



## **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 March 12, 2019**

#### **1) Call Meeting to Order**

**Chair John Hutchings called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.**

##### **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; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer, joined the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

##### **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 January 8, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

#### **2) Proclamations and Presentations**

##### **Proclamation – National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

Jennifer Popchockhakim introduced the proclamation. She then introduced Jonathan Pleger, President/CEO of Morningside; Savannah Bray of People First; and Heather Harper, Office Assistant with the Office of the Governor. Ms. Harper addressed the Board sharing her duties as an Office Assistant with the Office of the Governor. Ms. Bray spoke on behalf of the proclamation and shared information about People First. Mr. Pleger addressed the Board providing a background and information about Morningside. Vice Chair Menser read the proclamation proclaiming March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Thurston County and called upon all citizens, communities, state agencies, elected leaders, to increase public awareness of the needs and the potential of individuals with developmental disabilities and to recognize that persons with developmental disabilities are vital and vibrant members of our communities. Commissioner Edwards shared additional background for Morningside. Shawna Harper, Senior Program Manager with Morningside, spoke on behalf of the proclamation. A photo was taken of the Board members and all present in support of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Board thanked everyone for their attendance, sharing of their stories and information in support of individuals with developmental disabilities.

##### **Proclamation – National Brain Injury Awareness Month**

Mark Moffett, Community Program Manager with the Public Health and Social Services Department Veterans Program, introduced the proclamation. He then commented on the effects of Traumatic Brain

Injuries (TBI) for those under his command as a military commander in Iraq; he discussed the changes in military discharge due to TBIs since 2001; and discussed the risks and preventative measures for TBIs. Vice Chair Menser read the proclamation proclaiming March as Brain Injury Awareness Month in Thurston County and called upon all citizens to work together to raise awareness of how to prevent traumatic brain injuries and to reinforce the importance of quality rehabilitation and educational programs for traumatic brain injury survivors. A photo was taken of the Board members and Mr. Moffett in support of National Brain Injury Awareness Month. The Board thanked Mr. Moffett for sharing his experiences and speaking on behalf of the prevention of traumatic brain injuries.

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

**Citizen:** DeWayne Enyeart, M.D.

**Issue:** Traumatic Brain Injury

Dr. Enyeart shared his grandson's traumatic brain injury experience at a local school, symptoms and consequences.

### **4) Consent Items "a" through "b"**

**Motion:** Vice Chair Menser moved to approve consent items "a" and "b". Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

- a) **Description:** Acceptance of Work Session notes from January 3, January 8, January 9, February 5, and February 6, 2019.

**Contact:** Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk

**Action:** Move to accept work session notes from January 3, January 8, January 9, February 5, and February 6, 2019.

- b) **Description:** Approval of a Washington State Department of Health Memorandum of Understanding – Group B Water System Program

**Contact:** Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director

**Action:** Move to approve the Washington State Department of Health Memorandum of Understanding authorizing Thurston County to administer a Group B Public Drinking Water Program.

## **DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

### **5) Thurston County Local Impact Network – Oral Health Project**

Chair Hutchings introduced the topic explaining February 2019 was National Children's Dental Health Month. Vice Chair Menser read a Thurston County Board of Health Proclamation proclaiming February/March as National Children's Dental Health Month in Thurston County, in recognition of the importance of the awareness of oral health, and urging all residents to recognize the critical importance of how oral health affects overall health. Lesley Price, Public Health Nutritionist for the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS), thanked the Board for acknowledging National Children's Dental Health Month. She explained a Thurston County Oral Health Project was started in 2018 with funding from ARCORA - The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington in the amount of \$72,145 for the duration of December 2018 – December 2019. The Local Impact Network (LIN) Oral Health Project was created by CHOICE Regional Health Network (CHOICE) in partnership with and funding from

