



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 9, 2016

1) **3:35 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 January 12, 2016 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: Gypsy Moths in Western Washington**

Art Starry, Interim Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department Director and Environmental Health Division Director, gave an overview of the topic and introduced Rian Wojahn, Eradication and Survey Coordinator for the Plant Protection Division of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Lauren Jenks, Director of the Environmental Public Health Sciences of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). These experts were to provide information on the Gypsy Moth infestation in Western Washington and explain the State's plans to eradicate the pest. They were also to provide information on how the public can learn more and comment on the proposed eradication plan.

Mr. Wojahn addressed the Board providing an informational presentation on the "Gypsy Moth, a destructive, invasive pest". He also introduced Hector Castro, DOH Communications Director and Karla Salp, DOH Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist. He gave a background of the gypsy moth which was introduced in the U.S. in 1869, has been permanently established in 20 states, they lay up to 1,000 eggs each per season, defoliate millions of acres of trees, feed on more than 500 species of trees, shrubs, and vines. Mr. Wojahn described what is at risk in Washington State by the Gypsy Moth such as destruction to state and national parks, forest lands, Christmas trees farms, infestation that could lead to restrictions on timber exports and spread to other states. A 2015 moth trapping resulted in Asian Gypsy moths being found in the Nisqually/Lacey area and also in Vancouver, Tacoma, Gig Harbor and Kent. The European

Gypsy Moth was found in Seattle. He explained the differences between the Asian Gypsy Moth and the European Gypsy Moth. Mr. Wojahn explained WSDA is considering treatment for the Nisqually/Lacey infected area as recommended by an expert science advisory panel due to the extreme risk to trees and the environment throughout the Pacific Northwest. The treatment would be an aerial treatment of Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*) a naturally occurring bacterial insecticide which is toxic to the gypsy moth; proven safe for humans and animals; will not hurt beneficial insects like bees nor birds, fish, plants and mammals; and is certified for use in organic agriculture. At the Board's requests he provided additional information regarding the effect of Btk on pollinators and insects. Mr. Starry questioned at which stages of the moth's life span was the treatment applied. Mr. Wojahn explained the treatment is applied several times. He then described the location of the areas targeted for treatment in Nisqually and Lacey. Mr. Wojahn provided the 2015-2016 timeline of Gypsy Moth events beginning with the initial summer trapping through the completion of treatment activities. He provided informational handouts about the Gypsy Moth to the Board. For additional information, Mr. Wojahn invited the Board and the public to visit www.agr.wa.gov/gypsymoth; attend a webinar "Ask the Experts" open house on February 16th (register at www.goo.gl/8Meqop); attend an open house at the Olympic View Elementary on March 3rd from 5:30-7:30pm; and sign up for email alerts on WSDA's website. He explained seven open houses will have been held, there is a blog and informational post cards were mailed out to the public. Mr. Starry will forward an email to the Board members which provides the open house dates/times. Ms. Karla Salp provided additional public outreach communication that has taken place regarding the treatments being applied. Mr. Wojahn concluded by stating the Gypsy moth is a high risk, invasive threat to Washington's environment, WSDA has successfully & safely prevented gypsy moth from establishing in the state since 1977. The Board commended Mr. Wojahn and his co-workers for their incredible efforts.

Ms. Lauren Jenks, addressed the Board providing a presentation on the "Safety of B.t.k.". She gave an overview explaining what is in the spray: *bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* a toxin to the gypsy moth, other ingredients which include water and preservatives; it has a good safety record; and is the least toxic approach. Ms. Jenks provided the results of the following health studies conducted in: British Columbia - no effect on asthmatic children, no increase in symptoms or medical visits; New Zealand - no pattern of illness related to spraying, follow-up on self-reported symptoms; and animal testing - little to no toxicity observed. She provided the following advice precautions for public health: stay inside 30 minutes to allow droplets to settle; let spray dry on grass before children play; and wash with soap and water if direct contact occurs. At Commissioner Romero's request Ms. Jenks explained if someone is nervous about the spray application of B.t.k. it is recommended they leave the area or stay inside until the droplets dry. She further recommended signing up for treatment application notifications at WSDA's website. Mr. Starry thanked all of the presenters for the attendance and information. He noted the links to the informational websites will be posted on the PHSS website.

