



## 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 February 13, 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; Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer; Art Starry, Environmental Health 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:**

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

**Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes:**

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January 9, 2018 regular meeting and accept the Work Session Summary from January 9, 2018. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted. The motion carried.

#### 2) Proclamation

**Description: American Heart Health Month**

Mark Moffett, Community Program Manager for the Public Health & Social Services Department Veterans Program, addressed the Board in acceptance of the Proclamation on behalf of the recent loss of his mother due in part to cardio vascular disease. He shared his personal story and spoke in support of bringing awareness of this disease not only to our County but to our individual families. Vice Chair Hutchings read the Proclamation proclaiming February American Heart Health Month in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against heart disease, and urging all citizens to recognize the critical importance of identifying symptoms, taking preventive measures to live healthy, and incorporating tools and skills that will increase survival rates and save thousands of lives each year. The Board Members extended their condolences to Mr. Moffett and thanked him for sharing his story and accepting the Proclamation. Chair Blake acknowledged all those present wearing red in honor of American Heart Health Month promoting awareness and prevention of cardiovascular disease.

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

**Citizen:** Dennis R. Neal, NW Resources

**Issue:** Spoke on advances in services that NW resources has made working with the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO), Treatment Sales Tax (TST) dollars, the County in general and other funding sources.

## **DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

### **4) Thurston Thrives Update – Community Design and Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge**

Chris Hawkins, Program Manager with the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Program, addressed the Board to provide an update on the progress of the Community Design Action Team, our Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge (HCCC) project, and additional efforts to create an active community environment for Thurston County. He provided a background of the Action Team that focuses on developing strategies and recommendations on how best to create or re-design community environments so that they make healthy choices easier. The team is working with a variety of partners and volunteers to complete a walkshed analysis which measures the access to the trail system from nearby housing and destinations like employment to determine where new access paths, benches or signage may be needed. The study results are available on the PHSS website at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health). Mr. Hawkins reviewed the Team's Strategy Map and discussed new partnerships with the PARC Foundation, Safe Kids Thurston County and support from the Aetna Foundation, American Public Health Association and the National Association of Counties. He discussed the Team's Action Plan which will focus efforts on achieving improvements along the regional trails system as a recognized finalist in the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge. He then shared the Team's progress from 2016 – 2017 which includes Safe Routes to School and other work by local jurisdictions. Mr. Hawkins discussed the Team's 2018 Priorities around the HCCC project which has been recognized with the Spotlight Award; noted a Forum will be held in March for local practitioners working toward community walkability; and continued work in the Safe Routes to Schools efforts with new communities. Mr. Hawkins introduced Mr. Matt Sherrill the Regional Vice President of Aetna's Public and Labor Sector in Washington. Mr. Sherrill addressed the Board sharing Aetna's motto "You don't join us, we join you". On behalf of the local Aetna Foundation, together with the national American Public Health Association and the National Association of Counties, he presented Thurston County with the Spot Light Award and \$25,000 to invest in a project. He explained the award is part of the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge given to communities in recognition of their creative ways to tackle barriers to health in their communities. Mr. Sherrill noted this award was given to Thurston County for its creative partnerships created with the Thurston Thrives Initiative and the efforts to improve access to, and comfort and safety of people using our regional trails in our community and improving the health of our residents. He then thanked the Board for their efforts. Mr. Hawkins explained in 2016 the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge began with hundreds of applicants of which Thurston County was named one of 50 finalists; in 2017 the Spotlight Award opportunity was announced and was awarded to only 10 awardees out of the 50; Thurston County was the only awardee in the western part of the United States. He then shared the names of the other nine awardees. The Board expressed their appreciation of the award and thanked Mr. Sherrill. A group photo was taken.

