



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 September 13, 2016

1) Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Bud Blake, Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Vice Chair; Sandra Romero, Commissioner; Tom Stuebner, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Chair Blake called the meeting to order.

Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the August 9, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) Proclamation Description: September 2016 Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Mr. Tom Stuebner, Public Health and Social Services Department Director, introduced John Donaldson a volunteer with the Thurston County Chapter of US TOO International a non-profit organization. Washington State Prostate Cancer Coalition, together with the Thurston County chapter of US TOO International, support prostate cancer awareness in Thurston County with programs and educational materials through their respective organizations to encourage all men to have an informed discussion with their healthcare provider about prostate cancer. Mr. Donaldson stated the local chapter of US TOO International is made up of 250 members and their efforts are aimed at encouraging every man to have an annual PSA (prostate-specific antigen) test over the age of 50. He shared there were approximately 235,000 new cases of prostate cancer nationally in 2015 and over 29,125 deaths from prostate cancer in the same period. Mr. Donaldson noted the local chapter of US TOO International meets at 7:00 pm the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Providence St. Peter Hospital. The Board thanked Mr. Donaldson for speaking on behalf of Prostate Cancer awareness. Vice Chair Wolfe read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of September the 2016 Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

3) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board – No public comment was given.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Cascade Pacific Alliance: Accountable Community of Health and the Medicaid Global Waiver

Mr. Stuebner introduced Winfried Danke, Executive Director of the CHOICE Regional Health Network. Mr. Danke address the Board providing an overview presentation on the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA) Accountable Community of Health (ACH) and discussed an opportunity to improve health outcomes in our region, including Thurston County, through a potential Medicaid Global Waiver. Mr. Danke discussed the Social Determinants of Health which include health care, physical environment, health behaviors and socioeconomic factors. CPAA is a leading ACH which launched in May of 2014; began as an ACH Pilot in January, 2015 and received State Designation in July of 2015. The ACH region consists of independent stakeholders from seven counties, including Cowlitz, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston, Pacific and Wahkiakum, coming together focused on developing and implementing a shared action agenda established by consensus, a collective impact, with the goal of improving health within a region. Mr. Danke thanked Vice Chair Wolfe for her part in the 2014 launch and her participation in the 5-county Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC). He also acknowledged the Thurston Thrives Initiative's part in the ACH launch. He then discussed the Shared Regional Health Priorities which are Improve Healthcare Access; Improve Care Coordination and Integration; Prevent and Manage Chronic Diseases; Mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Enhance Economic and Education Opportunities. Mr. Danke then explained and discussed a potential Medicaid Global Waiver of \$2 Billion. The design of the Waiver is that CPAA, as one of nine ACHs in the State, would receive a share of the waiver dollars to be spent of a five year period; would select transformation projects funded by this funding; would coordinate regional transformation activities; would distribute funding to partners to carry out transformation activities; and would monitor impact all of which would be to improve Health Outcomes. The Medicaid Global Waiver is being discussed between the State and Federal government with an announcement expected by the end of the summer. Vice Chair Wolfe requested Mr. Danke's comments regarding the possibility of this Medicaid funding being used for housing of mentally ill individuals. Mr. Danke addressed the question explaining although the first initiative of the funding will be focused on medical/clinical health care it is conceivable some of the funding could potentially be used for supportive housing, but not brick and mortar buildings. The Board members expressed and discussed their concerns regarding the CPAA ACH's focus being on medical/clinical health care. Mr. Danke additionally explained that within the funding opportunity there are a total of three tracks, of which he can only speak on one. The other tracks are addressing other Determinants of Health. The Board thanked Mr. Danke for his presentation.

5) Thurston Thrives Update: Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge

Chris Hawkins, the Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department's Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships Program Manager, explained that in May of 2016, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, acting on behalf of the Thurston Thrives Community Design Action Team, submitted an application to be considered for the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge (HCCC), a new nationwide program of the American Public Health Association, Aetna Foundation and National Association of Counties. He explained the program is aimed at spurring innovations in community health improvement. In August PHSS was notified that they have been recognized as one of 50 finalist in the HCCC. Mr. Hawkins explained being a HCCC finalist will provide some additional resources to help

implement 2016 Priorities of the Community Design Action Team – Objectives 1 & 2: 1) Conduct corridor walkshed analysis along trails and transit routes to identify opportunities for new connections that shorten and ease access to these corridors; and 2) Trail wayfinding signs, other on-trail/corridor improvements: region-wide effort, informed by walkshed findings. The funding will also help to make additional changes and show progress – Community Design Action Team Objective 3: inform local officials to align policies, practices and codes to support active designs; and compete for a larger award by 2018. Mr. Hawkins noted progress will be measured and brought back to be shared with the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Hawkins and the Community Design Action Team.

