



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 September 10, 2019

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair John Hutchings called the meeting to order.

Chair Hutchings noted due to time constraints the meeting agenda was revised removing Item #6, Healthy Schools' Pilot and Voluntary Environmental Health School Inspection Program, which will be rescheduled for the October 8, 2019 meeting agenda.

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 as amended. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Menser moved to accept the August 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Chair Hutchings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

2) Proclamations and Presentations

Proclamation – Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Jennifer Simmons, Education and Outreach Specialist I with the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) addressed the Board thanking them for acknowledging Suicide Awareness. She then introduced and provided background information for Thurston Youth Alive Chair Scott Hanauer and youth representative Kyler Maddox. Ms. Simmons explained the Thurston Youth Alive is a county wide effort with a mission to prevent youth suicide by raising community awareness of the risks and warnings signs, knowing the resources, and fostering an environment that promotes resiliency and community. She then introduced Mark Moffett, a military Veteran and Community Program Manager for the PHSS Veterans Program, present to speak in support of Suicide Prevention Awareness from a Veteran perspective. Ms. Simmons recognized representatives of the newly formed community coalition *Tumwater HOPES* which has adopted youth suicide prevention into their five-year strategic plan.

Mr. Hanauer addressed the Board explaining he is a facilitator for Thurston Youth Alive through the Family Education and Support Services and spoke in support of youth suicide prevention. He expressed the importance of youth maintaining hope. He then acknowledged Jon Tunheim, the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney, and advocate of the *HOPE Thurston* initiative which applies the science of hope for

community wellness. Mr. Hanauer shared statistics for our community's youth who have had thoughts of, attempted, or committed suicide. He then acknowledged Kyler Maddox for the positive impact he had on his own personal battle with cancer and recovery. Kyler addressed the Board sharing his experiences working with other youth and explained although they do not feel counseling will benefit them it is important and can be beneficial. Mr. Hanauer spoke on the tactics Youth Alive brings to schools, the positive impacts for students, and the challenges. He then invited individuals or organizations who are interested to join the committee to help get the word out. He acknowledged the partnerships with Nisqually Indian Tribe and Pizza Klatch a support group for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies that is held in classrooms during lunchtime at participating high schools. The Board Members thanked Mr. Hanauer and Kyler for sharing their stories and the amazing work they do.

Mr. Moffett discussed the yearly suicide prevention training required for soldiers, noting this type of training is lacking in the civilian community. He challenged the Board to implement a suicide prevention program for County employees and volunteered to be the first member on the development and implementation committee. The Board Members thanked Mr. Moffett for his service to our country, our community, and his work with veterans.

Vice Chair Menser read the Proclamation proclaiming September Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Thurston County and encouraging all residents to envision a world dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide through prevention education, advocacy and resources. The Board Members thanked everyone for their support of this important issue. A photo was taken of the Board members and all present in support of the Proclamation.

Proclamation – SepticSmart Week September 16 – 20, 2019

Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, introduced the Proclamation explaining SepticSmart Week is an annual event focused on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. The recognition was created by the Environmental Protection Agency and is recognized by the Governor of the State of Washington. For 2019 Septic Smart Week is September 16 - 20, 2019. Mr. Starry spoke on the importance of proper septic system care and maintenance of the nearly 54,000 septic systems in Thurston County which is vital to protecting public health, our invaluable drinking water, lakes, rivers, streams, Puget Sound and our shellfish industry. Mr. Starry acknowledged Chuck Ahrens, Executive Director of The Washington Onsite Sewage Association (WOSSA), along with other WOSSA representatives Andrea Dodson and Jeremiah Gunia; Evan Cusack, an on-site maintenance professional; and Steve Perschon, a septic system installer. Mr. Starry shared dates and locations for PHSS free Septic Sense Workshops to be held on September 11, 18 and 26, 2019. The Workshops will teach proper care and maintenance of septic systems. Mr. Gunia addressed the Board thanking them for their forward thinking and choices to keep our water safe. Mr. Starry acknowledged all staff present. Vice Chair Menser noted he participates in several committees focused on water issues in our community. He invited anyone to come to him with ideas or comments. Vice Chair Menser read the Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 16-20, 2018 as SepticSmart Week encouraging Thurston County septic system owners to learn about their septic systems; and for all residents of Thurston County to join in this special observance that contributes to thriving, hopeful, healthy communities where all people are safe and supported by and our environment is protected. 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

Citizen: Rosalinda Noriega, Executive Director of Pizza Klatch.

