



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 January 12, 2016

1) 4:10 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Bud Blake, Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Vice Chair; Sandra Romero, Commissioner; Art Starry, Public Health and Social Services Department Interim Director; Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer; Cliff Moore, County Manager; 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 minutes from the October 13, 2015, November 10, 2015 and December 15, 2015 Board of Health meetings. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board – no public comment was given

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

3) Description: Approval of Resolution appointing alternate local Health Officers for 2016

Art Starry, Interim Department Director, provided an explanation of the Resolution. Beginning in 2000, the Board of Health has formally appointed 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. The appointment of an alternate local Health Officer shall be activated when contacted to act in the capacity of the Thurston County local Health Officer by the following individuals: the primary local Health Officer for Thurston County, the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, or the Chair of the Thurston County Board of Health. The Board shall be immediately notified in the event an Alternate Health Officer is appointed. Resolution No. H-1-2016 retains Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, Steve Standaert, MD, MPH, Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH and Sarah Present, MD, MPH as alternate Health Officers for 2016.

Vice Chair Wolfe moved to adopt Resolution H-1-2016 appointing Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, Steve Standaert, MD, MPH, Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH and Sarah Present, MD, MPH as alternate local Health Officers for 2016. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4) Description: Approval of amendment No. 2 to the Lewis County Contract for 2016 Health Officer Services

Mr. Starry explained the request to approve an amendment to the 2013/2014 Lewis County contract which appointed Dr. Rachel Wood as the Local Health Officer for Lewis County. Amendment No. 2 will provide Health Officer Services for the time period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 for a maximum compensation of \$42,142. The Contract requires 8 hours per week of Dr. Wood's time. Each year these services and hours are evaluated before considering continuation of the contract.

Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve amendment No. 2 to the Lewis County Health Officer Services contract for the time period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 for a maximum compensation of \$42,142. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) Description: Thurston Thrives Environment Action Agenda Update

Mr. Starry provided background information on the topic and presentation to be given. In 2014, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) staff worked with key informants to develop a Thurston Thrives Environment Team Strategy Map along with performance measures to address clean air/climate change, clean water, waste reduction, emergency preparedness, and zoonotic disease/vectors. The developed Strategy Map was presented and accepted by the Board of Health and the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council. Mr. Starry presented a chart on *Health in the 21st Century* which included a fine print statement of "Failure to sustain effort on 20th century gains in sanitation, immunization, infectious disease control and more would likely result in much larger percentages of contributions to morbidity and mortality from those causes than shown on the chart. Life spans would likely shorten and infectious diseases would likely return to their former dominance as the leading causes of illness and death." He explained Environmental Health is the overlap between health and the environment with the primary goal being to protect both the natural and built environments for the benefit of human health. He discussed topics the Action Team covered which included water; waste; air; vectors and zoonotic disease (diseases of animals that can be spread to humans, such as rabies, West Nile Virus, plague and hantavirus); and emergency response and preparation. He noted safe food was addressed by the Food Action Team. At Chair Blake's request, Mr. Starry explained that although the Food Action Team and the Environment Action Team did not physically meet they did coordinate and collaborate efforts. In the summer of 2015, PHSS staff recruited new additional participants from the environmental community to help the Action Team review their Environment Strategy Map to determine areas that needed to be updated or efforts to be renewed. The group has met three times and have identified goals, objectives and performance measures that could be approved upon. The group determined two particular Objectives and Goals to focus on which are clean air and climate change. There was also a focus on developing performance measures to improve tracking of the community water use and ensure wise water management. Mr. Starry described possible performance measure tools to be developed such as tracking efficiency use of public water systems, use of reclaimed gray water and groundwater levels. Commissioner Romero requested clarification on the impact trees have on managing water wisely. Mr. Starry responded describing some examples of impacts and noting performance measures need to be developed to track this type of impact. Commissioner Romero then commented on the Washington State Board of Health's rule regarding only using potable water in residential toilet flushing. Mr.