6) Thurston Thrives Update: NEXUS, Systemic Coordination of Projects

Chris Hawkins explained since the spring of 2016, three Thurston Thrives action teams, Public Safety and Justice, Clinical and Emergency Care and the Housing action teams have been working together on areas of mutual importance and opportunities for multi-team collaboration such as Mobile Crisis Outreach. Mr. Hawkins introduced Jon Tunheim, the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney and lead of the Public Safety and Justice Action Team. Mr. Tunheim was present to provide an update on the work of the multi-team collaboration. He explained the coordinating efforts have been in a variety of areas around a continuum of services and options designed to improve public safety by getting people the help they need from the right place at the right time. The Team's goals include jail diversion and emergency department diversion. He noted this Action Team was added to the Thurston Thrives Initiative after the realization that safety is directly related to public health. He spoke briefly on the new Mental Health Triage Center, one of the projects that came out of the NEXUS group. Mr. Tunheim then spoke on the Mobile Crisis Outreach project, the function that will serve to divert people out of jails, based on a model of Seattle called LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion). He explained the LEAD program provides police officers out on the street dealing with people face to face on scene, alternatives to jail for people in crisis such as those with substance abuse or mental illness. The police officer who suspects an individual is dealing with mental health or a substance abuse issues would be able to make a phone call and have a mental health or substance abuse professional come out to the scene, or meet them at a safe location, to have an assessment done to determine if the person is eligible for services. The handoff of the individual from criminal justice to mental health or substance abuse services would happen right on sight. Mr. Tunheim then reviewed a Diversion Flow Chart using the LEAD Option. He then explained a work team has been assembled to guide this planning effort that involves a number of different people from the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the City of Olympia City Attorney's office, city prosecutors, the Olympia Police Department, the Thurston County Sheriff's office, and the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department, to design what this process will look like at the street level. The launching of the LEAD program is planned for early 2017 which will include training of law enforcement. Vice Chair Wolfe asked Mr. Tunheim to discuss transitional housing which continues to be a critical gap in the system. Mr. Tunheim noted the Housing Action Team is the third part of this NEXUS partnership. He agreed there is concern whether housing support services will be available for individuals going through the Mental Health Triage or the Mobile Outreach, after an individual makes it through Behavioral Health organization (BHO) system. He stated the key is to get individuals into housing in hopes of keeping them out of the criminal justice system again. Mr. Tunheim and Chair Blake noted the Housing Action Team - Blue Team is discussing this critical gap. The Board thanked Mr. Tunheim for his presentation.

7) Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Dr. Rachel Wood, Thurston County Health Officer, introduced Sue Poyner the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Emergency Preparedness Response Coordinator. Ms. Poyner addressed the Board questioning what each Board Member has done at home in honor of Emergency Preparedness Month. She acknowledged Emergency Preparedness team members: Kateri Wimsett - a long time PHSS employee but new to the team; Matthew Zimmerman – six (6) month team member; and Jennifer Dixon – two (2) day team member. Ms. Poyner provided an overview of Internal Department Efforts which include the Emergency Operations Plan - a Table Top Exercise to be held in October; Emergency Communications Systems - use of Washington Secures (WASECURES) the Health Alert Network (HAN) application managed by the Washington State Department of Health to communicate with staff; and AlertSense an emergency alert and critical communication services to communicate with the public in the event of an emergency; and Coordination of Policy Level Decision Making. Dr. Wood noted she recently attended a continuing education training with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on public health law. She then explained that the Board of Health and the Health Officer have the authority to declare a public health emergency, including quarantine/isolation. Ms. Poyner briefly discussed on-going staff training. She then discussed existing partnerships in emergency preparedness: local hospitals; outpatient clinics; the Region Three (3) Local Health Jurisdiction that include Thurston, Mason, Grays Harbor and Lewis Counties; Thurston County Emergency Management and the Tribes. She briefly discussed the Cascadia Rising Exercise that Thurston County participated in back in June of this year. Ms. Poyner acknowledged the amazing PHSS staff for their outstanding work. She explained work continues to build the capability of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). She acknowledged the MRC volunteers for their hard work and contributions to several 2016 events including the Paddle to Squaxin and the Whooping Cough Tdap vaccinations administered to the legislators. Dr. Wood noted a free Back to School Immunization Clinic was held at Tumwater Michael T. Simmons elementary on August 23rd providing vaccinations to 85 kids. Another free clinic will be held at Group Health Olympia on September 17th from 9:00 am to Noon. She also noted the MRC will be participating in a drive thru flu shot clinic for Providence St. Peter's staff the following morning, September 14th. Vice Chair Wolfe commended the MRC volunteers. The Board thanked Ms. Poyner for her presentation.