5) **Veterans Program Overview**

Mr. Mark Moffett, Program Manager of the PHSS Veterans Program, addressed the Board introducing Ashley Strauss, newly hired Social Services Program Specialist (Veterans Assistant) with the Veterans Program. Ms. Strauss shared her professional and personal background and expressed her appreciation of being hired into the position. The Board Members welcomed Ms. Strauss and commended her and the Veterans Program for the important service they provide to our veterans. Mr. Moffett described the program services: *Assistance Fund*, *Case Management*, *Emergency Shelters* and *Partnerships*. He explained the purpose of the *Assistance Fund* is to provide for the financial relief of indigent veterans and their families in Thurston County; in 2017 \$64,300 financial hardship funds were dispersed, each veteran received \$585 towards qualified financial liabilities; new for 2018: 2-year Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Lacey and a new structure that will facilitate direct services. Mr. Moffett provided additional information about *Case Management* which is to support eligible Veterans who have mental health and/or substance use disorders and are in the custody of law enforcement or seeking treatment; in 2017 nineteen Veterans were assisted into treatment, there were zero reoffenders and a total of \$25,000 from Treatment Sales Tax was used for direct service to Veterans; a new structure will merge County Veteran services and corrects inefficiencies. He then provided additional information regarding the *Emergency Shelter services* which provides up to five beds each night for homeless Veterans between two shelters; in 2017 838 bed nights were provided, 15 Veterans were served, an average of 55 stays, a total of \$28,492 (of \$59,640) from the Veterans Assistance Fund used for direct service to homeless Veterans, five of the Veterans were assisted into permanent housing; and new for 2018: creating partnerships with shelters to maximize Veteran involvement to correct inefficiencies. Mr. Moffett then provided additional information regarding *Partnerships* which will maximize Veteran access to services within Thurston County; in 2017 a Veteran Assistance Specialist moved to the Lacey Hub for five days a week, three hours a day starting in October; provided access to housing, employment, benefits and counseling to treat the Veteran holistically; and new for 2018: the Specialist will be at the Lacey Hub fulltime beginning in February. Commissioner Edwards questioned if the program works with the Salvation Army. Mr. Moffett stated not presently but their representative attended a meeting last year and expressed interest in partnering in 2018. Vice Chair Hutch questioned if there has been an increase in Veterans seeking assistance in light of the Veterans Affairs (VA) suspending the care taker stipends. Mr. Moffett did not have information but would look into it. Chair Blake encouraged the Veterans Program Team - Mr. Moffett, Jennifer Popchokhakim, the Developmental Disabilities Program Manager, and Ms. Strauss to continue to provide these important services and thank them all for their services.

6) **Hazardous and Solid Waste Program Review**

Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, addressed the Board explaining the presentation which would be a review of work related to solid and hazardous waste. He noted this work entails more than just garbage complaints. He stated Patrick Soderberg, Hazardous and Solid Waste Program Supervisor, would present on their program and Jennifer Johnson, Education & Outreach Specialist with the CEEP Team would present on education and outreach work being done. Mr. Starry noted proper management of solid waste and hazardous materials is a core public health service and the federal, state and county codes recognize the importance of proper waste management. He then provided a presentation and shared the Program goals: Protect Public Health - Prevent spread of disease by rats, flies and mosquitos (vectors), avoid injury and exposure, clean water and air, avoid exposure to toxic materials, and protect the environment; Comply with State and County Regulations ( RCW 70.95,

Thurston County Sanitary Code Articles V and VI); permit facilities, investigate complaints, assure proper waste management and adopt local regulations; and implement Thurston County solid and hazardous waste plans.