ARCORA. The LIN aims to reduce oral health disparities in Thurston County by increasing access to services that improve health outcomes. This work aligns with the Thurston Thrives Clinical Care Action Team's strategy - increasing access to critical care. The LIN focuses on 7 strategies, each being led by a local County organization of which 3 were present to speak on the topic: ARCORA, CHOICE, and the Olympia Union Gospel Mission. Ms. Price explained Thurston County is lead on two of the strategies which are the School Based Dental Sealant Program and Community Education which includes oral health, the importance of oral health on overall health, and nutrition. Ms. Price provided additional information about the Sealant program and explained what sealants are. She then invited project partners to speak on their involvement in the oral health project. Karen Lewis, Senior Program Officer with ARCORA shared their mission and other projects across the state. Jennifer Brackeen, CHOICE Program Director shared CHOICE's project involvement, referral services, and noted CHOICE is the Administrative support for the LIN. She also acknowledged CHOICE's Caroline Sedano, the Maternal and Child Health & Oral Health Program Manager, who was unable to attend; and Katrin Palmer, Program Coordinator who was present at the meeting. Skip Steffen, Olympia Union Gospel Mission (OUGM) Executive Director, shared the free dental care services OUGM provides, and their goal for this project. He acknowledge Shelley Case, OUGM Dental Clinic Manager, present at the meeting. Commissioner Edwards shared his constant commitment to investing in our youth which are 30% of our population but 100% of our future. The Board thanked all those involved in the project for their commitment to our youth and community. Proclamations were distributed and a photograph was taken of the Board Members and all present in support of oral health in our community.

**6) Nurse Family Partnership Program – Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Certification; Governor Inslee's Budget Proposal for Home Visiting**

Gretchen Thaller, Program Manager of the PHSS Maternal & Child Health and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Programs, addressed the Board acknowledging the NFP program community health nurses' recent completion of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Certification. She explained infant mental health helps to guide development of healthy social and emotional behaviors of infants and children from birth to 3 years in recognizing key ways to prevent and treat mental health problems for young children and their families. Ms. Thaller explained nine PHSS nurses have received Infant Mental Health endorsements which are intended to recognize experiences that lead to competency in the infant-family field. It does not replace licensure, certification, or credentialing, but instead is meant as an "overlay" to these. Ms. Thaller provided additional information about the certification process, the endorsement, the application process and grant funding that started in 2016. She then acknowledged nurses – Amy (Longmire), Bonnie (Peterson), Cathy (Sherman), Fumie (Sonia Nakasone), Lori (Montoya), Lindsey (Sund), Laura (Coppock), and Sandy (Coopridr). At Liz Davis's, Child, Family & Community Wellness Division Director, request Ms. Thaller noted Thurston County has the most number of endorsed nurses in the State. Her goal for the coming year is to have nurses who were hired early last year (2018) start working towards endorsement also. The Board thanked and congratulated Ms. Thaller and the nurses. Ms. Thaller briefly discussed potential additional funding this year that if received would expand the program further. Ms. Davis spoke briefly on the potential of funding for Universal Home Visiting State. She then discussed the state wide Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) assessment completed by kindergarten teachers to determine what each child's skills and strengths are at the beginning of the school year to helps teachers and parents work together to support student growth. Ms. Davis then discussed the six domains of assessment. The Thurston Thrives' Children, Youth, and Families Action Team has identified kindergarten readiness as the #1 measure for kids in our county. She noted, unfortunately the assessment has shown less than 50% of the Thurston County children assessed

are ready to learn by the time they enter Kindergarten. Ms. Davis noted we can do better and the NFP program is proven to be able to improve this percentage. She then shared that Cathy Sherman, an NFP program nurse, and one of her clients and her client's daughter, were featured on King 5 News. Ms. Davis then discussed Governor Inslee's proposal to increase funding for home visiting in our State which would fund Universal Home Visiting. This program would provide all newborns with voluntary home visits by a nurse and universal newborn screening, among other programs. She then thanked Ms. Sherman and Ms. Thaller for show casing the NFP client and daughter promoting the importance of early interventions. Vice Chair Menser requested the County Manager, Ramiro Chavez, add the Governors' bill to the list of legislation impacting our county. The Board thanked Ms. Davis.

