



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 June 14, 2018 Special Meeting

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; Dr. 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 special meeting agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted. The motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Acceptance of Work Session Summaries:

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the April 10, 2018 regular meeting minutes and to accept the Work Session Summaries from April 3rd and 10th, May 1st, 8th and 14th, 2018. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted. The motion carried.

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Chair Blake explained the process that would be used to receive comments - each person is given three (3) timed minutes to testify; the time is monitored by a countdown clock on the wall.

The following citizens provided comments:

Alan Rodgers – spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County.

Susan Davenport - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis and the Opioid Epidemic a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County.

Mary Wait - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County.

Andrew Saturn - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring the Opioid Epidemic a Public Health Crisis and Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County.

Renata Rollins - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County and thanked the Board for their leadership.

Phoenix Wendt - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County.

- Tye Gundel – on behalf of a homeless encampment spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County and thanked the Board.
- Danny Kadden - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County, thanked the Board and offered his partnership.
- Pat Holm - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County; spoke on homeless across the country; and social housing in Europe.
- Doug McKakken - spoke in support of the Board of Health declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

3) Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention in Thurston County and Beyond

Chris Hawkins, the Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Program Manager, introduced Kateri Wimsett, an Education and Outreach Specialist II with the CEEP Team. Ms. Wimsett gave a presentation on the Tobacco & Vapor Product Prevention (TVPPP) project and two key projects. PHSS delivers TVPPP in Thurston County and coordinates with other counties to ensure reduction of the impact of tobacco and vapor products on the health of residents, particularly youth and young adults. She provided information on the number of deaths in the United States every year attributed to cigarette smoke making tobacco use the leading cause of disease and early death in our communities. Ms. Wimsett discussed and provided results from a Thurston County 2016 Healthy Youth Survey about 12th graders who smoke cigarettes, vape or use one or both; and adults who smoke cigarettes and vape. She expressed the importance of stopping our youth from becoming addicted to nicotine. She explained the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified tobacco use as a winnable battle which public health has made this priority work. Thurston County serves as the regional lead agency for the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA), and is coordinating TVPPP across the 7 counties of our region (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties) to put together strategies to work on the tobacco problem. Ms. Wimsett shared two regional projects: 1) working with local Food Service Inspectors across the region who are asking businesses to voluntarily post “No Smoking, No Vaping” decals at their locations to lower indoor risks for children and those with chronic illnesses; and 2) launching soon a social media campaign focused on parents and key leaders on the use of tobacco and vaping - look on social media sites for more information. She then discussed two projects in Thurston County: 1) Smoke/Vape Free Parks, Preserves and Trails policy work; and 2) research options for the Board to consider to strengthen the Smoking in Public Places (SIPP) law which includes vaping. Ms. Wimsett thanked the Board for the opportunity. The Board thanked Ms. Wimsett.

4) Approval of the Aquatic Nuisance Weed Control Prescription for Parrotfeather

Art Starry introduced Timothy Wilson, the Thurston County Public Works Noxious Weed and Lakes Management Manager. Mr. Starry then gave a background for the request of the Board to approve the Aquatic Nuisance Weed Control Prescription for the noxious weed Parrotfeather. Proposals to apply pesticides to lakes or other sensitive areas, or to use pesticides that do not pass review by the PHSS Environmental Health Division, require approval from the Thurston County Board of Health. Site and/or

pest-specific pest management plans (prescriptions) must be submitted along with the recommended pesticide for review by the Vegetation Management Coordinator, Patrick Soderberg, and the Pest and Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (PVMAC) before going to the Board of Health for approval. The Board of County Commissioners adopted the Thurston County Pesticide Use Policy in 1989. The policy was revised in 1993 and 2014. The policy establishes a mandate for all county departments to set an example by implementing integrated pest and vegetation management programs that minimize the use of pesticides and are least disruptive to human health and the environment. The Thurston County Pest and Vegetation Management Policy includes the following criteria that must be used by the Board of Health when reviewing pest management prescriptions:

1. The pest and vegetation problem has been assessed, and control is deemed necessary;
2. The use of the pesticide is a necessary element of the integrated pest and vegetation management prescription; and
3. The risk to public health, ground water, and the environment is determined to be minimal.