Mr. Soderberg addressed the Board explaining the Solid and Hazardous Waste Section's purpose is to protect public health by ensuring the conditions of Thurston County's Sanitary Code and state law are upheld which entails education, permitting, enforcement, coordination, assistance and regulation. He shared information on solid waste permitted facilities in the County. Mr. Soderberg explained the solid waste program receives an average of over 200 citizen complaints each year. He then reviewed photographs of several properties where solid waste enforcement was required to have waste removed by property owners. He provided information on the pounds of waste removed between 2015 and 2018 from properties and the property owners' costs for disposal of the waste. Mr. Soderberg discussed the Hazardous Waste Business Technical Assistance Program that works closely with Department of Health and described the many industry groups the assistance is provided to ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste they discharge. He explained a Department of Ecology Local Source Control Grant funds the continued Business Technical Assistance Program, which focuses on activities that could result in spills that could potentially contaminate water ways and/or drinking water. At Vice Chair Hutchings request, Mr. Soderberg provided additional information on a photograph showing a hazardous spill that took place in the past and explained how it would be corrected currently. Dr. Rachel Wood requested acknowledgement that the safety of drinking water sources are taken into consideration when hazardous spills take place, for which Mr. Soderberg explained ground water assessments are made to protect drinking water sources and the clean-up is handled properly which are overseen by the Department of Ecology. Mr. Ramiro Chavez, County Manager, noted the same regulations apply and are enforced for County owned/managed properties. Mr. Soderberg then discussed the Used Oil Collection Program and shared locations where oil can be properly disposed of by citizens. Commissioner Edwards questioned if the refinement of the collected oil is profitable, for which Mr. Soderberg noted sometimes there is a return and sometimes there is a cost. He then discussed the placement of Marina hazardous waste collection bins at manned marinas and shared the quantity of waste collected since 2012. Mr. Soderberg acknowledged law enforcement for the "Prescription drug and unwanted medication disposal" program which has collection bins placed across the County. He noted the importance of proper disposal of medication to protect our environment, but also the importance of keeping our children safe. Discussion ensued regarding soliciting participation by the City of Olympia in this program which the Board Members feel is of high importance. Mr. Soderberg then discussed the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, for which he is the Coordinator. The IMP program evaluates pesticides for County use, develops prescriptions for homeowners and manages the County's IPM website. Additional information can be found at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm/index.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm/index.html). He then described a program where staff work with home owners for property decommissioning of home heating oil tanks. Mr. Soderberg then discussed the process of dealing with Methamphetamine labs which he noted the presence of have dropped drastically over the last 5 years. For additional information or to file a complaint please call the Solid and Hazardous Waste Section Complaint Hotline - (360) 867-2664. The Board thanked Mr. Soderberg for the presentation.

Jennifer Johnson addressed the Board noting the Community, Engagement, Evidence & Partnerships Program Team (CEEP) consists of Education and Outreach Specialists, an Epidemiologist and a Nutritionist. She explained in regards to the Solid and Hazardous Waste Program, the education and outreach purpose is to educate the community to keep household hazardous materials from affecting residents' health and out of the solid waste stream. She shared their Goals: prevent exposure, choose safer products, safe storage, proper disposal, and protect safe drinking water. Ms. Johnson then described

trainings provided in 2015 – 2017 to childcare centers, garden retailers outreach, landscape professionals and at points of purchase (retail stores). She noted the education focus is on: pesticides, cleaning products, personal care products and medicines, and automotive products. She noted education is also provided on reducing use of hazardous pesticides through point-of-purchase information and publications; retail staff training; ecoPRO trainings and technical support and gardening classes/workshops/articles. She described education they provide on safer cleaning products to facilities such as childcare centers; the Healthy Homes training and visits; “Hazards on the Homefront” presentations in schools; and Septic Workshops and outreach events that focus on families such as Lacey Fun fair. Ms. Johnson explained ways they educate safe use and disposal of personal care products and medicines such as offering trainings in middle schools and high schools, and workshops by community request; and promoting existing drop-boxes for prescription drugs and other unwanted medication. She discussed the exploration of policy or system improvements such as membership in the Northwest Product Stewardship council; existing systems such as E-Cycle for recycling electronics, LightRecycle for mercury containing lights; and for the future, paint and pharmaceuticals. She discussed education on used motor oil such as providing a presentation in school driver’s education classes and distributing used oil pamphlets at auto part stores and other point-of-purchase locations. Ms. Johnson described additional education and outreach opportunities: Thurston Home and Garden electronic newsletter; articles in local newspapers and publications; social media; and local events such as Lacey Fun Fair, Thurston County Fair, Health and Wellness Fairs and School District hosted events. She noted other related efforts such as supporting the Thurston Thrives Environment Action Team and develop systems changes with school district engagement. For additional household hazardous materials information and education call the Environmental Health Information Line at (360) 867-2674.

