



## 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 December 10, 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; Liz Davis, Child, Family and Community Wellness Division Director; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

**Excused absence:** Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Department Director

**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 October 8, 2019 and November 5, 2019 meeting minutes. Chair Hutchings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

#### 2) Proclamations

**Proclamation – HIV and AIDS Awareness Month**

Patrick Judkins, Education and Outreach Specialist with the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Syringe Services Program (SSP), introduced the Proclamation and spoke on behalf of HIV and AIDS Awareness. He then introduced Erick Seelbach, Executive Director of the Pierce County Aids Foundation, present in support of the issue and to accept the Proclamation. Vice Chair Menser read the Proclamation proclaiming December as HIV and AIDS Awareness Month in Thurston County, and urged all citizens to learn more about HIV and AIDS, to get tested as part of routine healthcare, take steps to prevent getting or transmitting HIV and AIDS, and to work to reduce the negative impacts of stigma in our community; noting we can all help end HIV and AIDS stigma through our words and actions in our everyday lives. A photo was taken with the Board members and all present in support of the Proclamation. The Board thanked everyone present for their support of this important issue.

**Proclamation – Impaired Driving Prevention Month**

Liz Davis, Child, Family and Community Wellness Division Director, introduced and spoke in support of the prevention of impaired driving. December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month highlighting the consequences of impaired driving and reminds all drivers that like drunk driving, drugged driving is impaired driving. Alcohol related crashes nationwide accounted for 29 percent of all traffic fatalities last year but are “100 percent preventable”. Ms. Davis then introduced Jesse Knudson, a Community Engagement Specialist with the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and their

Target Zero Program Manager, present to accept the Proclamation and speak in support of impaired driving prevention. Ms. Knudson explained combating impaired driving is top priority state wide and in Thurston County. She stated the Target Zero Task Force will be kicking off 2020 with Holiday DUI High Visible Enforcement Patrols. Ms. Knudson explained these patrols involve county wide cooperation with law enforcement agencies and are made possible by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Washington State Patrol, Olympia Police Department, Thurston County Sheriff's Office, Tenino Police Department, Tumwater Police Department and TComm 911. She then thanked the Board for issuing this important Proclamation. The Board thanked Ms. Knudson for this program's critical work. Ms. Davis shared prevention plans to stay safe and options for those individuals, teens and adults that find themselves impaired and unable to drive safely. Vice Chair Menser noted using Intercity Transit is an affordable option at \$1.25 through the end of year and free starting in 2020; and has extended hours on the weekends. He then read the Proclamation proclaiming December as Impaired Driving Prevention Month in Thurston County and urged all residents to keep our roads safe by supporting enforcement and education efforts that raise driver understanding of the risks of impaired driving, and how to make responsible decisions that ensure the safety of all. The Board thanked everyone present for their support of Impaired Driving Prevention. A photo was taken with the Board members and all present in support of the Proclamation.

### **3) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board**

Citizen: Terry Ballard

Issue: Storm water testing by the Health Department (Public Health and Social Services Department) in regard to the Sewage Treatment Plant and Budd Inlet.

## **DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

### **4) Syringe Services Program Update**

Mary Ann O'Garro, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Senior Epidemiologist and recently appointed Supervisor to the Syringe Services Program (SSP), addressed the Board and introduced Patrick Judkins, Monica Miley and Naimat Gilal, all Education and Outreach Specialists with the SSP. Ms. O'Garro provided a background of the SSP which started as a "needle exchange" and was authorized through the Washington State Legislature in 1988 for the purpose of serving individuals who inject drugs to prevent HIV; and has operated in Thurston County since 1993 and continues to operate. She then explained Thurston County's program continues the efforts to stop the spread of HIV and Hepatitis by making sure individuals who inject drugs use a clean needle every time, but has expanded operating under the principle of "Harm Reduction" which is an acknowledgement that people use drugs; that staff use best practices and current science to offer services; and it works toward positive change, based on each person's circumstances and readiness to change. Ms. O'Garro then provided an overview of the program which includes outreach, referral, overdose prevention, case management and testing; and explained these services are also available to family and friends of people who inject drugs. She then shared the 2020 Program Focus which includes HIV testing; offering a Harm Reduction 101 training; increasing awareness of services; and conducting a program needs assessment and adjust the program as needed. Chair Hutchings noted the County is fortunate to have Ms. O'Garro and her expertise. At Vice Chair Menser's request regarding the status of syringe services in surrounding counties, Ms. O'Garro explained that although it is not as comprehensive as Thurston County's program, Mason County has a new Syringe Services Program; and spoke briefly on other surrounding county programs and services. Vice Chair

