



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 December 9, 2014

1) 3:34 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Cathy Wolfe, Chair; Karen Valenzuela, Commissioner; Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director, Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer; Chris Hawkins, a Public Health & Social Services Department Program Manager, and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health

Excused Absence: Sandra Romero, Vice Chair

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Chair Wolfe noted this meeting is the ending of Thurston Thrives Phase I work and the beginning of Phase II.

- a. Commissioner Valenzuela moved to approve the meeting agenda. Chair Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b. Commissioner Valenzuela moved to approve the September 9, 2014 and the October 14, 2014 Board of Health meeting minutes. Chair Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) Proclamation – recognizing the efforts of the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council 2013-2014

Chris Hawkins, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department Active Healthy Communities Coordinator, gave a background of the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council. In April of 2013, the Board of Health launched the Thurston Thrives community health improvement call to action, appointing a thirteen member Thurston Thrives Advisory Council. These community leaders, having broad experience and representing important voices for the improvement of our community's health, served over the past 1 ½ years to provide the Board of Health with advice for the development of the Thurston Thrives initiative. Their advice has contributed to the success of the first phase of the initiative during which nine action teams assembled and crafted strategies for action on key factors in community health and the main message of the importance of these factors, like education, housing and employment, was shared widely in the community. The Council Members have participated up to this point of a transition, the implementation phase of the initiative to be discussed later at this same meeting as Phase 1 is drawn to a close. A Proclamation recognizing the efforts of the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council was read by Commissioner Valenzuela. She acknowledged the Council Members who were present at the meeting. A signed Proclamation was distributed to all Council Members. Chair Wolfe thanked Chris Hawkins for all of his efforts, hard work and time as the coordinator

for the Thurston Thrives initiative, the Community Design Action Team Lead and community liaison. She also thanked Elisa Kaufmann a PHSS Education and Outreach Specialist for her efforts. Chair Wolfe and Commissioner Valenzuela gave a special thank you to Don Sloma for his hard work and diligence involving the public in the Thurston Thrives initiative. Mr. Sloma thanked the Board for the opportunity, their engagement and commitment to the initiative. The Board also thanked Dr. Rachel Wood for her involvement and efforts as the Health Officer and as a participant on the Clinical and Emergency Care Action Team. Dr. Wood thanked the Board and expressed her appreciation of the initiative. A group photo of all Advisory Council Members present was taken by John Tennis, the County Public Information Program Manager.

3) Department Item

Description: Thurston Thrives update and options for the structure to coordinate, measure, promote and sustain the initiative to improve the health of all Thurston County residents.

Chair Wolfe explained on November 5, 2014 a Thurston Thrives Retreat was held where over thirty stakeholders including members of the Board of Health, Advisory Council, Action Teams and community met to discuss and determine what Phase II – Implementation of Thurston Thrives would look like. The Retreat ended with approximately 90% of the work they had committed to complete, leaving some unanswered questions regarding Phase II. At the end of the Retreat TOGETHER!'s Meghan Sullivan, Executive Director, and Meagan Darrow, Deputy Director, among others, volunteered to meet again to develop for consideration a final recommended structure for Thurston Thrives Phase II Implementation. Chair Wolfe noted the work of the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council for Phase I is officially ended. She then introduced Ms. Sullivan who was to provide a presentation describing the proposed structure that was developed.

Ms. Sullivan explained that the Retreat stakeholders affirmed the vision of a 2015 coordinating structure that included defined roles for a Coordinating Council, contracted support staff, and “hubs”, also known as Action Teams. On November 21st a group of eleven volunteers from the November 5th retreat met to discuss unanswered questions. This group compiled recommendations for the makeup of the Coordinating Council including sectors and number of representatives; and the role and qualifications for a fiscal agent. The Coordinating Council's role would include fostering continuous communication; identifying gaps, needs and opportunities; reviewing data; setting strategic goals for system and process improvement; and would not be a funding body. Members could make a financial contribution but it would not be required. It is recommended the council would include representatives from the following sectors as stated: two to three from funders (non-governmental), two to three from business, four to seven Thurston Thrives Action Team representatives, one to three from local government, one to two from the education sector, and one to two members at large for a maximum combined total of twenty. Ms. Sullivan provided a description of how the sector representatives would be chosen. Ms. Sullivan then explained the recommendations for the role and qualifications of a fiscal agent which included: 501(c) 3 capable of receiving and dispersing funds; able to contract with support staff; have financial controls in place to ensure good stewardship of funds; be insured/bonded; provide minimal or no direct service programs that could be viewed as a conflict; and have a mission alignment with Thurston Thrives. She clarified that contracted support staff would answer to the Coordinating Council not the Fiscal Agent. Ms. Sullivan stated two suggested

