



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 January 8, 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; 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 approve the meeting minutes from the November 27, 2018 Public Hearing, December 11, 2018 Regular meeting, and December 14, 2018 Special meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commissioners Hutchings and Commissioner Edwards voted unanimously. Commissioner Menser abstained. The motion carried.

2) Proclamations and Presentations

Election of Board of Health Officers for 2019

Commissioner Menser moved to nominate Commissioner Hutchings as Chair and Commissioner Menser as Vice-Chair for the 2019 Board of Health. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

Proclamation – January National Blood Donor Month

Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department Director, introduced the January National Blood Donor Month Proclamation and spoke on behalf of the importance of donating blood. Thurston County Branch of Bloodworks NW representatives, James Moore, Center Supervisor; Brandi Green, Volunteer Services Coordinator; and Lynett Manning, Donor Resources Representative, were present to accept the Proclamation. Vice Chair Menser read the proclamation proclaiming January as National Blood Donor Month to increase public understanding of the importance of blood donation and to urge citizens of our community to donate towards this lifesaving cause. Commissioner Edwards shared he is a blood donor and thanked Bloodworks NW for the service they provided to the citizens of our community. At Vice Chair Menser's request, Mr. Moore discussed the Bloodworks NW's staffing levels. At Ms. Slaughter's request, Mr. Moore explained the process of donating blood. Ms. Manning invited anyone interested in donating to visit www.bloodworksnw.org for general information and to find out where mobile blood donation units will be operating.

Bloodworks NW location and contact information is as follows:

Address: 1220 Eastside Street SE, Olympia WA 98501

Phone: (360) 596-3950

Email: www.bloodworksnw.org

A picture was taken of the Board members and all present in support of National Blood Donor Month. The Board thanked everyone for their attendance and commitment to our community.

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

4) Consent Item “a”

Motion: Vice Chair Menser moved to approve work Session notes from October 30, November 6, December 4, and December 11, 2018. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Chair Hutchings and Commissioner Edwards voted unanimously. Vice Chair Menser abstained. The motion carried.

- a) **Description:** Acceptance of Work Session notes from October 30, November 6, December 4, and December 11, 2018

Contact: Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk

Action: Move to accept work session notes from October 30, November 6, December 4, and December 11, 2018.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

5) 2019 Public Health and Social Services Legislative Priorities

Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, Co-Chair of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) Legislative Committee, and a member of the Environmental Health Director Legislative Committee introduced the topic. Mr. Starry noted each year the state legislature considers many public health and social services bills, and budget matters; and asks PHSS staff for the county’s position on legislative issues and for assistance preparing for and responding to legislative requests. He then provided a brief overview and discussion referencing informational handouts on the 2019 legislative priorities for WSALPHO, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), the Association of County Human Service (ACHS), and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA). Mr. Starry explained for PHSS, the County, and WSALPHO the top priority is funding for foundational Public Health Services (FPHS). He noted there are many mandated services that are not funded, which FPHS funding would assist with, such as responding to situations like the recent Ricin incident at Providence St. Peter’s hospital and the contaminated water at Summit Lake in recent past. Mr. Starry shared several other 2019 legislative priorities for WSALPHO, WSAC, ACHS and WLIHA such as adequate funding for trial court public defense, fish passage barrier removal, affordable and supportive housing, and more. At Vice Chair Menser’s request, Mr. Starry noted although not listed on the presented handouts, affordable housing is a priority of WSALPHO. He then explained, although staff provide county information and data as requested by the legislature and state agencies, approval is needed before staff may testify or prepare materials that represent the position of the County. Mr. Starry clarified staff will notify the County Manager and will request permission before representing the County on legislative issues. In regards to recent information presented by the Master Builders Association, Commissioner Edwards questioned the permit and inspection costs of new housing being at 25% and

questioned if there is any potential input the Board may provide to reduce these costs and what the impact would be on affordable housing. Mr. Starry did not have background information on this percentage, but stated he will research the information and provide the results to the Board along with possible input the Board could provide. Vice Chair Hutchings noted although lobbyists speaking to the legislature is effective, it is more effective to have the voices of local elected officials and citizens presented. The County Manager Ramiro Chavez clarified the 25% cost of fees is not limited to county permit and inspection fees, it includes impact fees such as schools, fire districts, etc. He noted additional information will be compiled and provided to the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Starry.

6) Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention

Tom Webster, Social Services Program Specialist II with the PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention (OHHP) Division, introduced the topic. OHHP provides funding for a wide variety of activities including the acquisition, rehabilitation and development of affordable housing for low income households; and the provision of funding for homeless housing and services throughout the county. Mr. Webster provided a follow-up to the discussion during the previous agenda item about the affordable housing issue. He stated the Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team Incentivized Housing subcommittee is working with the Master Builders Association on a Housing Affordability Model and described the model. He then gave a presentation providing an overview of OHHP's upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) Process, explained the funding and funding sources; explained the contract process, periods of performance and funding allocations; and noted the request for final approval of the RFP will be brought back to the Board at the end of January. At Commissioner Edwards' request, Mr. Webster discussed the total funding available for the RFP which has increased from 2018 to 2019. Chair Hutchings requested clarification of the upcoming United Way's strategy change, for which Mr. Webster explained their funding will continue for one more year at which point they will no longer contribute funding to the program. He then introduced the County's new Affordable Housing and Homeless Coordinator, Keylee Marineau. Ms. Marineau addressed the Board providing her background which includes working with Community Youth Services and many years working as a homeless advocate. She then provided an update on the progress addressing homelessness since the Board declared homelessness a public health crisis in Thurston County in June, 2018 with Resolution H-2-2018. As related to the Board's direction in the resolution, Ms. Marineau shared the following actions being taken to address practices and conditions that cause a threat to the public's health, and the safety and welfare of our community: 1) she has reached out to the City of Olympia to assist in the 2019 Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Census scheduled for January 24th and she is coordinating with them and other partners to address homelessness in downtown Olympia and in outlying areas; 2) is working with partners to set up a Hepatitis A vaccine program to the homeless; and 3) a Hazardous Weather Task Force has been convened and has drafted a "Cold Blue" cold weather shelter plan. Ms. Marineau discussed a recent "Code Blue" event and shared the successes and challenges of the event. Additional actions being taken include: 4) her recent hire completes the Board's direction for PHSS to hire an Affordable Housing and Homeless Coordinator; and 5) efforts are being made to address the underlying causes of homelessness, including health equity concerns and solutions to reduce racial, gender and ethnic disparities within the population of persons experiencing homelessness by the Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team (HAT). Ms. Marineau provided additional information about the annual Homeless Census which is part of a nationwide "Point in Time" (PIT) Count of Homeless People. During the census all shelter and transitional housing providers will count people staying with them on the night of the count; volunteers will fan out across the County to find unsheltered homeless residents; and homeless guides will also go into homeless camps to survey residents. She then discussed other activities that will be happening during the event on January 24th which include street outreach; and outreach to

regular community meals, food banks, and other places that offer survival commodities. Discussion ensued regarding the 2018 Point-In-Time Count results and the 2019 event. The Board thanked Mr. Webster and Ms. Marineau.

7) Thurston Thrives Update – Social Determinants of Health

Liz Davis, Child, Family and Community Wellness Division Director, explained that at each Board of Health meeting an update is given on Thurston Thrives initiative work. She then provided information on the Social Determinants of Health which are conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. Ms. Davis then discussed 1) Economic Stability - poverty, employment, food insecurity, and housing instability; 2) Education - high school graduation, enrollment in higher education, language and literacy, and early childhood education and development; 3) Health and Health Care – access to health care and primary care, and health literacy; 4) Neighborhood and Built Environment – access to foods that support healthy eating patterns, quality of housing, crime and violence, and environmental conditions; and 5) Social and Community Context – social cohesion, civic participation, discrimination, and incarceration. Ms. Davis then discussed *Healthy People 2020* which is the federal government's prevention agenda for building a healthier nation and shared their goal to create social and physical environments that promote good health for all. She then discussed what is being done locally to reach this goal which includes work being done by Thurston Thrives Action Teams, HOPE Thurston, and Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA) – Regional Health Improvement Plan. Ms. Davis then noted as a result of all of the work completed by these partners Thurston County's Health Ranking was raised from 14th to 6th in five years. The Board thanked Ms. Davis for the presentation.

8) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Commissioner Edwards:

- Water quality issues
- Biosolids on Nisqually River

9) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on:

- Provided an update on vaccine preventable illnesses in our community:
 - Measles – the current outbreak is the worst since the 1990's; shared confirmed cases in Washington, noting there are no confirmed cases in Thurston County at this time; recommends everyone be vaccinated; vaccines may be obtained from an individual's provider or at a pharmacy.
 - Influenza – monitoring of flu cases in the community continues; discussed medications for those who catch the flu; she has been having informal meetings with Mason and Lewis County partners to discuss flu like symptoms, prevention of flu by vaccinating, masking of unvaccinated medical field workers to prevent spreading of the virus; and briefly discussed XOFLUZA a new one-dose prescription flu medication.
- Ricin Incident - Discussed briefly the incident of a substance which tested positive for Ricin at Providence St. Peters Hospital on January 2nd.

10) Director's Report

Schelli Slaughter reported on the following:

- Expressed her appreciation of all internal and external partners who responded to the Ricin incident.
- Substance Use Prevention – the public service message “Vaping – not as harmless as you think” continues to be displayed on Mason and Thurston County transit buses as part of regional effort to reduce youth initiation of tobacco and vaping use; drug-free, tobacco/vaping, and weapons-free signage was distributed to public school campuses around the county as part of youth marijuana prevention efforts; she discussed a legislative priority *Tobacco 21*, another attempt to raise the minimum legal age for tobacco sales from 18 – 21 years of age.
- Treatment Sales Tax (TST) - staff have launched a recruitment and application process to fill upcoming vacancies on the TST Advisory Committee; for anyone interested an application is available on the TST website at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/tstdocuments/TST%20AC%20Application%20and%20Overview.pdf>
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program - served 375 families and delivered 4022 home visits during 2018; the program continues to have a large number of referrals and wait lists for both Thurston and Mason counties; the program also serves Lewis County; discussed another legislative priority to increase home visiting dollars to promote a universal home visiting program.
- Special Recreation program – provided highlights from the Winter Brochure which included a trip to the Olympia Symphony, Pierce College Planetarium and the Tacoma Art Museum; thanks to a generous donation from the PARC Foundation, the fee for care providers was waived; for additional information and participation go to <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ssdd/specializedrecreation.html>
- Syringe Services Program - staff collected 1,377,901 syringes for disposal through December 20, 2018; 12% of the total syringes collected were for disposal only meaning the Program is taking in more syringes for disposal than they are distributing; dispensed 1381 doses of the lifesaving drug Naloxone through December 20, 2018.
- Opioid Response Task Force – the normal meeting day is the first Monday of each month; this month's meeting has been moved to January 14th to allow Snohomish County to provide a presentation on their efforts in addressing the opioid crisis in their county; more information to come on Thurston County's efforts in developing a Response Plan at the Board's direction.
- Vital Records –279 birth certificates and 863 death certificates were issued in December 2018; a modernization proposed to the legislature is to improve security for those served and fund increased costs; certificates are issued at PHSS at 412 Lilly Road NE, Olympia.

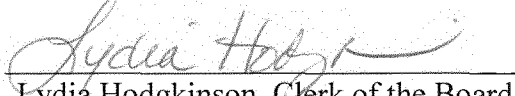
At Vice Chair Menser's request, Ms. Slaughter explained the Opioid Response Task Force meetings are open meetings; the Task Force is co-chaired by herself and Prosecuting Attorney Jon Tunheim; the team includes multiple representatives from law enforcement, health care, public health, many nonprofits, and various elected officials; there have been up to 50 people attend each month providing input and helping to develop a response plan; the next meeting is January 14th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at PHSS located at 412 Lilly Road NE, Olympia.

- 11) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Menser moved to adjourn the meeting of January 8, 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


TYE MENSER, Vice Chair

Date: March 12, 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.