy located on Harrison Avenue to provide free Measle Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccinations to uninsured child care workers.
- DOH announced our state, along with multiple states across the nation, are experiencing a Hepatitis A outbreak, mainly in people who are living homeless or who use drugs; she noted PHSS is looking at ways to minimize the spread of Hepatitis A in our community.
- Community Health Nurses Bonnie Peterson and Gretchen Thaller completed a DOH Maternal Child Health needs assessment of our local data; she shared areas of needed improvement.
- The 2017/2018 Streams Water Quality report is complete; she shared a few report results. Additional information can be found at https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehrp/pdf/AR-17-18-Streams/2017-2018WYAnnual_Report.pdf
- Disease Control and Prevention staff investigated and followed up on over 20 notifiable conditions.
- Syringe Services Program staff collected 849,452 syringes for disposal and dispensed 1513 doses of Naloxone through July 25, 2019.

The Board thanked everyone for the informative meeting and staff for all the work they do.


11) **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: September 10, 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.