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

9) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

- Hepatitis C - in partnership with Washington State Department of Health (DOH), Providence St. Peter's Hospital, Thurston and Mason Counties medical board, PHSS is putting on a two hour presentation on Hepatitis C will be given on September 27, 2016 from 5:30 – 7:30 at the hospital.
- Zika Virus - she and Jeanie Knight, the Director of PHSS Communicable Disease and Prevention Division, met with colleagues from Tacoma-Pierce PHSS to discuss the impact of the Zika virus in this state and to be better prepared to respond. Although we do not have the mosquito that carries the virus in our State it still has an impact of time and energy in our area for public health to prepare for the on-going concern.

- West Nile Virus – noted West Nile Virus is now in the State of Washington, humans in Eastern Washington have tested positive for the West Nile virus infection; working with colleagues at DOH and the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) regarding the mosquitos that carry the virus.
- Family medicine residents – she has scheduled time to spend with family medicine residents which is part of goal to bridge the gap between her public health and clinical colleagues.
- Bats and rabies – recommended the public keep windows closed unless they are screened to stop bats from flying into rooms while people sleep.

10) Director's Report

Mr. Tom Stuebner reported on the following:

- Rabies testing statistics for Thurston County - eight samples have been submitted for testing this August as compared to a total of three samples submitted for testing in August 2015. The eight samples submitted, which all tested negative for rabies, consisted of 4 bats, 3 dogs, and 1 cat; in the instance of a potential bat bite he expressed the importance of catching the bat for testing, if it can be safely caught, to avoid the possibility of an individual having to be treated for rabies.
- Black Lake beach closure –closed due to high fecal coliform count; staff continue to monitor contamination levels by taking water samples and are investigating the pollution source.
- Real estate transactions have increased, which is good for businesses but has increased PHSS Environmental Health (EH) staff work load. During the time of transfer if a home has an on-site septic system EH staff completes an inspection of the system, which is normally completed within one week. Since sale transactions have almost doubled since last year, this inspection time frame has increased. In an attempt to meet the one week time frame, EH staff that are normally assigned to other duties have been assisting. If the real estate transactions continue to increase it will be a continual challenge to keep up the inspections.
- Acknowledged Chris Hawkins and Mary Ann O'Garro, PHSS Epidemiologist, for completing an application to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for a grant of \$15,000 to assist PHSS in their efforts to obtain public health accreditation. This funding, if awarded, will help the PHSS concentrate on the collection of the required data.
- Communication – Dr. Wood prepares columns with assistance by staff for The Olympian newspaper called *Health Matters*, recent topics include: Back to school – preparing parents and students returning to school after summer break; pertussis/whooping cough – making people aware of importance of keeping immunizations up to date; upcoming article on bullying – making parents, teachers and children aware of bullying. He noted articles are also included in *Thurston Talks*, such as Prosecuting Attorney Jon Tunheim's article on relationship violence and safety in communities; and information about climate change.
- Clarified Public Health Accreditation – process through the Public Health Accreditation Board (a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments); it's all about quality and meeting a standard; only two counties in Washington State have been accredited.

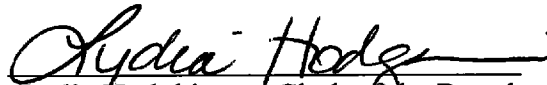
Chair Blake noted the regular October 11, 2016 Board of Health meeting has been canceled. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled on November 8, 2016.


- 11) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting of September 13, 2016. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington

ATTEST:


BUD BLAKE, Chair


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board


CATHY WOLFE, Vice Chair

Date: November 8, 2016


SANDRA ROMERO, 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.