Starry briefly discussed the rule and concerns. He then continued to describe additional potential performance measures. Commissioner Romero questioned if anything is being developed to track environmental issues with the newly purchased Insight Vision tracking system. Mr. Starry stated not yet but its use is being discussed. Once performance measures are defined, Insight Vision will be a great tool to use. He then explained the *Clean Air/Stable Climate Group* developed out of the Environment Action Team has contacted and been acknowledged by the Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council. The Group has begun working with partners in the community to create a climate strategy. The Group is moving ahead, having met in December and will again meet in January. PHSS staff is working with them providing meeting space within the department building and support in putting information on the department website. Efforts are also being made to ensure cities and other entities consider and incorporate Thurston Thrive strategies and measures. The Board thanked Mr. Starry for the Environment Action Team update.

6) Public Health Emergency Response

Sue Poyner, the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Response Coordinator, introduced the topic and the presentation to be given. Ms. Poyner, Health Officer Dr. Rachel Wood and Ms. Deborah Allen, the Public Health Division Director were to provide a review of how PHSS uses the Incident Command System (ICS) to respond to public health emergencies and managing communicable disease; a review of activities and training planned for 2016; and the plan to engage community partners. Ms. Poyner stated PHSS also leads Region 3 Public Health Readiness coordination activities. The Regional Lead role is responsible for maintaining regional capabilities that include Isolation and Quarantine, Alternate Care System, and other activities aligned with the Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Coalition and Washington State Department of Health priorities. She explained while PHSS staff handle many responses as part of their normal duties, each year situations arise that require us to use an Incident Command Structure. When an Incident Command “stands up”, staff from throughout the department respond to the event and sometimes fill roles that are different from their normal jobs and responsibilities. Ms. Poyner reminded everyone to be prepared at home as well as at work by having a 72 hour emergency kit. The County Emergency Management is a great resource of information for preparing your home and family. Ms. Poyner reviewed the structure of the ICS including the team roles and their responsibilities. Dr. Wood commented on her role in the Incident Command Structure. Ms. Allen explained how ICS communication flows between the ICS Team, the PHSS Department Director and the Commissioners. Ms. Poyner clarified the difference between an “event” versus an “incident”. An “event” is planned, an “incident” is unplanned. She described what triggers the standup of an ICS which is when an incident exceeds the day to day operation capacity of staff or an incident is a higher level of complexity to manage. She noted PHSS ICS stood up three times in 2015, which were the Ebola Readiness and Monitoring Response; the Legionnaire’s Response; and Tuberculosis Risk Communication Response. Ms. Poyner and Dr. Wood briefly discussed the communication and partnerships for all three incidents with the many community partners, local hospitals, Washington State Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Ms. Poyner explained several complexities of the Legionnaire’s incident response. Dr. Wood discussed the Public Information Officer’s (PIO) role in the Ebola incident response, noting two PIOs were needed for this response. At Vice Chair Romero’s request, Dr. Wood and Ms. Allen discussed when the cause of an outbreak is determined during a case investigation. Ms. Poyner described and discussed the three goals of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response which include 1) Department Engagement

for Emergency Response: new funding will allow for increased staff levels and training to improve internal ability to prepare for a respond to Public Health Emergencies; 2) Community Engagement for Emergency Response: Engagement and coordination of local health and medical system partners; 3) Regional Engagement for Emergency Response: Region 3 Public Health and Healthcare Readiness Coordination. Dr. Wood provided additional information regarding the Emergency Support Function #8 as related to the Community Engagement goal. Ms. Poyner noted the Community Engagement goal includes trainings of medical providers, table tops and drills before the end of June which she invited the Board to participate in. Ms. Allen invited the Board to participate in a four hour PHSS Emergency Preparedness and Response Development Committee workshop being held in mid-February. The workgroup will work with an outside consultant to revise the PHSS Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). At Commissioner Wolfe's request, Ms. Poyner and Dr. Wood provided additional information regarding what triggers the standup of an ICS response. They explained when an incident response is beyond standard operating procedure and/or beyond our capacity to deal with in the day to day operation capacity, a decision is made by the Health Officer and the Department Director and communicated with the Board. Ms. Poyner noted clarify of this communication will be addressed as part of the EOP update. Commissioner Wolfe requested additional information regarding the use of social media to communicate with the public during an emergency response. Dr. Wood and Ms. Poyner noted social media is used to communicate with the public and to obtain information. Dr. Wood stated social media is also monitored by PHSS staff for incorrect information or rumors that may be circulating to assist in staying ahead of panic. County Manager Cliff Moore commented that PHSS responded to the Legionnaires Emergency Response within approximately 18 hours of receipt of initial information and the Board was notified within the next 6 hours. He questioned what the protocol or process is to communicate with the Board for policy decisions. Ms. Poyner explained the time frame of the operational period and that it varies situation by situation, and the urgency of the incident. Ms. Allen noted the intention is to train the new PHSS Director to ensure the same high level of communicate with the Board. The Board thanked everyone for the presentation.

7) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Commissioner Wolfe reported on:

- ◆ Committee Assignments for 2016: Commissioner Blake and Commissioner Wolfe both assigned to the new Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) Board of Directors; the BHO effective April 1, 2016 will replace the PHSS Regional Support Network Program (RSN) and the Chemical Dependency Program combining them into the new BHO;
- ◆ Noted the new PHSS Director, Tom Stuebner, starting February 16, 2016;
- ◆ Appointment to the Community Investment Partnership (CIP);
- ◆ Met with former PHSS Director Don Sloma to review and receive clarification of PHSS 2016 budget line items;
- ◆ Senior Games meeting.

Vice Chair Romero reported on:

- ◆ Thurston Thrives related meetings;
- ◆ Anaerobic digester to deal with dairy waste;
- ◆ Animal services meetings;
- ◆ Participated in interviews for a new WSU Extension director;

- ◆ Neighborhood clinic opening – UW clinic;
- ◆ JBLM breakfast meeting.

Chair Blake reported on:

- ◆ ROOF (Rochester Organization of Families) – Operation Santa;
- ◆ Veterans Outreach program meeting – chemical dependency and mental health information for Veterans;
- ◆ Catholic Community Services – discussed upcoming groundbreaking of Drexel House 2 for Veterans;
- ◆ Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team workshop meetings – discussed the three HUB Team and their work plan for 2016.

Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

- ◆ On December 29, 2015 the World Health Organization/CDC declared Ebola is no longer a risk that requires vigilant monitoring; she provided an update of monitoring travelers nationally and locally; still need to be careful and thoughtful;
- ◆ Tuberculosis (TB) in the community update - continued monitoring of active cases and follow-up testing for those exposed to TB;
- ◆ Addressed Vice Chair Romero's question regarding monitoring of Hepatitis C - Dr. Wood stated local primary care providers have been instructed to be aware of and test the population born between 1945 and 1965 and also at risk populations; noted Hepatitis C has a lengthy process of manifestation in humans but is still very contagious.

Director's Report

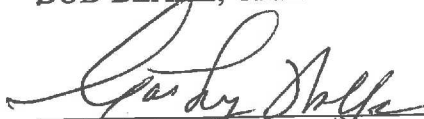
Mr. Starry reported on the following:

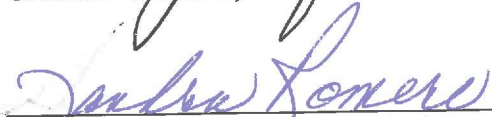
- ◆ Community Workshops on Septic System Management Plan - Two community workshops about the On-site Sewage System Management Plan update were held in December to educate the public about the potential changes and to gather feedback; close to 200 people participated in the workshops; public comment was also gathered through a Survey Monkey and by phone and e-mail; staff are currently analyzing comments regarding the proposed changes to the septic system management plan; once the analysis is complete, the Board will be briefed and asked to provide additional direction;
- ◆ Thurston Thrives - Staff continues to work with Thurston County Chamber Foundation to measure, promote and sustain the initiative;
- ◆ Healthy Homes program – This program works with volunteers who are trained to assist in outreach and conduct Healthy Homes visits; the visits identify ways that Thurston County residents and child care facilities can improve their indoor environment. The next Healthy Homes training begins on January 21st; for additional information visit <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm>;
- ◆ Noted PHSS staff contribute to the ROOF organization for Operation Santa.

- 8) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting of January 12, 2016. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


BUD BLAKE, Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Vice Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: February 9, 2016

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.