Control of parrotfeather in Thurston County is mandated by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board as a noxious weed and must be controlled if found. The PVMAC has reviewed this prescription and recommends approval. Tim Wilson addressed the Board providing additional information about Parrotfeather and the proposed prescription. Parrotfeather infestations can dramatically alter an aquatic ecosystem by lowering dissolved oxygen and pH. These changes in water chemistry, as well as the physical effect of the dense plant beds, degrade the habitat value for fish and other organisms and cause issues with navigation. Mr. Wilson confirmed management of Parrotfeather is State mandated and confirmed this prescription has been approved by the State Department of Ecology. **Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the Aquatic Nuisance Weed Control Prescription for Parrotfeather. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted. The Motion carried.**

5) **Shannie Jenkins' Story**

Vice Chair Blake introduced Shannie Jenkins, mother of Kyle Robert Brinton, and a longtime member of the community. Ms. Jenkins thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the story of her son's life and death. Kyle was born February 28, 1986 and struggled with opiate addiction for much of his adult life. He was not an active addict at the time of his death. After being clean for two and a half years he relapsed and the lethal drug took his life on October 7, 2017. Ms. Brinton spoke in support of the need to educate the community and address the opioid crisis which is taking the lives of our children. The Board expressed their appreciation of Ms. Jenkins sharing Kyle's story.

6) **Resolution addressing the Opioid Epidemic and declare a Public Health Crisis**

Schelli Slaughter addressed the Board to recommend and request the Board adopt Resolution H-1-2018 declaring the opioid epidemic a Public Health Crisis. Ms. Slaughter stated so far this decade 120 people have died in Thurston County from overdose. She noted the opioid epidemic has been declared a national crisis, state crisis and should now be declared a local crisis. Ms. Slaughter shared her personal story of loss due to an opioid overdose. She explained PHSS's steps to address this crisis which include the operation of a Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) which distributes Naloxone a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose; and PHSS participates in the Regional Accountable Community of

Health, Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA) opioid work group to develop a Regional Response Plan. She noted the nation and the State of Washington have Regional Response Plans, but Thurston County does not yet have a plan specific to our local needs. Ms. Slaughter explained the proposed Resolution will order the convening of a Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force which she, along with Jon Tunheim the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney (PAO), will co-chair. She noted this crisis cannot be addressed by public health only, it must include partners such as criminal justice, health partners, emergency management services and our non-profit partners all working together. Ms. Slaughter explained this Opioid Response Task Force, along with the Thurston Thrives Community Health Initiative partners, will develop a community driven Response Plan to address the opioid epidemic and shall include implementation strategies.

Prosecuting Attorney Jon Tunheim addressed the Board and spoke in support of the Resolution. He noted he has been involved at the state level addressing the opioid issue for some time. He participates on the State level Criminal Justice Opioid Work Group which is finalizing the State Opioid Work Plan. Mr. Tunheim explained it is time to address this crisis on the local level and this proposed Resolution will start this process. He noted a strong partnership is already forming with PHSS, the PAO, the Sheriff's office and the County Coroner's Office to convene a county wide community summit hopefully in early August, when discussion will include learning about what this crisis is locally and what are the solutions and strategies to move forward. Mr. Tunheim thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and the proposed Resolution. The Board Members each thanked Ms. Slaughter and Mr. Tunheim and expressed their appreciation of the people in the audience and the community for their support and involvement in addressing this crisis. Chair Blake requested Ms. Slaughter and Mr. Tunheim provide the Board of Health with Task Force updates at future meetings. Vice Chair Hutchings read Resolution H-1-2018 declaring homelessness a public health crisis in Thurston County, directing the Director of the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services to lead the response, committing support for community wide efforts to reduce homelessness, and resolving to convene the Hazardous Weather Task Force and implement the hazardous weather plan. Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adopt Resolution No. H-1-2018 declaring the opioid epidemic a Public Health Crisis. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

7) Resolution Declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County

Schelli Slaughter addressed the Board to recommend and request the Board adopt Resolution H-2-2018 declaring homelessness a public health crisis. Ms. Slaughter explained in partnership with the City of Olympia each year a Homelessness Census, "Point-In-Time" (PIT) survey is conducted to capture the number and characteristics of people living without a home in our community. She noted the 2018 report is complete which identified 835 people are without housing, with nearly 40% at serious risk of health issues or death making this the highest rate of unsheltered we have ever seen in our community. Ms. Slaughter noted over 1/3 are households with children and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) reported in 2017 there were 1,670 homeless children in our community and it is anticipated the 2018 number will be higher. She also noted 25% are victims of domestic violence which is a serious public health concern. Nearly 30% are people of color which make up only 18% of the County's population, indicating the presence of racial disparities that need to be further addressed. She explained despite the County's distribution of 5.8 million dollars to our incredible network of community nonprofit agencies that use the funding to help address homeless and affordable housing issues, homeless and cost