**7) Adopt Resolution H-1-2019 urging the Legislature to Support Local Public Health Services**

Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, also a representative of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), addressed the Board asking them to adopt a Resolution urging the Washington State Legislature to recognize that public health is essential and to provide critical funding to support local public health. Mr. Starry explained after a century of increasing life expectancies, today these gains are threatened by new and more complex diseases, putting today's children at risk of becoming the first generation to have shorter life expectancies than their parents. Public health officials, together with local leaders, have identified and agreed upon a set of core public health services that should be available for every Thurston County resident which include control of communicable disease, preventing environmental health hazards, preventing chronic disease and injury, helping children be as healthy as possible, and improving access to medical, dental and behavioral health care. Mr. Starry explained over the last four years public health leaders and community partners developed a plan to modernize the state's public health system, ensuring core services are available everywhere - Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS). He then noted as a result of FPHS, funding provided by the state legislature, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) has invested in expanding capacity to respond to disease outbreaks and protect children from preventable illnesses. Thurston County's increasing population growth, and the expectation it will grow further, creates an increasing need and demand for core public health services. Thurston County is home to the state capital and numerous state agencies creating a unique risk if governmental public health systems fail due to natural or man-made health emergencies. Mr. Starry discussed the challenges and costs experienced by PHSS in response to the recent measles outbreak in Clark County and what the impact would be if there was the need to responds to a simultaneous emergency. He then provided additional information regarding FPHS. Mr. Starry then noted House Bill B1497 is a policy piece associated with Resolution H-1-2019 and noted this promotion is the #1 priority for WSALPHO and WASC. He then explained this resolution supports and helps implement the Thurston County Strategic Plan Initiatives: Improve health outcomes for all; Improve community health, wellness, and safety; Strengthen emergency management planning and community disaster preparedness; and Support environmental health. The Board thanked Mr. Starry for his hard work and commitment. **Vice Chair Menser moved to approve Board of Health Resolution H-1-2019 urging the Washington State Legislature to recognize that public health is essential and to provide the crucial \$100 million in funding needed for the 2019-2021 biennium and beyond to support core services in all communities and allow public health to rebuild its statewide system with added efficiency. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.**

## **8) Food & Environmental Services Section Overview**

Sammy Berg, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Food & Environmental Services Section (FESS) Supervisor, provided an overview of the varied services in which the Food & Environmental Services Section staff work to promote the health of Thurston County. These services include: inspecting restaurants, schools, and pools; responding to complaints and illnesses related to those types of facilities; investigating animal exposures for rabies and other zoonotic diseases like West Nile Virus; and a new effort concerning elevated blood lead levels in children. Mr. Berg noted there are over 1,000 food establishments inspected and another 400 plus temporary food events looked at each year. He explained inspection time frames; risk categories; levels of risk; risk factors; most frequent inspection violations which are cold holding and hand washing; shared potential fees for a medium sized, medium risk restaurant; and explained fees for staffing are collected through annual permit fees. He explained most problems noted are fixed before the inspector leaves the facility; and training and reinforcement by managers/owners is key to their success. Mr. Berg then shared there are approximately 100 pool and spas inspected each year, of which most are private such as hotels and apartment complexes. He noted high turn-over of maintenance staff results in under-trained/inexperienced staff with poorly managed pools; sanitizing levels keep pools safe, but too much sanitizer such as chlorine can also be harmful; explained fees for staffing are collected through annual permit fees and explained the Certified Pool Operator voluntary program reduces operation fees by about 50%. Mr. Berg then discussed the inspection program for approximate 100 Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools, both public and private schools. There are two kitchen inspections per year; dedicated and experienced staff result in few violations; there is one full facility safety inspection of each school per year which includes playgrounds, chemistry labs, workshops, and classrooms; inspections are a “fee for service” based on the average inspection time spent for each type of school and student population. Mr. Berg noted schools are willing participants in these inspections which creates a partnership to protect our children. He then discussed investigation of exposures to bats and other animals for exposures to rabies, West Nile Virus, ticks, etc. He explained the rabies risk in our State is through exposure with bats – recommends keep bats out of homes; and keep pets vaccinated, especially cats, to create a barrier to exposure between bats and our families. He noted bats are the only animal that carries rabies in our County or State. If a bat is found in a house, Mr. Berg recommends calling PHSS at (360) 867-2568 or if after hours call 9-1-1, before releasing the bat. He acknowledged support from Joint Animal Services staff. Mr. Berg explained this type of investigation is not covered by fees, but by Foundational Public Health funds. He then discussed a new County Pilot project funded by the Washington State Department of Health for investigation of elevated blood lead in children. He explained lead can cause developmental delay or impairment in young children, especially toddlers. Mr. Berg shared FESS staffing levels which consists of 1.5 program assistants; 5 inspectors; 1 plan reviewer; and 1 educator. FESS’s 2019 goal is to perform inspections digitally to post restaurant inspection scores. He then addressed the Board Members’ questions providing additional information about catching a bat; rabies testing; and lead in schools testing. The Board thanked Sammy for the presentation.