Menser noted he recently met with Mr. Gilal and learned more about the program. At Chair Hutchings request, Mr. Judkins explained the program is funded with state funding; the HIV testing is an on-site antibody screening that provides results in 20 minutes; and Harm Reduction training will be given to staff. Ms. O'Garro provided additional information regarding the program needs assessment. The Board thanked Ms. O'Garro and Mr. Judkins for the presentation. Thurston County Syringe Services program

Contact information:

(360) 490-9155

[Syringe.services@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:Syringe.services@co.thurston.wa.us)

## **5) Thurston Thrives Year in Review**

Liz Davis introduced the topic explaining Thurston Thrives is a public-private partnership designed to engage the entire community in improving public health and safety. This county-wide initiative takes a systems approach to identifying priority health outcomes and implementing cross-sector strategies to achieve these targets. Through Thurston Thrives, hundreds of community members have come together to form action teams in eight areas: Clinical and Emergency Care; Community Design; Education & Resilience which includes issues affecting children and youth; Economy; Environment; Food; Housing; and Public Safety and Justice. In 2013, the Board of Health founded Thurston Thrives. At that time partners from all over the community – more than 300 individual organizations and agencies, convened around several different action areas with the goal of improving overall community health. In December 2014, Thurston Thrives transitioned from a county-led initiative to a community-led public-private partnership when the community and the Board selected the Thurston County Chamber Foundation to serve as the backbone organization of the Thurston Thrives initiative. Ms. Davis explained Thurston Thrives continues to be overseen by a coordinating council, of which Commissioner Menser is a member, that is made up of representatives from the different Action Teams and also other cross sector representatives. She explained over the past year each of the Action Teams has been working on a variety of topics, activities and projects. She then provided a brief overview of the highlighted activities by the Partners for Children, Youth and Families Action Team chaired by Commissioner Hutchings; the Housing Action Team; the Climate and Clean energy Action Team chaired by Chris Hawkins the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships Program Manager; South Sound Food Systems Action Team; and Community Design Action Team staffed by Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Davis explained Thurston Thrives has been interwoven into the Thurston County Strategic Plan and shared the many Plan Initiatives it promotes. Ms. Davis then introduced David Schaffert, President and CEO of the Thurston County Chamber Foundation. Mr. Schaffert addressed the Board thanking them for the opportunity to share Thurston Thrives' achievements for this year. He discussed these achievements which include: naming the Thurston County Local Forum for the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA), and awarded a \$25,000 grant to conduct health equity work; partnered with Kaiser Permanente Washington to bring their Community Health Assessment process to Thurston County; partnered with Thurston County PHSS to conduct their 2019-20 Community Health Assessment Process, emphasizing a health equity lens; held the State of Hope 2019 with Dr. Chan Hellman; established a Governance Committee to update governing documents, help clarify roles and purpose, and will begin the process of creating a business operations plan within Thurston Thrives in 2020; and hired an additional staff person to provide administrative support to the Thurston Thrives Director. Mr. Schaffert conveyed, in the interest of resources, Thurston Thrives backbone organization has multiplied the county's funding investment by four with private sector dollars. He then noted Thurston Thrives has had many wonderful positive evolutions over the years but is still a work in progress and gave credit to everyone in our community that has taken on the work of the initiative. Mr. Schaffert stated he is stepping down as Chair of the Coordinating Council and welcomed

Megan Sullivan, Executive Director of Thurston TOGETHER! and Chris Wells, Executive Director of United Way of Thurston County, as the new Co-Chairs for 2020. He then invited everyone to a reception on Monday night (December 16<sup>th</sup>) from 4:00-6:00 P.M. at the Water Street Café for a celebration of the past year's accomplishments. At Chair Hutchings request, Mr. Schaffert explained of the 300 individual organizations and agencies involved in Thurston Thrives in 2013, there are 150 plus still involved. Chair Hutchings also asked what the Board can do to further the efforts of Thurston Thrives in 2020 for which Mr. Schaffert requested they have conversations with other colleagues, governments and policy makers. The Board thanked Mr. Schaffert for the presentation.

**6) Resolution H-3-2019 appointing alternate local Health Officers for the year 2020**

Liz Davis explained due to Dr. Rachel Wood's December 1, 2019 retirement as the Thurston County Health Officer, the Board of Health is being asked to consider a resolution appointing an alternate health officer(s) who is/are qualified in accordance with the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through 70.05.055 to hold the office of local health officer in Washington State for the duration of the hiring period for a new health officer for Thurston County and henceforth as backup(s) to the primary local health officer appointed by the Board of Health for Thurston County for the year 2020. Ms. Davis shared an Interim Health Officer Coverage Plan based on the conditions as follows:

CONDITION	HEALTH OFFICER
Tuberculosis	Dr. Chris Spitters, Seattle/King County
Communicable Diseases (i.e. measles, foodborne, etc.), Bloodborne Pathogens, Bio Terror; Standing Orders for Naloxone	Dr. Kathy Lofy, WA Department of Health
Environmental Health; Health Officer Legal Orders ( <u>non-TB</u> , i.e. Substantial Exposure, School exclusions, etc.)	Dr. Alan Melnick, Clark County
Vital Records, Signing of Documents requiring Health Officer Review, In-person assistance, and other Miscellaneous Issues	Dr. Dan Stein, Mason County

**Vice Chair Menser moved to adopt Resolution H-3-2019 appointing an alternate health officer(s) who is/are qualified in accordance with the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through 70.05.055 to hold the office of local health officer in Washington State for the duration of the hiring period for a new health officer for Thurston County and henceforth as backup(s) to the primary local health officer appointed by the Board of Health for Thurston County for the year 2020. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.**

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

**Commissioner Edwards reported on:**

- Puget Sound Water Quality, Deschutes drainage - interaction with Department of Ecology

**Vice Chair Menser reported on:**

- Trauma Informed training by Clark County Corrections
- Meeting with Public Health and Social Services staff and John Graham, Regional Health Director of Health and Human Services on local health priorities
- Attended the Regional Economic Development Council (EDC) Expo with Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director on rural health care

- Attended Dr. Rachel Wood's retirement celebration

**Chair Hutchings reported on:**

- Partners for Children, Youth, and Families Thurston Thrives Action Team meeting
- Board of Health Roles and Responsibilities session at Spokane Conference
- Working with Dr. Timothy Stokes, of South Puget Sound Community College, to present the *Modern Warrior Live* performance in March or April of 2020

## **8) Health Officer's Report**

On behalf of Schelli Slaughter, Liz Davis reported on:

- Investigation and Control of Disease Division staff investigated and followed up 108 confirmed and suspect cases of infectious diseases.
- As of November 22, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has received reports of about 2,300 cases of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 U.S. territories with 47 deaths confirmed in 25 states and the District of Columbia; Washington State has had 18 cases of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury with no reported deaths.
- Clark County is investigating a new travel associated measles case that came through the Portland airport last week. Measles cases continue across the U.S. with 31 states reporting about 1,300 cases through November 7, 2019.

## **9) Director's Report**


On behalf of Schelli Slaughter, Liz Davis reported on:

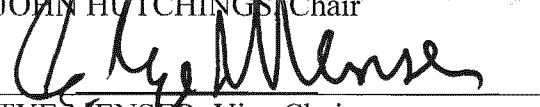
- PHSS reached over 250 youth at the Latinx Youth Summit at St. Martin's University on November 22, 2019; topics included education about vaping, marijuana, healthy behaviors and suicide prevention.
- All nurses on the Maternal Child Health team have been receiving additional Infant Mental Health training on topics such as perinatal mood disorders and medication management.
- On Friday November 22, 2019 the Washington Department of Health (DOH) closed Budd inlet to all shellfish harvesting due to elevated Diarrhetic Shellfish Poison (DSP). DSP causes nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Diarrhea is the most commonly reported symptom. Cooking doesn't destroy the DSP toxin. Shellfish samples had toxin levels of 136 micrograms (ug)/100 grams of shellfish tissue. The advisory limit is 16 ug/100 grams. The public is advised to always call 1-800-562-5632 or visit DOH Shellfish Beach Closures for the status of recreational beaches before harvesting shellfish. Thurston County publicized the closure on their web sites and social media; and with a news release. The Parks Department staff posted beaches at Burfoot Park to warn beach visitors.
- Syringe Services staff have collected 1,349,996 syringes for disposal through the 14th of November; 19% were for disposal only.
- The Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention Division's (OHHP) – the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), a Federally funded program, provides grants to states and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or for providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. Every year the U.S.

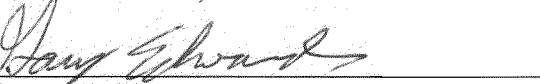
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) ranks county performance in comparison to other jurisdictions in their state. This year Thurston County's HOME Program led by Tom Webster, the OHHP Program Manager, when compared to six other entitled jurisdictions in Washington was ranked #1. In addition, HUD ranked Washington State #1 when compared to all other states, making Thurston County's HOME program #1 in the country. As requested by Vice Chair Menser, Ms. Davis will provide information on the what the counties are judged on. The Board congratulated the HOME program and Mr. Webster.

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

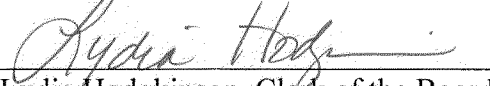
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Thurston County, Washington**

  
JOHN HUTCHINGS, Chair

  
TYNE MENSER, Vice Chair

  
GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: January 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.