preferred fiscal agents: their first choice being the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the backup choice of the Thurston Economic Development Council's Business Resource Center. She noted the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce Foundation is ready, willing and able to serve as the fiscal agent. It was felt it was important to collect broader input on the plan, and so Action Team members, stakeholders, retreat attendees and attendees of the follow-up group were asked to review the plan. This was done either in person or via an online survey. The majority of anecdotal and survey responses were positive, most recommendations rating 4 out of possible 5. The survey generated the following additional comments: the Coordinating Council should err on the side of being extra inclusive; the role of the council and the role of staff should emphasize communication, both internal and external - be extra communicative with the community regarding all actions when moving forward; continue exploring the interrelationship between this model and the existing Asset Building Coalition structure to reduce duplication and maximize collective impact by working collaboratively. Ms. Sullivan noted recommendation decisions were agreed to by 75% of the group participants. She noted TOGETHER! was not financially compensated for this work. They volunteered because they care about collective impact and public health for our community. Mr. Sloma thanked Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Darrow for their hard work and acknowledged the cost of their time and efforts. The Board also thanked them for their efforts, the structure recommendations and the overall plan.

Mr. Sloma explained funding commitments have been received from the United Way Board, Northwest Venture Philanthropy Board and another unnamed potential funder. Chair Wolfe noted the County has committed to provide funding but explained the Board of Health role will now be as a partner along with all other stakeholders in this public private partnership.

David Schaffert President of the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce addressed the Board stating the Chamber Foundation Board has committed to fill the fiscal agent role. He also stated their Executive Committee will ratify their decision to provide funding to the Coordinating Council at a meeting to be held on January 15, 2015.

Lon Wyrick of the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) noted he and Mr. Sloma have discussed putting together information to present to the Council for their discussion and decision regarding TRPC's role and potential funding in support of this proposed structure. Chair Wolfe requested Mr. Wyrick inform the Board when this presentation will take place so they may attend.

Christina Daniels, representative of the Thurston Asset Building Coalition (ABC), presented a letter to the Board of Health reaffirming the ABC's commitment to collaborate with Thurston Thrives. The ABC is offering to combine their existing Coalition resources with the effort to implement Phase II of Thurston Thrives as opposed to creating a brand new structure thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts. Ms. Daniels described the similarities of the Thurston Thrives model and ABC's structure. Chair Wolfe thanked the Coalition for their offer and willingness to continue working together. She expressed her desire to continue exploring ways to work closer together.

Paul Knox, of United Way and a Thurston Thrives Advisory Council Member spoke in support of merging Thurston Thrives Phase II with ABC and recommended continuing to explore ways to work together with them.

Lisa Smith, of Enterprise for Equity and a Thurston Thrives Advisory Council Member thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate on the Advisory Council and expressed her gratitude for the Board of Health's commitment to the initiative and spoke in support of merging with ABC.

Wes Pruitt, an Education Action Team member expressed his appreciation of including education in the Thurston Thrives initiative and advocated that education be represented, specifically by district superintendents, on the proposed Coordinating Council.

Liz Davis, CEO Northwest Venture Philanthropy and staff support for the Child & Youth Resilience Action Team expressed support for the proposed Coordinating Council and willingness to explore collaboration or merger with ABC in this first year of phase 2

Robert Coit, Executive Director of Thurston County Food Bank and the Food Action Team Lead also spoke in support of merging into one coordinating body; and agreed with taking additional time to explore what is the best way to move forward making sure the work of the Action Teams as compiled in the strategy maps moves forward to better the community.