## **9) Board of Health Members’ Health Related Activities**

Commissioner Edwards:

- Water quality issues
- Biosolids on Nisqually River

Vice Chair Menser:

- Attended the Opioid Task Force meeting last week
- Participated in an NFP home visit with Cathy Sherman on March 11<sup>th</sup>

Chair Hutchings:

- Received influenza vaccination and a shingle vaccination

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

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on:

- Provided an update on infectious diseases in our community:
  - Measles –shared confirmed cases in Washington, noting there are no confirmed cases in Thurston County at this time; gave update on Clark County measles outbreak.
  - Influenza – monitoring of flu cases in the community continues; discussed statistics of cases and deaths from influenza.

Dr. Wood addressed Chair Hutchings question on the impact of immigrants in our community regarding communicable diseases and vaccinations; explaining anyone may go to the Olympia Union Gospel Free Clinic for vaccinations.

## **11) Director's Report**

Schelli Slaughter reported on the following:

- Acknowledge PHSS staff and all of our community partners that work together to improve the health and well-being of our community.
- Thanked the FESS staff for their round the clock work.
- Hazardous and Solid Waste Program:
  - Mercury Spill at local Middle School Ends Well – spill reported on February 27<sup>th</sup> to PHSS Environmental Health staff; the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thoroughly cleaned up the mercury residue and determined the classroom was safe for re-occupancy; thanks to partnerships with state and federal departments, the school received the assistance they needed, and in less than 24 hours the students were able to return to a safe classroom.
  - Transformer Leak at Old Brewery - Environmental Health Division staff investigated a transformer oil spill at the old Olympia Brewery which happened on Tuesday, February 26; acknowledged the successful partnership with the City of Tumwater and the Department of Ecology.
- Developmental Disabilities:
  - Held a successful High School Transition Fair on March 6<sup>th</sup>; a new Resource Guide has been created which was distributed to the Board Members.
- Special Recreation:
  - Received a \$5,224 donation from the PARC Foundation; these funds were the result of a grant from the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound for Specialized Recreation attendant fees and scholarships in 2019.
- Veterans' Assistance Program (VAP):
  - Acknowledged Mark Moffett, Community Program Manager for the Veterans' Assistance Program.
  - The VAP worked with 25 veterans on financial assistance related issues last month.
- Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention - Hazardous Weather Task Force:
  - Due to hazardous cold weather a Cold Blue was declared for 12 days; shared information for the successful event and the lives that were saved; acknowledged the many partnerships and outcomes; program supported by Housing Funds.

- Request for proposals for several programs have been released: Community Investment Partnership Programs, and several Housing Programs; proposals are due April 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to submit a proposal please visit: <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/>
- Treatment Sales Tax (TST) Programs:
  - Request for proposals have been released; proposals are due April 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to submit a proposal please visit: <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/>
- Syringe Services Program (SSP):
  - Collected 282,336 syringes for disposal through February 28<sup>th</sup>; 23% of the total syringes collected are for disposal only meaning the Program is taking in more syringes for disposal than they are distributing; staff dispensed 485 doses of Naloxone in 2019 through January 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Medication Assisted Treatment Clinic, the Bupe Clinic, has opened at Capital Recovery Center the same location as the PHSS SSP; SSP staff refer individuals for intake into the Clinic; acknowledged the partnership.
- Vital Records:
  - For the month of February 326 birth certificates and 797 death certificates were issued.
- Thanked PHSS staff for their outstanding continuous work and congratulated the NFP nurses on their endorsement.

The Vice Chair Menser requested an update from Keylee Marineau on the Homelessness Public Health Crisis be scheduled. Ms. Slaughter noted a presentation is scheduled for the April 9<sup>th</sup> Board of Health regular meeting.

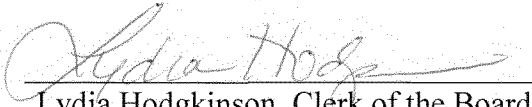
Chair Hutchings questioned if south Thurston County is included in Code Blue events. Ms. Slaughter stated yes, south County partners do participate.

**12) Adjournment** – Vice Chair Menser moved to adjourn the meeting of March 12, 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

  
TYNE MENSER, Vice Chair

Date: April 9, 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.