



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 May 8, 2018

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair Bud Blake called the meeting to order.

In Attendance:

Bud Blake, Chair; John Hutchings, Vice Chair; Ramiro Chavez, County Manager; Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; Rachel Wood, MS, MPH, Health Officer; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Excused Absence: Gary Edwards, Commissioner

Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:

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

2) Proclamation

Description: May 6 – 12, 2018 Drinking Water Week

Art Starry, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Environmental Health Division Director, addressed the Board thanking them for their recognition of Drinking Water Week. He explained every year the first week of May is designated as Drinking Water Week which highlights a resource many Americans take for granted - clean, safe tap water. Mr. Starry noted one quarter of the world's population does not have clean, safe water to drink. He then introduced Chris Stearns, Commissioner District 3 for the Thurston Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1. Mr. Stearns also expressed his appreciation of the Board's recognition. He noted the PUD has a new location at 1230 Ruddell Rd SE in Lacey; provided a background of the PUD; and discussed the water systems managed by PUD. Vice Chair Hutchings shared information on a visit he made to China noting the only drinking water available is bottled water and expressed his sincere appreciation of our local clean water. Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer, shared her appreciation of the PUD's monitoring of Group B water supplies. Mr. Stearns noted the PUD will hold an Open House at their new location on May 31st. Vice Chair Hutchings read the proclamation proclaiming May 6-12, 2018 Drinking Water Week in Thurston County and called upon all people in Thurston County to recognize this precious resource and to help protect our source waters from pollution, to practice water conservation, to actively become involved in local water issues, and plan for its efficient use. A photograph was taken of the Board Members and all those present in support of Drinking Water Week.

Description: May 6 – 12, 2018 Nurses Week

Liz Davis, the Child, Family, and Community Wellness Division Director, introduced the Nurses Week Proclamation and spoke on behalf of all nurses. She then introduced Bonnie Peterson and Cathy Sherman, both Community Health Nurses with the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS). Ms.

Davis then presented all PHSS nurses in the audience with a book. Bonnie Peterson addressed the Board expressing her appreciation of the privilege of working as a PHSS nurse helping our community families for 38 years. She works one-on-one with children with special needs and their families in the PHSS Maternal Child Health (MCH) program. She also provided a brief explanation of the MCH and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) programs that currently consist of 13 nurses. Ms. Peterson thanked the Board for their recognition. Ms. Cathy Sherman addressed the Board and also thanked them for their recognition. She works with newly first time pregnant mothers and their infants in the NFP Program. Ms. Sherman shared information and statistics regarding the positive impacts of the NFP program services for our community. The Board members each expressed their appreciation of all nurses and the importance of their work in our community. Vice Chair Hutchings read the Proclamation proclaiming May 6 – 12, 2018 as Nurses Week in Thurston County and called upon all citizens, communities, state agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to celebrate nursing's accomplishments and efforts to improve our health care system, and show our appreciation for the nation's, and our community's, nurses not just during this week, but rather to join us in honoring the many nurses who care for all of us at every opportunity throughout the year. A photograph was taken of the Board members and all those present in support of Nurses Week.

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

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Providence Community Care Center Update

Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director, introduced the topic providing an overview of the Providence Community Care Center. The Center provides a single point of access for street-dependent individuals needing access to behavioral health, substance abuse, housing, and many other services. Working collaboratively to maximize outcomes, Providence staff and local non-profits assist in navigating complex systems to help clients access the services they need in order to break a pervasive cycle and provide the essential components for healthy living. Ms. Slaughter introduced TJ LaRocque, Program Manager of the Providence Community Care Center, who was present to provide an update on the Center. Mr. LaRocque addressed the Board describing the services provided by the Center which include Behavioral Health services; he shared statistics of those served; and discussed staffing which includes two full time case managers. He then shared information regarding a meeting with the City of Olympia Homeless Coordinator that morning on safety at the Center. At Vice Chair Hutch's request, Mr. LaRocque explained that in partnership with The Painted Plate, the Community Care Center participated in this year's Art Walk. The Board Members expressed their appreciation of the work the Center provides to help the vulnerable in our community.