4) Description: Behavioral Health Organization – Status Update and Overview

Mark Freedman, PHSS Social Services Division Director and the Interim Administrator for the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO), gave an overview and status update of the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO). He explained on September 15, 2015, Commissioners from both Mason County and Thurston County agreed to a new Interlocal Agreement between Thurston and Mason County to establish a BHO to carry out the

responsibilities as defined in RCW 71.24.300. The TMBHO established by the terms of this Agreement is the successor to and is intended to replace the Thurston Mason Regional Support Network (RSN). He explained the TMBHO is now a “contractor” to Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) replacing the RSN. The TMBHO Governance Board had its first meeting on February 1, 2016 and will meet monthly. The TMBHO contract from DSHS is expected on March 1, 2016 and due back to DSHS on April 1, 2016 at which point the TMBHO will be in full operation. Existing RSN contracts with mental health service providers and new substance use service provider contracts will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in March to complete the shift from the RSN to the TMBHO.

Mr. Freedman then gave a presentation providing additional information on BHOs and Behavioral Health Integration - “why integration and why now”. The Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 6312 in 2014 directing the state DSHS to change how it purchases Medicaid mental health and substance use disorder services. Currently, the state purchases mental health services through RSNs, and substance use disorder services through a combination of state and local contracts on a county-by-county basis. Per the new legislation, beginning April 2016, these services will be purchased by regionally operated BHOs through a managed care structure. By 2020, behavioral health will be integrated with physical health. Mr. Freedman shared a map showing DSHS Regional Service Areas and the Washington Counties in those areas. Mr. Freedman provided additional explanation of Thurston County replacing the RSN and Substance Use Program. The County made the decision to create a separate entity to operate the BHO to move toward behavioral health system integration. Under RCW 39.34.030 two Counties or more can through an inter-local agreement create a quasi-governmental entity to provide administrative services. Thurston and Mason Counties are working together to create such an entity to provide the specific services and governance necessary to provide Behavioral Health services for both communities. He explained the steps taken to create the Governing Board for the TMBHO - two members were selected from the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Bud Blake and Commissioner Cathy Wolfe; and one member from the Mason County Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Tammy Jeffries. The governing board provides oversight of contracts, policy and performance review. The TMBHO works directly with the mental health and substance use disorder service providers. At Commissioner Romero’s request Mr. Freedman provided additional explanation regarding the Governance Board. He described “Behavioral Health” being conditions related to mental health and illness, and addiction and/or substance use disorders, which are conditions that individuals often experience simultaneously. Historically, separate programs addressed these conditions. Funding, contract restrictions, WACs, and RCWs often prohibited coordinated treatment services, workforce is separate and rarely cross-trained. He explained what integrating care for mental health and substance use disorders means to clients: progress toward our goal of “whole person” care; more flexibility in how we provide services, especially for those with mental health and substance use disorders; improved health and social outcomes; improved coordination of care; improved access for our clients; funding will be better managed; and resource efficiency will be improved. At Commissioner Romero’s request Mr. Freedman provided clarification of the TMBHO budget funded by DSHS and the role of the Governance Board in managing the budget. He then shared a number of key components identified by the Thurston and Mason Counties that must be completed to become a BHO and achieve a successful integration of behavioral health services, such as: IT/Data Systems, Provider readiness, finance, benefit/care model design, balanced budget act/managed care regulations, Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment, BHO Advisory Board, client engagement and provider engagement.

Chair Blake expressed appreciation for the information presentation. Mr. Freedman thanked the Board.

