



## **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 11, 2018**

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

**Chair Bud Blake called the meeting to order.**

##### **In Attendance:**

Bud Blake, Chair; John Hutchings, 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:**

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

##### **Approval of the Meeting Minutes:**

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the meeting minutes from the October 9, 2018 and November 6, 2018. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

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

Michael Cade, Executive Director of the Economic Development Council, thanked Commissioner Blake for his years of service as County Commissioner for the last four years, expressing his appreciation of the positive impact he has had on the citizens of Thurston County. A photo was taken with Commissioner Blake and Mr. Cade. Commissioner Blake thanked Mr. Cade for his leadership and commended him for his dedication and service.

#### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

#### **3) Syringe Services Program Update**

Jeanie Knight, Director of the Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Disease, Control and Prevention Division, introduced John Abplanalp, Senior Epidemiologist and the Syringe Services Program (SSP) Supervisor and Patrick Judkins, SSP Education and Outreach Specialist. Both were present to provide an update on the Syringe Services Program including information about program purpose, benefits, history, operation, facts vs myths, and harm reduction theory. Mr. Abplanalp addressed the Board sharing the program's vision of success – "More People Alive and In Recovery". He discussed the benefits of the program which includes minimizing disease transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C; provides harm reduction services; provides case management and linkage to treatment; provides referral to services and supports; provides resources for opioid overdose response and Naloxone administration. He then discussed the cost benefits of the program and the high treatment costs for Hepatitis C and HIV. Mr. Abplanalp shared the history of the Syringe Services program, formerly known as the Syringe Exchange

Program. The program was authorized by the State in 1988; Thurston County's program was implemented in 1993 by the County Health Officer, Dr. Diana T. Yu, as a pilot project under her disease control and prevention authority after studying strong evidence that showed syringe exchange programs effectively reduce HIV and Hepatitis B and C infection rates and promote drug treatment. The program was authorized by the Board of Health and has continually operated since 1993. Mr. Judkins addressed the Board providing additional information on the program services: a one for one needle exchange; distribution of education and harm reduction materials; Naloxone administration training and distribution; a first point of contact for treatment; motivational interviewing and Trauma Informed Care; referral to treatment and supportive services; and safe syringe disposal of more needles than exchanged with an estimated over 150,000 needles exchanged in 2018. Mr. Judkins noted drug use or drug dealing is not allowed on-site; a mobile unit visits multiple south and east County locations one time a week for five hours; and the fixed site operates two times a week for ten hours. He then shared examples of myths-verses-facts about SSP programs in communities such as, this type of program brings more contaminated needles in the community, when in fact they actually lower the number of contaminated needles in a community. He also shared statistics supporting the program in cities across the U.S. versus cities without syringe service programs. Mr. Judkins then explained *Harm Reduction* which recognizes that every life is valuable and that substance use and addiction are complex and challenging; people who struggle with addiction need to be supported, not judged; shamed people are less likely to seek substance use treatment, medical, or mental/emotional help; and shaming and stigma around drug use can actually cause more deaths. At Vice Chair Hutchings request, Mr. Abplanalp stated the yearly disposal cost of collected needles is \$1,400. Contacts for additional information about the PHSS Syringe Services Program:

Jeanie Knight 360.867.2535, [KnightJ@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:KnightJ@co.thurston.wa.us)

John Abplanalp 360.867.2698, [abplanj@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:abplanj@co.thurston.wa.us)

Lori McWilliams 360.867.2565, [lori.mcwilliams@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:lori.mcwilliams@co.thurston.wa.us)

Patrick Judkins 360.867.2510, [judkinp@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:judkinp@co.thurston.wa.us)

#### 4) **Thurston Thrives Update – Monitoring Community Health**

Chris Hawkins, the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Program Manager, thanked Commissioner Blake for his participation and support of the Thurston Thrives Initiative and the Action Teams over the last four years. Mr. Hawkins then introduced Mary Ann O'Garro, PHSS Epidemiologist, present to provide a presentation on Monitoring Community Health. Ms. O'Garro addressed the Board commending the success of the Thurston Thrives community health initiative after five years; noting this is not always true for this type of initiative. She then discussed the approach of the Monitoring Community Health collective impact project which included meeting with the Thurston Thrives Action Teams and requesting two types of measures of progress: community health and strategy. Ms. O'Garro provided additional information on the assumptions of Community Health Measures and the Measures of Progress. She then provided and discussed Community Health Measures data snapshots for three of the Action Teams: Housing Action Team – housing stability including cost burdened housing and residential mobility; Child and Family Resilience – kindergarten readiness and high school graduation; and Economic Opportunity – low income or living in poverty and extreme poverty. Ms. O'Garro then discussed the 2019 Thurston County Community Health Assessment which is performed every five years by PHSS. She explained the purpose and components of the Assessment noting, upon completion, a data report will be available to the community. For additional information contact Mary Ann O'Garro at (360) 867-2525, [ogarrom@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:ogarrom@co.thurston.wa.us)

Ms. O'Garro thanked Commissioner Blake for his participation and support of the Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team over the last four years. Commissioner Blake thanked Ms. O'Garro.