Chair Wolfe agreed with Mr. Coit's comments; she stated the coordinating council is merely a means to guide the work to be done as laid out in the Action Team strategy maps, not completing the work itself.

Schelli Slaughter, Executive Director of Family Support Center and incoming Chair of the ABC thanked the Board of Health for their investment in the Thurston Thrives initiative; on behalf of ABC she stated they are very open to, and see a great value in, adding additional hubs/action teams and joining together all of the groups including education. She looks forward to working together and expressed her appreciation for considering their invitation to continue the partnership.

David Schaffert, President/CEO the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce spoke on the behalf of the Chamber Board stating the Chamber recognizes the vital importance for the business community, private sector, employer base outside of government to be part of the solutions for health in our community. He explained the Chamber's view point is looking at Thurston Thrives as a very strategic approach to elevate opportunities for people in our community to live healthy lives by increasing wages and career opportunities; the better we elevate people to be self-sufficient, less needs to go to safety nets and social services.

Faith Trimble noted the nation is watching what Thurston County has done with the Thurston Thrives initiative; she has been invited to speak in several places such as Washington DC, Chicago and Pennsylvania where she has shared the message of Thurston Thrives showing what system leadership looks like.

Liz Davis spoke again recommending the proposed coordinating council move forward as a self-defining council.

Chair Wolfe agreed with Ms. Davis expressing her thoughts to wrap up Phase I and go forward with Phase II by moving ahead with the proposed council as a bare bones structure who would continue to explore additional partnerships via Memorandums of Understanding.

Norma Schuiteman, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, expressed support of the work of Thurston Thrives but expressed concerns regarding critically unanswered questions of who decides who is on the council and who decides which partners enter into the mentioned memorandums of understanding. She encouraged the Board, Thurston Thrives staff and other interested parties to consider these questions before specific actions are taken.

Chair Wolfe explained the Board of Health has been in charge until now and is ready to pass the authority to a public private partnership, the proposed Coordinating Council. She then requested clarification from Mr. Sloma regarding how the Coordinating Council would be created and what the timing would be to pass authority to the Council. He explained that according to the proposal presented by TOGETHER! there would be three or four entities identified that would select members of the Coordinating Council. It is being proposed the Board of Health direct him, the PHSS Director, to prepare of a Memorandum of Understanding among the funding partners to create and fund a coordinating structure, identifying a fiscal agent and provide the basic description of the structure. It has been discussed that this initial structure would convene and operate for a year at which time the council would be looked at and possibly reconstituted with additional partners and funding. Mr. Sloma clarified the coordinating structure would be a public private partnership to be led by a council composed of a balance of six different community sectors who would each choose their representatives as follows: Action Team Leads would nominate representatives to the Coordinating Council who would then make the selections; Thurston County Board of Health would chose the local government representatives, non-governmental (philanthropy) funders would collaborate to determine and nominate representatives; the Thurston County Chamber would lead a process with interested businesses to determine/nominate business representatives; and School districts superintendents would select education representatives. Once the initial Coordinating Council is assembled the Council would process applications for selection of Members at Large.

Chair Wolfe proposed to approve the Coordinating Council structure as presented and operate for six months instead of a year before reconstitution would be discussed. Commissioner Valenzuela agreed to move ahead with the proposal as stated; expressed her appreciation for the offer by the ABC and looks forward to exploring additional partnerships. Mr. Sloma expressed his opinion that once the Coordinating Council convenes they would then have the authority to decide what their future is. Liz Davis noted the funding requests to, and commitments by, the Funders were based on a one year funding period. Chair Wolfe expressed appreciation for the reminder of, and agreed to, the one year time frame. Chair Wolfe requested the MOU's be written clarifying funders provide funding but the Council makes decisions.

Lon Wyrick expressed his opinion, with his 35 years of experience in regional planning putting groups together such as the proposed Coordinating Council, that all of the proposed work for the good of the community needs to be done at a high level of trust.