5) Thurston Thrives Action Team Update: Community Hope Initiative

Ms. Slaughter explained she recently attended a presentation on loneliness at a National Behavioral Health Conference which made her think of the Hope theory and the new community Hope Initiative: *HOPE Thurston*. She then introduced Jon Tunheim, the County Prosecuting Attorney, present to provide an update on the project, which is building on Camp Hope and previous work, to better understand the level of hope that we have among our residents and how we can increase it through local efforts. Mr. Tunheim thanked the Board for the opportunity to present on the topic. He noted *HOPE Thurston* is a partnership

of multiple Thurston Thrives Action Teams and The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound. He then discussed the Hope theory explaining both “will power” and “way power” are required for hope. Mr. Tunheim described a county wide survey to be launched in June of this year. He then shared the next steps for *Hope Thurston*: Engage – involve the community in the science of hope; Assess – what is the level of hope in our community; Plan – create a strategic plan/pathway from the survey results; Execute – it is estimated it will take three to five years to execute; Assess – reassess again at that time to see if the level of hope in our community was increased; and finally to Sustain hope in our community. Mr. Tunheim noted *The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System* (BRFSS) is the nation's premier system of health-related telephone surveys that collect state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services. Vice Chair Hutchings noted he also attended the National Behavioral Health Conference and expressed his appreciation of the presentation on Brené Brown’s *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone*. The Board thanked Mr. Tunheim for the presentation.

6) **Drinking Water Program Update**

Art Starry introduced the topic, explaining staff would provide an overview of the Department’s Drinking Water Program and explain how we work with our partners to help assure that all Thurston County residents have safe and reliable drinking water supplies. He then introduced Erik Iverson, Biologist and Supervisor of the Drinking Water Program. Mr. Iverson gave a presentation explaining the primary functions of the program, which include administering the Group B drinking water program; share responsibilities with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) for Group A systems; drinking water well sealing, decommissioning and tagging; well site inspections; and operating the drinking water lab. Mr. Iverson then provided additional information on Group B systems; Group A systems; Well Delegation; and the Drinking Water Lab. At the Board Members’ and Dr. Rachel Wood’s requests, Mr. Iverson provided clarification of coliform and nitrate water testing by property owners for Group B systems. The Board thanked Mr. Iverson for the presentation.

7) **Surface Water Monitoring And Safety**

Jane Mountjoy-Venning, Senior Environmental Health Specialist and Supervisor of the Water Quality Program, presented on “Monitoring Water Quality in Thurston County”. She explained the purpose of the Program is to investigate complaints, identify pollution sources, track water quality trends, and determine program needs. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning described monitoring of ambient lakes and streams; algae bloom response – testing for toxins; Thurston County swimming beaches; shellfish Bio Toxin monitoring and investigative response to spills or water quality problems. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning explained at this time no one knows what causes Toxic Blooms. She then noted in 2018 35 sites on 28 streams and rivers, and 10 lakes with public access and high recreation or drinking water supply lakes, are being monitored. She stated the Water Quality Report is posted on the PHSS website at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehrp/annualreport. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning discussed Toxic Blue-Green Algae Monitoring. She explained causes of *non-toxic* Algae Blooms which are weather conditions, nutrient enrichment and physical conditions of the lake. She then reiterated causes of *Toxic* Algae Blooms are unknown but much research is going on. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning explained the differences, and

shared pictures, of warning signs posted at water ways when water quality is an issue which include "Caution", "Warning" and "Danger". Information to report a bloom or receive algae alerts:

Email: Environmental_Health@co.thurston.wa.us

Call: (360) 867-2626

Visit: www.nwToxicAlgae.org

She then discussed Thurston County Swimming beaches: salt water Burfoot County Park and salt water Kenneydell County Park. She noted swimming advisories are posted at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm/swimming/swimming_index under HOT TOPICS. Ms.

Mountjoy-Venning then discussed Marine Biotoxins which are poisons that are produced by certain kinds of microscopic algae that are naturally present in marine waters, normally in amounts too small to be harmful. However, a combination of warm temperatures, sunlight, and nutrient-rich waters can cause "blooms." Biotoxins such as Amnesic Shellfish Poison (ASP), Diarrhetic Shellfish Poison (DSP), and Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) can cause illness or death in humans and other mammals that eat them. She explained and discussed the Biotoxin Monitoring Network: DOH coordinates the State-wide program; Thurston County staff collect mussel samples at Boston Harbor Marina; and DOH and Tribes collect samples at other South Sound locations. Ms. Mountjoy-Venning warned cooking does not destroy Biotoxins and there is no antidote for Biotoxin poisoning. She shared information to contact before collecting shellfish:

DOH Biotoxin Hotline: 1-800-562-5632

Marine Biotoxin Website: www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety.htm

The Board thanked Ms. Mountjoy-Venning for the presentation.

8) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities –

Vice Chair Hutchings –

- Attended a Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO) open house
- Attended the TOGETHER! Healthy Future event at Great Wolf Lodge
- Attended the National Behavioral Health Conference in Washington D.C.
- Acknowledged Bicycle Commuter Month

Chair Blake –

- Acknowledged Thurston County's improved County Ranking of 7 to a County Ranking of 6.
- Shared the Thurston Regional Planning Council's (TRPC) receiving an Excellence of Award for the Comprehensive Plan
- Attended the National Behavioral Health Conference in Washington D.C.
- Attended TMBHO open house
- Discussed briefly the 2018 Point-in-Time (PIT) result information
- Attended, along with Commissioner Edwards, the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Volunteer Recognition event on May 2, 2018
- Discussed the Hazard Weather Task Force

9) Director's Report

Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director, reported:

- Thanked all Public Health and Social Services Department Staff for their dedication and hard work to keep our community safe and healthy.

- Acknowledged all PHSS nurses in the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and Infectious Communicable Disease (ICD) programs, for their valuable services to individuals, families and children in our community and discussed their services.
- Emergency Preparedness activated on April 24, 2018 and are still activated in response to a Toxic Algae Bloom at Summit Lake; water samples were taken on April 24th and 30th; this is the second consecutive week with toxin levels above the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) advisory level of 1.0 ug/L; a health advisory was issued on the April 27th; warning signs are still posted at public boat ramps and along roads entering the lake area; an email was sent to area residents; a new release was issued; and a warning was posted on the county and PHSS websites. She noted there is also a *constant contact email* list that citizens can join to receive alerts; the advisory will remain in place until the bloom subsides and two consecutive weekly water samples result in toxin levels below the action level; Dr. Wood, the Health Officer, advises people to not drink the Summit Lake water; do no bath or wash dishes with the water; do not eat fish caught in the lake; do not water ski on the lake; boating is acceptable.
- Attended the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Volunteer Appreciation Event on May 2, 2018; discussed the number of volunteers and group's accomplishments; acknowledged their hard work; noted the attendees put together care packages that will be distributed to community partners to assist them in support of the vulnerable homeless in the community.
- Discussed the work done through the Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team (HAT), which is one of 8 Action Teams, to improve homelessness in our community; the HAT Green Team which the PHSS Healthy Homes program is a part of; staff is making progress on multiple efforts to increase attention to healthy changes to rental housing in the community – not only home visits and training of vendors in the public.
- The Opioid Task Force is launching next month.

10) **Health Officer's Report** –

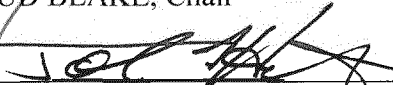
Dr. Rachel Wood reported:


- She noted the NFP program and the Syringe Exchange Program (NEP) both help her to train medical students, providing the students with the experience of working directly with the community; she also thanked the Environmental Health staff who gave students the opportunity to participate in restaurant and well inspections.
- Last week she served as a delegate to the Washington Academy of Family Practice in Spokane when two resolutions were discussed related to the Opioid crisis which received unanimous support.
- The PHSS Emergency Preparedness Team, along with regional partners, participated in a table top exercise put on by DOH on Ebola and other pathogens on April 26th.
- Earlier that same day, May 8th, she participated in a cross jurisdictional collaboration project - a table top exercise with the American Indian Health Commission Tribes responding to a staged potential bubonic plague.
- Attended a DOH focus group on access to resources, such as how to deal with the need for medical equipment by citizens in a crisis when there is not enough equipment to serve those that need it.

- 11) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adjourn the meeting of May 8, 2018. Chair Blake seconded the motion. The motion carried.

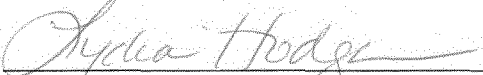
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


BUD BLAKE, Chair


JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair


GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: August 14, 2018

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.