Issue: Spoke in support of Suicide Prevention Awareness. She shared the Trevor Project 24-hour hotline at (866) 488-7386 that provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Septic System Maintenance

Jane Mountjoy-Venning, PHSS Senior Environmental Health Specialist, gave a presentation on the importance of ongoing maintenance to keep septic systems operating properly so sewage is adequately treated. In Thurston County, higher risk septic systems are required to submit regular inspection reports to PHSS and correct deficiencies as part of their renewable operational certificate (OPC). During the last few years there has been additional education and outreach efforts in Eld Inlet Watershed, Summit Lake, and Black Lake Special District to encourage septic owners to care for their systems. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning's presentation reviewed the results of different approaches toward ensuring that sewage is adequately treated. She shared statistics of septic systems in Thurston County areas that are required to have renewable operations certificates and those that do not. She also shared the statistics of systems that are current with their maintenance and those who are non-conforming. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning then discussed education and outreach efforts encouraging maintenance to the public. She then discussed the OPC requirements in the Summit Lake area, Black Lake Special District, Eld Inlet Watershed, and county-wide. At Commissioner Edwards' request, Ms. Mountjoy-Venning explained the Time of Transfer inspection needed which is required before a property with an on-site sewage system is sold or transferred. She noted Thurston County regulations require a Time of Transfer Evaluation Report be issued by the PHSS Environmental Health Division. She explained the goal is to protect public health by evaluating septic systems, identifying and repairing failing systems, locating unknown systems and making records available to the public. She then answered Board member questions regarding septic systems that are not required to have an OPC. The Board thanked Ms. Mountjoy-Venning for information.

5) Back-to-School Travel: Health & Safety

Chris Hawkins, Program Manager for the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Section, addressed the Board to provide a presentation on ways to improve safety and get more daily exercise as part of school travel. Mr. Hawkins introduced partners who were in attendance: Paul Brewster, Thurston Regional Planning Council; Jason Greer, Principal of North Thurston Public Schools Olympic View Elementary; and Bernie Sison, Thurston County Public Works. He then discussed recent efforts by PHSS, in partnership with Intercity Transit, local schools, Safe Kids Thurston County, Thurston County Public Works and Thurston Regional Planning Council to increase levels of physical activity and prevent injury through Safe Routes to Schools efforts. He explained these efforts not only encourage walking and bicycling to school, and educate about traffic safety, they also look at ways to improve the environments of school zones and surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Hawkins shared health data related to travel to school and discussed two 2019-2020 projects with North Thurston Public Schools Olympic View Elementary; and Tenino School District Parkside and Tenino Elementary schools. He then discussed traffic safety tips to remember: *When Walking – Be Safe, Be Seen; When Bicycling – Follow Rules of the*

Road; and When Driving – Slow Down, Pay Attention. He discussed recent safe routes projects - Lydia Hawk Elementary completed in 2018 and Olympic View in progress. Mr. Hawkins then discussed upcoming efforts: complete updated safe school walking route maps; October 2nd - Walk to School Day; continue support at Olympic View Elementary and Tenino Schools; the next safe school zone assessment; and Task Force work. Mr. Hawkins addressed Commissioner Edwards' question regarding needed safety improvements at the Nisqually Middle School located at Steilacoom Boulevard and Marvin Road. Chair Hutchings expressed the need for drivers to take time when driving this time of year. The Board thanked Mr. Hawkins for the presentation.

6) Amendment No. 2 to Lewis County Nurse Family Partnership Contract

Liz Davis, Director of PHSS Child, Family and Community Wellness Division, explained the proposed amendment to an ongoing contract with Lewis County that enables PHSS to continue to provide Nurse Family Partnership home visiting services to clients in Lewis County. This amendment extends the contract through December 31, 2020. Vice Chair Menser moved to approve and authorize the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services to sign, Amendment No. 2 to the Lewis County Nurse Family Partnership Contract, in the amount of \$309,822.25. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

7) Termination of Lewis County Health Officer Agreement

Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director, explained due to Thurston County Health Officer Dr. Rachel Wood's resignation effective November 30, 2019 from Thurston County employment, the Board of Health needs to vote to terminate the Contract for Health Officer Services, as entered between Thurston County and Lewis County, which commenced January 1, 2018 and was amended to extend to December 31, 2019. Such termination shall be effective as of November 30, 2019. Ms. Slaughter explained a Notice of Intent to Terminate the Contract, dated August 23, 2019, was sent to Lewis County by Thurston County, pursuant to Section 11 of the Contract. The letter provided 90 days calendar notice of termination as required by Section 11 of the Contract. Within 45 days after the termination effective date, Thurston County shall issue a Final Contract Billing to Lewis County. Vice Chair Menser moved to terminate the Lewis County Contract for Health Officer Services effective November 30, 2019 and sign the Termination of Contract. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

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

Commissioner Edwards reported on:

- clean water
- biosolids

Vice Chair Menser reported on:

- Opioid Task Force
- Behavioral Health Organization – Leadership Council August meeting

Chair Hutchings reported on:

- biosolids
- Behavioral Health Organization

9) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood provided a report on:

Immunization Program – provided an update on the immunization clinics held last month and noted there will be another clinic on September 21st at the Kaiser Permanente Olympia Medical Center on Lilly Road.

Commissioner Edwards thanked Dr. Wood for her years of service with Thurston County and wished her well in her new endeavors as she leaves the County at the end of November. Dr. Wood thanked the Board for their support and stated it has been an honor.

10) Director's Report

Schelli Slaughter reported on the following:


- Emergency Preparedness - September is National Preparedness Month which was recognized at the Board of County Commissioners meeting with a Proclamation; she recommended families and the community prepare for natural disasters and local emergencies by putting together a disaster kit; Family Disaster Preparedness information can be found at <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/preparedness/familydisaster.html>

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: November 5, 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.