5) Description: Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team Update

Gary Aden, Program Manager of the PHSS Housing Program addressed the Board, introducing the topic. He provided a background of the Housing Action Team (HAT) formed in 2014, as one of ten Action Teams for the Thurston Thrives initiative. The HAT has identified a number of goals and objectives that outline what they believe will achieve the overall vision of Affordable, adequate and safe housing for all residents of Thurston County. The HAT has three subgroups that divide the challenge into three areas including a focus on programs and services that strive to end homelessness, programs that create and maintain affordable and healthy rental housing and programs that encourage the development of affordable new construction projects. The overall focus is to provide opportunities for those of all income groups, those with special needs, seniors, families and single individuals and youth and include lower income populations. The county provides an annual Request for Proposal process seeking qualified providers to implement projects that target the goals and objectives of the HAT Strategy Map. Mr. Aden discussed the recent priority setting workshops that the HAT conducted to develop a set of parameters and investment strategies for the 2016-2017 year. He then reviewed the Housing for Health Strategy Map and discussed funding sources. Mr. Aden explained that over the last couple of months the HAT reviewed how money has been spent in the following program areas: agency and program operating costs for emergency shelter, transitional housing with services and permanent supportive housing; develop a functioning Coordinated Entry Program; provide Rapid Rehousing funding for individuals and families; maintain, enhance and expand the supply of affordable housing for low income homeowners, renters and special needs populations; and ensure that all housing that is developed or rehabilitated with this funding is Green and Healthy Housing. Commissioner Romero questioned if there is a plan for assisting renters in homes with mold. Mr. Aden explained the creation of a pilot program to deal with these types of issues is being discussed. The Board thanked Mr. Aden for the presentation.

6) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Commissioner Wolfe reported on:

- ◆ Community Investment Partnership (CIP) meeting
- ◆ Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) meeting
- ◆ Senior Games meetings
- ◆ Capitol Lake Meeting

Vice Chair Romero reported on:

- ◆ Fire District – mobile health units meeting

Chair Blake reported on:

- ◆ Mental Health Court meeting
- ◆ Housing meeting – Thurston and Mason Counties
- ◆ Backpacks for Kids
- ◆ Homeless Point in time Count Meeting

7) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

- ◆ Influenza update - non vaccinated health care workers have been requested to wear masks
- ◆ Zika virus – provided an update on the Zika virus and explained the symptoms and risks
- ◆ Noted the State of Washington Department of Health (DOH) is reviewing PHSS's Emergency Preparedness work; evaluating deliverables and capabilities in a the event of a disaster.
- ◆ PHSS Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) - will be meeting with reporter to discuss the SEP. (see Director's report)

8) Director's Report

Art Starry, the PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, thanked the Board for the opportunity to fill the role of interim Director for the last three months, stating it gave him an opportunity to learn more about all of the Department programs. Vice Chair Wolfe expressed her appreciation of a job well done. Chair Blake commended Mr. Starry for his leadership and thanked him for his hard work. Commissioner Romero also thanked him for a great job.

Mr. Starry then reported on:

- ◆ Syringe Exchange Program staff to be interviewed by King 5 news reporter Drew Mikkelsen. Mr. Mikkelsen reported on the heroin epidemic three years ago and was impressed with our SEP services and will be doing a follow up to that story in the coming days.
- ◆ Septic System Management Plan Update and Public meetings – staff is still seeking comments on proposed changes to the County's On-site Sewage Management Plan; the third septic plan open house to be held on February 11, 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Griffin Elementary School; open houses were held in Olympia and Rainier in December, 2015; for additional information go to www.co.thurston.wa.us/health - Hot Topics & News.
- ◆ Thurston Thrives Partners in Action for Community Health – the Thurston County Chamber Foundation agreement has been renewed for them to continue as the administrator, fiscal agent and to provide staffing for the Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council.
- ◆ Sodium Reduction – Bobby Jayz, a food service establishment on the capitol campus is the latest partner to increase low sodium food options to its customers; this is the fifth establishment to provide lower sodium options; others include: Bienvenue Café, Department of Ecology Café, Providence St. Peter Hospital Café, and St. Gertrude Café

at St Martin's University; the establishments revise their recipes and note the low sodium options on their menus; this program is funded by Department of Health.

- 9) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting of February 9, 2016. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

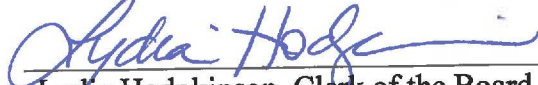
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


BUD BLAKE, Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Vice Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: April 12, 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.