



## **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 July 14, 2015**

#### **1) 3:35 p.m. Call Meeting to Order**

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

Chair Romero 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 May 12, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

#### **3) Description: Our Changing Climate and Public Health**

Art Starry, Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Environmental Health Division Director discussed how climate change fits into the Thurston Thrives Environment Action Team's agenda; he reviewed the Team Strategy map's highlighted Strategies, Objectives and Goals explaining the many ways climate change effects our community's health. Mr. Starry then introduced Lauren Jenks, Office Director of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), Environmental Public Health Sciences and Jerrod Davis, Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Ms. Jenks provided a presentation discussing climate change science; current impacts on drinking water, air quality, our health, our food supply; and future challenges and strategies for mitigating some anticipated impacts. In addition to sources cited in her presentation, Ms. Jenks acknowledged Lara Whitely-Binder, University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group; Howard Frumkin, University of Washington; Glen Patrick, DOH Environmental Epidemiology; and Jerrod Davis. Chair Romero requested information about the warming phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean referred to as the "Blob". Mr. Jerrod Davis commented to say the phenomenon is having an impact on shellfish and noted the Washington State Department of Ecology is holding a Media Day on the topic next week. The Board thanked Ms. Jenks and Mr. Davis for the presentation and information.

**4) Description: Thurston Climate Action Team Update on Climate Change Community Survey**

Chris Hawkins, Program Manager of the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnership Program briefly explained the topic and introduced Tom Crawford and Graeme Sackrison volunteers with the local organization Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT). Mr. Crawford gave a presentation providing an update of the Thurston Climate Action Team's work which include community education efforts, an update of Thurston County Green House Gas (GHG) emissions statistics and described an Attitudinal Survey of Thurston County residents. The survey was funded by Thurston County and LOTT in partnership with The Evergreen State College, St. Martin's University, South Puget Sound Community College and Thurston Thrives with the purpose of surveying our community about attitudes and level of support for actions to reduce local contributions to climate change. Mr. Crawford noted a more Board Briefing has been scheduled for September 10, 2015 when more detailed survey results and TCAT's proposed climate action plan will be shared. He thanked the Board for their funding support of the survey. The Board thanked Mr. Crawford for the presentation and information.

**5) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities**

Vice Chair Blake reported on:

- ◆ White House Conference On Aging

Commissioner Wolfe reported on:

- ◆ Senior Games planning meeting
- ◆ Cascade Pacific Alliance meeting
- ◆ Phoenix Awards meeting – honored Judy Wilson
- ◆ Meetings discussing Marijuana
- ◆ Meeting discussing - Antibiotics in Animals
- ◆ Meeting discussing Legionnaire Disease

Chair Romero reported on:

- ◆ Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency meeting
- ◆ Coffee Chats in Yelm, Lacey and Rainier – guest: Don Sloma
- ◆ Panorama City Opening of a Pollinator Garden
- ◆ LOTT Board meeting
- ◆ Attended a Retirement Event for Annie Cubberly
- ◆

**6) Director's Report**

Don Sloma reported on:

- ◆ Thurston County is one of two regional coalitions recognized as Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) which is a part of the state's effort to transform the health care system to bring better health, better care and lower costs to Washington residents.

- ◆ Thurston County is part of the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance, which is supported by CHOICE Regional Health Network, and serves Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties. The ACH designation puts our county's health care and behavioral health providers, including our health and social services department, in line for flexible new funds that the state's Medicaid program may offer as part of their plan. It also places us, however, in a set of new relationships with other counties, Medicaid contracted health insurance companies, hospital systems and others across seven counties, which could diminish our relative influence in terms of Medicaid and perhaps state supplied public health funds.
- ◆ Thurston Thrives update –
  - Staff continues to support the Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council, which met on June 8<sup>th</sup>; next meeting July 20<sup>th</sup>; the Housing Action Team is to present.
  - The Department recently purchased InsightVision, a performance measurement software, that manages, measures, and helps communicate progress of objectives and initiatives. The program will be used by Thurston Thrives, the Treatment Sales Tax and other County programs. Training is in progress.
  - Treatment Sales Tax used Action Team Strategy maps for budget development.
- ◆ Regional Support Network (RSN)/ Behavioral Health Organization(BHO)
  - DSHS has developed a “detail plan” for converting the RSN to a Behavioral Health Organization.
  - RSN and CD staff are working on details of the project that will be sent to DSHS by Oct. 31, 2015.
  - RSN staff are working with Mason County to get their input into the plan, and developing the necessary behavioral health services in Mason County.
- ◆ Algae Blooms Continue
  - Blue – green algae blooms continue on several lakes throughout the county; toxin levels have decreased and health advisories have been lifted.
  - Staff sample lakes while algae blooms are present, and notify residents when algae are producing toxin at levels of concern.
- ◆ Housing and Community Renewal - Community Investment Partnership
  - The Community Investment Partnership (CIP) steering Committee selected 35 programs to be funded for the 2015 program year that begins on July 1, 2015. The programs align with Thurston Thrives Action Team Strategy maps.
- ◆ Provided a Legislative update

## **7) Health Officer's Report**

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

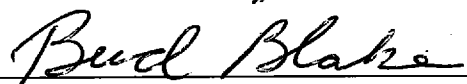
- ◆ Legionnaires' Disease
  - Three confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease connected to the Super 8 motel in Lacey were reported between June 15 and July 1.
  - A Health Officer order was issued on June 26 requiring that the motel:
    - Keep the rooms the patients stayed in unoccupied;
    - Contract with a certified legionella handling lab to conduct sampling;
    - Inform current guests of the investigation;
    - Notify the department of actions taken by the motel; and

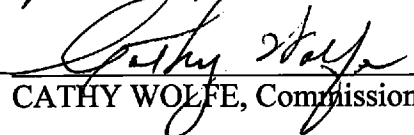
- Share the sampling report, and written results of preliminary and final analysis.
- The Health Officer issued a voluntary closure letter to the motel on July 2, after the third case was reported to the department on July 1. The motel voluntarily closed on July 2.
- Staff contacted known guests and staff of the motel to make them aware of the investigation, and ask them to monitor their health for symptoms.
- The department provided a letter on July 9 that recommended actions that the motel should take prior to reopening. Those included:
  - Treatment of the plumbing system;
  - Cleaning ice machines; and
  - Ensuring that the pool and spa were maintained at recommended chlorine levels.
- PHSS staff observed cleaning and treatment activities.
- The motel reopened on July 10.
- Final test results are pending.
- The motel will continue to monitor and sample the plumbing system, pool and spa and other locations where Legionella bacteria may occur to prevent bacterial growth.
- Primary symptoms are malaise, respiratory illness that turns into pneumonia.
- ◆ Pertussis update:
  - 50 cases confirmed this year
  - Solutions being discussed
  - Still recommending everyone get vaccinated
- ◆ Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
  - The MRC supported a Seattle bicycle event. Dr. Wood and the Board commended the volunteers for their outstanding work.

**8) Adjournment** – Vice Chair Blake moved to adjourn the meeting of July 14, 2015. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

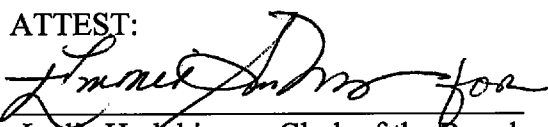
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

  
SANDRA ROMERO, Chair

  
BUD BLAKE, Vice Chair

  
CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: 10/30/15

**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.