



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 October 13, 2015

1) **3:30 p.m. Call Meeting to Order**

In Attendance: Blake, Vice Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Commissioner; Don Sloma, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; Rachel Wood, Health Officer; Cliff Moore, County Manager; and Emmie San Nicolas, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Vice Chair Blake called the meeting to order.

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

Vice Chair Blake moved to approve the July 14, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) **Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board**

Citizen: Sharon Burke

Issue: Puget Sound Energy Smart Meters

Ms. Burke spoke of the adverse health effects of the installation of two-way “smart meters” and shared examples of the direct electrical effects that can be harmful to the public.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

3) **Description: Climate Change and Clean Energy Community Survey Results**

Tom Crawford and Graeme Sackrison, volunteers with the local organization Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT), presented the method used and results of the TCAT community survey conducted in June 2015 in partnership with Thurston County, LOTT, The Evergreen State College, St. Martin’s University, South Puget Sound Community College and Thurston Thrives. The survey was initiated to gather results and learn about community attitudes toward climate change, and the level of support for clean energy efforts that reduce local contributions to climate change. Mr. Crawford shared that the survey demonstrated broad support for climate action and a variety of local renewable energy and energy conservation efforts in which the community is willing to pay for. Examples of climate change such as traffic exhaust and weather patterns were shared in detail as local health impacts, as well as a graph of sustainable Thurston targets measuring Thurston County Greenhouse Gas Metric Tons of CO₂ Equivalent (MTCDE) that showed the decline in numbers through 2050. Promising solutions include the expansion of energy efficiency services; promotion of solar installation; building out electric vehicle

infrastructure; expanding commute trip reduction programs; etc. Climate change also impacts the community, environment, and daily lives. The survey results also showed that the top community concerns include: traffic, population growth, homelessness, and growth management. The top environmental issue was water quality. Mr. Crawford presented a variety of graphs that provided examples and results pertaining to the types of actions that could be taken in Thurston County to promote renewable energy and energy conservations. Overall, county residents feel positively about quality of community life in Thurston County. Some have concerns about climate change, and its local effects on health, while others favor county-wide, coordinated action. The survey also showed that many residents would support clean energy programs with money, however, some are receptive to small tax increases. The next action step would be to develop a county-wide clean energy program to include policy opportunities. TCAT is prepared to work within existing structures, commit time and efforts, and ensure the work is in connection with Thurston Thrives.

4) Description: Suicide Information for Residents of Thurston County

Gary Warnock, Thurston County Coroner, Mary Ann O'Garro, Epidemiologist, Public Health and Social Services, and Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer, presented suicide information for residents of Thurston County. Local data shared showed that suicide is the 8th leading cause of death for Thurston County residents. On average, forty (40) residents die each year from suicide. The county's suicide death is higher than the state alone with the highest suicide rates by age are: 85 and up; 25-29; and 40-44. A variety of risk factors for suicide was shared in detail including risks factors varying by age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic factors in men, older adults, and military persons. Knowing the risk factors and how to respond to a disclosure can save a life. Dr. Wood provided examples of things to do to help someone in a time of crisis. Don't be afraid to ask and make a plan for support. Suicide prevention is possible.

5) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Commissioner Wolfe reported on:

- ◆ HOME Consortium and CIP decision to merge;
- ◆ Quixote Village (PANZA) awards and accomplishments;
- ◆ Family Education Support Center Auction.

Vice Chair Blake reported on:

- ◆ One Stop Shop for Veterans – designated to help the Veterans Community with direct services;
- ◆ Thurston County Emergency Management Services hosted an emergency preparedness event Yelm High School on 9/26/15;
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity opening of four (4) houses in Lacey on 9/26/15;
- ◆ Walk to School at Olympic View Elementary School on 10/9/15;
- ◆ Tour at Pear Blossom – Family shelters/supportive housing/apartments partnered with Housing Authority of Thurston County and the Family Education Support Center.

6) Director's Report

Don Sloma reported on:

- ◆ Housing and Community Renewal contract renewal with Cold Weather Shelters;
- ◆ Housing and Community Renewal program assists homeless individuals find temporary housing;
- ◆ Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council met in August and September and continue to make progress with Community Design and Environmental. Member recruitment continues adding representation from local city government and at-large members. Liz Davis expected to step down from the council to be the staff person for Thurston Thrives;
- ◆ The department began uploading the Measures of Progress for Thurston Thrives action areas into a web-based display, which can be seen on the county and Thurston Thrives website;
- ◆ The Regional Support Network continues to work on the detailed plan to become Behavioral Health Organization. The first draft is due on 10/31/15, which the state will review and provide feedback. The final plan is due the end of December;
- ◆ Laure Tebo is the new Behavioral Health Resources (BHR) CEO replacing John Masterson;
- ◆ The department has a number of open job positions one of which is a recruitment for a Developmental Disability Program Manager who retired in September;
- ◆ Septic System Public Outreach begins soon;
- ◆ With generous support from ESD #113, Public Health and Social Services purchased 200 tobacco lockboxes that are designed to keep nicotine products, tobacco, marijuana, medication, etc. out of reach of small children and prevent accidental poisonings. The boxes and education materials will be distributed to a number of community organizations by the Nurse-Family Partnership and the Children with Special Health Care Needs programs.

7) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

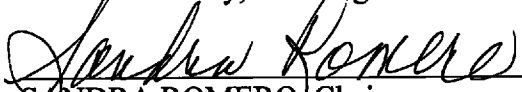
- ◆ Commended the presentation on Climate Change mentioning that October is Commuter Month among county employees;
- ◆ One (1) positive Influenza A reported this month. The number of influenza testing increases;
- ◆ Active TB individuals continue to be monitored;
- ◆ Thanked the dedicated Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and various community partners for their involvement with flu clinics during the months of September and October;
- ◆ October is Emergency Preparedness Month. Dr. Wood encourages everyone to ensure that their emergency kits are updated and ready.

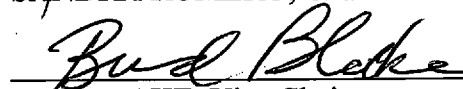
Vice-Chair Blake, Board Members, and attendees acknowledged the retirement of Department Director, Don Sloma and thanked him for all he has done for the department and community over

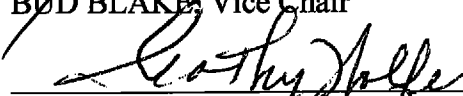
past the 3 ½ years. Mr. Sloma's last day is October 30th. The Commissioners appointed Art Starry as Interim-Director until the director's position is filled.

- 8) **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Blake moved to adjourn the meeting of October 13, 2015. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH/
Thurston County, Washington


SANDRA ROMERO, Chair


BUD BLAKE, Vice Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Emmie San Nicolas, Clerk of the Board

Date: 1/12/2016

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.