5) **Adopt Resolution H-3-2018 appointing an alternate local Health Officer for 2019**

Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director, introduced the topic explaining each year the Board of Health formally appoints alternate health officers to serve should emergency situations arise when the primary health officer appointed by the Board of Health for Thurston County is not available due to illness, vacation, etc. In the event of the absence or incapacity of the current health officer or acting health officer, the appointment of an alternate local health officer shall occur when said alternate is appointed to act in the capacity of the local health officer for Thurston County by the following individuals in the following order: (1) the primary local health officer for Thurston County; (2) the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department; (3) the Chair of the Board of Health of Thurston County; or (4) the County Manager of Thurston County. The activation of the appointment of the alternate local health officer shall be for the length of the absence or incapacity of Dr. Rachel Wood or other primary local health officer. The Board shall be notified immediately in the event an alternate health officer is appointed. **Chair Hutchings moved to adopt Resolution H-3-2018 appointing an alternate health officer who is 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 in the absence or incapacity of Dr. Rachel Wood or other primary local health officer appointed by the Board of Health for Thurston County. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.**

6) **Approve Amendment 1 to the Lewis County Contract for Purchase of Nurse Family Partnership Health Services for 2019**

Gretchen Thaller, Program Manager for the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and Maternal Child Health Programs, introduced the request to approve amendment 1 to the Lewis County Contract for Purchase of NFP Health Services for 2019. She explained Lewis County delivers NFP home visiting services to low-income, first-time mothers living in Lewis County. Lewis does not have sufficient personnel to provide these health services and desires to continue purchasing these health services from Thurston County pursuant to RCW 70.05.150. This amendment extends the existing contract term of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019 and provides an additional amount of \$309,822.25 to the contract for 2019 NFP services. At Chair Blake's request, Ms. Thaller explained this contract funds two full time NFP nurses who work with 25 clients each. **Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve amendment No. 1 to the Lewis County Contract for the Purchase of Nurse Family Partnership 2019 Health Services for the amount of \$309,822.25; and authorize the Public Health and Social Services Director to sign the amendment. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.**

Ms. Thaller thanked the Board members for their support of the NFP programs, specifically thanking Commissioner Blake for his support over the last four years. Commissioner Blake commended Ms. Thaller and all of the NFP nurses for their commitment to the mothers and babies of our community.

He expressed his appreciation of having the opportunity to support this program and witness the positive impacts it continues to provide. Vice Chair Hutchings commented the NFP program will continue to have Board support.

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

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on:

- Expressed her appreciation of community partners who assisted in providing Hepatitis A immunizations to the homeless in our community; she thanked the Medical Reserve Corps; noted funding was provided by the PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention Division; and thanked the Providence Community Care Center.
- Influenza update – cases in our community continued to be monitored; weekly updates are received on the number of tests ordered, which are increasing, and the percentage of positive cases, which are currently less than 10%.

Commissioner Blake thanked Dr. Wood for her assistance and professional medical advice over the last four years. He expressed his appreciation of her professionalism when providing input on the way to build policies and dealing with the many issues in our community; and the many positive impacts she has made in our community. Dr. Wood thanked Commissioner Blake for his years of service and for the kind words.

## **8) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities**

Commissioner Edwards:

- Worked with other Board members and the County Manager on the County Budget which included the Public Health and Social Services Department budget.
- Water quality issues

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

Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director, thanked Commissioner Blake for his leadership as the Board of Health Chair. She expressed her appreciation of his impact on the community; how he listened and learned; his extraordinary leadership and passionate commitment for families, moms, babies and the homeless in our community; his leadership as Chair of the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization; and his commitment to the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance vision – Healthiest Counties. Commissioner Blake thanked Ms. Slaughter.

Commissioner Blake commented on his four years in the County Commissioner role expressing his appreciation of the vital role the Board of Health fills for our community and the many positive impacts it makes; he acknowledged all of the great people behind the scenes; commended Ms. Slaughter for her knowledge and leadership; commended Liz Davis for her knowledge and expertise on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE); thanked Gretchen Thaller for her work with moms and babies; and expressed his appreciation of all PHSS programs.

Commissioner Edwards expressed his appreciation of Commissioner Blake, stating he has set the course for the next Board to follow.

Commissioner Hutchings thanked Commissioner Blake for being a great mentor for the last two years.


10) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adjourn the meeting of December 11, 2018.

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

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

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BUD BLAKE, Chair

  
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JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair

  
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GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
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Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: January 8, 2019

**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.