of housing continues to rise across the entire County. Ms. Slaughter noted the newly named PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention distributed these dollars and will now lead the County's response efforts and work with other departments and agencies to mitigate public health hazards associated with this crisis. Ms. Slaughter shared her experience when she was given the opportunity to be a guest of a local homeless encampment where she observed serious concerns for public health. She noted according to a recent survey, conducted as part the Thurston County's Strategic planning process, the number one concern of County citizens is addressing homelessness. Vice Chair Hutchings shared his experience during the PIT count when he spent time at Community Youth Services speaking with homeless individuals; and shared his interaction with homeless individuals in his role as a City of Olympia police Officer many years ago. Chair Blake noted during his last four years as County Commissioner he has been part of Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team (HAT) and commended the many partners that have been working towards addressing the homelessness issue. He provided a background and discussed housing nationwide back to 2007 and noted the impact locally. Chair Blake stated he has participated in the PIT count over the last four years as his schedule allowed and has interviewed many homeless people in our community that have been impacted with the shortness of housing. He noted housing is an issue, but we need all of our community leaders, partners and individuals to work together to end this public health crisis of homelessness for those that are suffering in our community. Commissioner Edwards commented on the approximate 6 million dollars distributed to the network of community nonprofit agencies and acknowledged they are the ones actually doing the work; he also expressed his gratitude that we are moving forward in addressing the homelessness issue in our community. Vice Chair Hutchings read the Resolution declaring the opioid epidemic a public health crisis in Thurston County, and directing the Director of the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department to convene a Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force that will create a response plan for approval by the Thurston County Board of Health. Ramiro Chavez, County Manager, noted over 50 emails from the public have been received in support of this Resolution. Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adopt the Resolution H-2-2018 declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in Thurston County. Commissioner Edwards seconded the notion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

8) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities – none

9) Director's Report

Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director, reported:

- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) 2018 Conference in Spokane – Attended along with Dr. Rachel Wood, Art Starry and other staff that met with 35 other Local Health Jurisdiction administrators and public health leaders where they discussed strengthening relationships within the governmental health system and preparing for the upcoming legislative session raising the visibility of public health and foundational public health services we provide. In August Ms. Slaughter will bring the Board an update on Foundational Public Health services and the status of an additional funding request. She explained WSALPHO is the local county voice at the state level for public health officials.
- Met with Secretary of Health Dr. John Wiesman along with other local health jurisdiction leaders last month and was given the opportunity to attend a statewide meeting of leaders in the Washington State Department of Commerce to discuss federal funding and share local priorities related to homelessness. At this same meeting she attended a conference on ending homelessness focused on addressing racial equity that will support the adopted Thurston County Resolution on homelessness.

- Next month (July) she will attend the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) 2018 conference.
- NACCHO has granted PHSS a small grant to help prepare an application for Public Health Accreditation; staff is currently engaged in the quality improvement process; an update will be provided soon.
- Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA) Accountable Community Health is preparing to apply for Medicaid Transformation Waiver Dollars to support opioids, chronic disease prevention and Maternal Child Health (MCH).
- Suicide rate in the national media is causing concern about our local suicide rates; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported suicide is now the leading cause of death in our nation; suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in Washington State; suicide rates in every state have increased every year from 1999 – 2016; anyone considering suicide is encouraged to call the **SUICIDE HOTLINE at 1-800-278-8255.**
- Environmental Health staff assisted Commissioner Edwards to produce a Thurston County Connections program that highlights water quality improvements in Henderson Inlet; the show will be aired starting mid-June, 2018; water quality improvements resulted in a net gain of 366 acres of commercial shellfish harvesting area since 2005; these gains have taken place despite an increase in population and development within the Henderson watershed.
- Vital Records issued 330 birth certificates and 796 death certificates in May; birth certificates can be obtained from PHSS at 412 Lilly Road NE for the upcoming requirement to have an enhanced driver license for air travel in the fall.
- Deanna Lewis, an Administrative Assistant for the PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention Division, passed away last week; Ms. Slaughter asked everyone to keep Deanna's family in their minds as they deal with her passing and thanked everyone for their support.

10) Health Officer's Report –

Dr. Rachel Wood reported:

- Tuberculosis (TB) – there has been an additional pulmonary TB patient; one patient finished treatment; staff continue to manage three (3) active cases with Directly Observed Treatment (DOT); and are aware of one extra pulmonary case.
- Blood Lead Testing - with guidance from Environmental Health Division staff Dr. Wood has become involved in pediatric blood lead testing.
- PHSS Emergency Preparedness – working with Tribal partners coordinating and exercising mutual aid agreements; working with hospital partners exercising an evacuation scenario for a disaster such as a Tsunami after an earth quake.


Commissioner Edwards explained the blue pinwheels displayed by each of the Commissioners are in honor of the April Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month, noting our kids are 30% of our population but a 100% of our future. Vice Chair Hutchings expressed his appreciation of Dr. Wood's recent article on diabetes. The Board Members thanked Dr. Wood for her report and Ms. Slaughter for her leadership.

- 11) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adjourn the special meeting of June 14, 2018. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

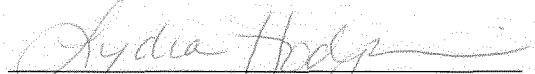
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


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.