Lisa Smith expressed the importance of not recreating the wheel; she recommended not missing an opportunity to merge with the existing structure of ABC now.

Chair Wolfe acknowledged the existing structure of ABC, along with other similar organizations that exist, but recommended to move ahead with the proposed Coordinating Council as presented but continue to explore ways all partners can work together.

Ms. Sullivan proposed to include representatives from ABC on the proposed Coordinating Council. Mr. Sloma agreed ABC representatives have been a part of Thurston Thrives and should continue to do so. Chair Wolfe agreed and clarified the Recommended Action of the Board of Health would allow for inclusion of ABC representatives or individuals familiar with their structure. Commissioner Valenzuela also agreed with the additional representation on the Council.

4) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board of Health - None

5) Department Item

Description: Board of Health approval to establish Phase 2 coordinating structure for Thurston Thrives. (See item 3 above for discussion on this item.)

For clarification Chair Wolfe read the Recommendation Action motion. After additional discussion Commissioner Valenzuela moved to direct the Public Health and Social Services Department Director to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding among funding partners to sustain key elements of Thurston Thrives to the greatest extent possible reflecting their agreement from the November 5th Thurston Thrives retreat as articulated in the presentation by TOGETHER! today, see agenda item number three, to create and fund this coordinating structure, identifying a fiscal agent and providing the basic description of the structure. Chair Wolfe seconded the motion. Commissioner Valenzuela thanked Ms. Sullivan for the presentation and proposal. She expressed the desire to have everyone in the conversation and welcomed all comments from all community organizations. The motion carried.

6) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities and Accomplishments – due to length of meeting, no reports were given.

7) Director's Report –

Mr. Don Sloma reported on:

- ◆ Adult Behavioral System Task force final recommendations are available; a number of the Thurston County group's recommendations were accepted.
- ◆ Scatter Creek Advisory Committee recommendations will be presented for the Board of Health approval at their December 16, 2014 meeting.
- ◆ Neonicotinoid Insecticide Prohibition – the Board will consider adopting policy amendments to the Thurston County Pest and Vegetation Management Policy to prohibit the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on county owned and management property at their December 16, 2014 meeting.
- ◆ Thurston Early Childhood Coalition Angel Award – Bonnie Peterson a PHSS Community Health Nurse, who works with Children with Special Health Care Needs, was recognized for

her many years of advocacy, parent education and work to improve the health and safety of children in Thurston County.

- ◆ Thurston Thrives – spent a lot of time working on Thurston Thrives transition into Phase II.
- ◆ Discussed Ebola situation's impact on PHSS operations; Department switched into Incident Command mode; \$35,000 in cost; many other daily operations halted.

8) Health Officer's Report –

Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

- ◆ Ebola update – expressed her appreciation of staff and acknowledged their competency when working on outbreak preparedness for situations like the Ebola outbreak; she provided an update on response preparedness for a potential local Ebola outbreak; discussed her positive experience and working relationships with other counties and the State of Washington Department of Health; there have been no reported cases in the county or state.
- ◆ Tuberculosis – work continues on monitoring TB cases.
- ◆ Bacterial meningitis – provided an update on a local case.

Chair Wolfe thanked Dr. Wood for her behind the scenes work. Dr. Wood noted the emergency preparedness work being done on the Ebola outbreak has helped build relationships and partnerships with the medical partners, partners in the education and local community organizations.

Mr. Sloma stated the Ebola emergency preparedness work has given the department the opportunity to communicate and build better partnerships with local medical partners and school districts. Commissioner Valenzuela commented on the importance of the public health infrastructure and commended Dr. Wood for the good work.

9) Adjournment – meeting was adjourned

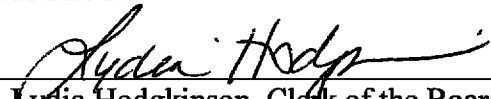
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


CATHY WOLFE, Chair

absent
SANDRA ROMERO, Vice Chair

not available for signature
KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: February 10, 2015

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.