Mr. Starry discussed Program challenges: the different levels of public expectations and funding/resources. Commissioner Edwards expressed concern regarding the public being educated about the issue of Victoria British Columbia dumping raw untreated sewage into the Puget Sound every day. He also expressed the importance of all jurisdictions participating in the “Prescription drug and unwanted medication disposal” collection program. Vice Chair Hutchings expressed the importance, when dealing with health and social policy, of engaging all parts of the community and partners of each and every city, for participation in programs such as the pharmaceutical collection. Mr. Starry provided a brief background of the collection program. Ms. Johnson provided several education handouts for the Board and the public present. The Board thanked Ms. Johnson for the information and educating the public.

**7) Board of Health Members’ Health Related Activities – none**

**8) Director’s Report**

In Schelli Slaughters absence, Mr. Starry reported on:

- CEEP Healthy Homes Program – this program offers free, voluntary, confidential visits to residents and child care centers in Thurston County to identify areas of concern and share ways to reduce housing-related health risks. These visits are completed by a volunteer who has been training on how to identify, address and prevent housing-related health risks and provide education to residents; approximately 30 volunteers completed training in 2017; the Program now has a waiting list of volunteers to be trained.
- Environmental Health – 2017 septic system and land-use permits over the last five years have increased on an average of 13% a year and revenue has increased concurrently, staff workloads have increased as well; a recent new hire is helping to keep up with the work load.

- Point in Time Count (PIT) – PIT is the annual homeless census; the count was conducted on January 25, 2018; numbers will be coming out soon; this information provides valuable information to help with homelessness in our community.
- Foundational Public Health Services Assessment – PHSS recently completed the assessment; this assessment work will identify a full variety of public health areas such as level of expertise and the capacity to complete work in the public health field; survey results should be available later this year; these results will not only help improve our County, but will also be used by the State to evaluate what the health needs and funding are needed across the state.
- Special Recreation Program Update – this program provides individuals with special needs opportunities to participate in coordinated events; 36 clients are participating in the weekly Swim Club program; 21 people enjoyed a day trip to the Puyallup Fairgrounds to watch an AKC sponsored dog show; 19 participants took part in the quarterly game club program.
- Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program Update – January 1, 2018 the regional partnerships with Thurston, Lewis and Mason counties began; this partnership provides NFP services to Lewis and Mason residents; in 2017 the Thurston NFP program served 225 families.

#### 9) Health Officer's Report –

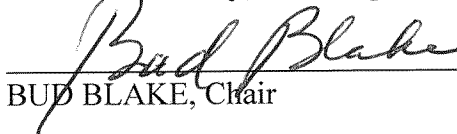
Dr. Rachel Wood reported on:

- Influenza (flu) update – on the west coast it appears influenza positive test rates and hospitalization have begun to decrease; Thurston County has had its share of influenza related deaths in elderly individuals over 65 years of age.
- Emergency Preparedness – as the Health Officer she met with representatives of the Chehalis Tribe in regards to the partnership associated with a Mutual Aid Agreement.


Chair Blake thanked Chris Hawkins for his efforts in regards to the Spotlight Award from Aetna. The Board thanked everyone for the presentations.

10) Adjournment – Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adjourn the meeting of February 13, 2018. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried.


BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

  
BUD BLAKE, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: March 13, 2018

JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair  
  
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.