



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 14, 2014

3:35 p.m.) Meeting called to order

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

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order.

- ♦ **Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:** Vice Chair Romero moved to approve the agenda for January 14, 2014. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. Motion carried.

1) Consent Item

Vice Chair Romero moved to approve the consent item. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Description: Approval of the State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water Joint Plan of Responsibility (JPR) #N20497

Staff Contact: Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director

Recommended Action: Move to approve and authorize the Director of Public Health and Social Services Department to sign the Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water Joint Plan of Responsibility Agreement #N20497 which delegates the authority to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services for the review and regulation of Group B public water systems in Thurston County through December 31, 2018.

Presentations

2) Greetings from Gaza

Danielle Westbrook, Commissioner Valenzuela's Assistant, filling in for Becca Pilcher, Commissioner Romero's Assistant. Mr. Pilcher has been involved with the Rachel Corrie Foundation for several years formerly as their office manager and currently as their Board Secretary. Through the Foundation Ms. Pilcher met Anees Mansour from Rafah, Gaza, Palestine who has been visiting Olympia for seven weeks. Ms. Westbrook introduced Mr. Mansour and Craig Corrie of the Rachel Corrie Foundation. The Board welcomed Mr. Mansour and Mr. Corrie. Ms. Westbrook then shared Mr. Mansour's bio stating he was born in Rafah in 1986. He has worked at the Rachel Corrie Youth and Cultural Center for eight years, coordinating programs for youth and children in his community engaging them in arts, music, writing and many other activities. Last year Mr. Mansour was invited by the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice to participate in their

Leadership Studies Fellowship. Mr. Mansour shared his story and pictures of his 125 day experience leaving the Gaza Strip to participate in the program. Mr. Mansour then shared information, and World Health Organization statistics, regarding mental health issues and the importance of women's health fitness in Gaza. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and share his story. Craig Corrie addressed the Board, stating that Mr. Mansour is the first of what they hope to be a number of people the Leadership Studies Fellowship bring from the Gaza Strip to our area to meet people in our community and see some of what the rest of the world is like. Chair Wolfe thanked Mr. Mansour and Mr. Corrie for attending and thanked Mr. Mansour for sharing his personal story. Commissioner Valenzuela commented on the Rachel Corrie Peace Dove sculpture at the Evergreen State College campus. Mr. Corrie commented it is a beautiful sculpture that encourages everyone to visualize peace.

3) Climate Change and Health in Thurston County

Chris Hawkins, Active Healthy Communities Coordinator, addressed the Board gave a description of Climate Change which is any significant variation in temperature, precipitation, wind or other type of weather lasting for a decade or longer. He acknowledged that the Board and the County have been the forefront leading efforts in climate change response and mitigation in our community. Mr. Hawkins introduced Josh Cummings a Sustainability Specialist with the Central Services Department which deals with operational ways of addressing climate change for the County. Mr. Hawkins noted the presentation information is focused on the role of public health in responding to the health effects associated with climate change in the Thurston County community. Climate variability and change leads to regional and local weather change which causes adverse health effects such as heat related illnesses and deaths; extreme weather related health effects; air pollution related health effects; allergic diseases; infectious diseases; water and food-borne diseases; vector and rodent borne disease and food insecurity. Mr. Hawkins described health impacts locally which include increased respiratory disease, asthma, heart attacks and habitat changes for disease carrying organisms caused by warmer temperatures causing poor air quality and more heat waves; psychological stress, contaminated food and water, barriers to health services and medications caused by changing precipitation patterns leading to flooding, mudslides and erosion. Changing conditions from warmer temperatures and more water could cause Hantavirus, increased mold, shellfish poisoning and vector borne vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus. Over the past few years Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) has been working to understand the consequences of climate change and prepare for them. If we prepare well, our community will be better able to adapt to the changes and prevent poor health outcomes. In preparation PHSS has compiled a White Paper, presented information to Department staff, conducted outreach and responded to requests for the Board of Health, Emergency Management Council, Disaster Assistance Council, Region 3 Healthcare coalition, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Joint Conference on Health and the community including Climate Action Teams and Olympia Lions Club. The White Paper titled "Projected Health Impacts of Climate Change in Thurston County" is posted on the Public Health and Social Services Department's website located at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/initiatives/PDF/ProjectedHealthImpactsThurston.pdf>. PHSS has also participated in Thurston County sustainability planning. Mr. Hawkins described emerging concerns which include ocean acidification along with community concerns/debates regarding climate manipulation, coal trains and mitigation measures and their costs. He stated the next steps are to continue the emergency preparedness role for public health; continue responding to community requests (education); continue connecting this issue with other healthy community efforts; and continue individual and group actions to reduce climate changing emissions to prevent it from happening and reduce the effects of Climate Change. For example, the County supports and encourages active transportation, which not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, it is making opportunities for physical activity more available to residents. Mr. Hawkins stated Climate Change is being addressed by Thurston Thrives through the Environment Action Team strategy and also through the Community Design Action Team and the Housing Action Team. Climate Change is part of Sustainable Thurston which has

identified goals and actions to reduce the emission level of Thurston County. At this point in the presentation Mr. Cummings addressed the Board and described what Thurston County is doing to address climate change with regards to building operations and transportation. Chair Wolfe welcomed Mr. Cummings and acknowledged his expertise in sustainability. Mr. Cummings noted this Board has worked very hard to find positive solutions to mitigate the effects of Climate Change, such as approval of the Sustainability Policy and a climate change and carbon emission output measurement study completed by Mark Neary of Central Services. The County is working through Puget Sound Energy Research Conservation Management Program and Washington State Commerce to obtain grants to fund energy efficient operational and building upgrades. Operational changes that have been implemented by the County include: energy use reduction at County facilities, exploration of renewable energy, employee trip reduction such as video conferencing and guest idling reduction in County parking lots. Mr. Hawkins then briefly described what Washington State Department of Health is doing to address climate change across the state. He also stated Governor Inslee has set climate change mitigation as a priority and is working with State Legislature on possible action. Vice Chair Romero requested clarification of climate manipulation. She stated some of her constituents have talked about the federal government putting chemicals in the air and wondered if it was part of climate manipulation. Mr. Hawkins stated the concern of chemicals being put in the air to effect climate change has come up and was discussed during sustainability planning community workshops but this concern is not showing up in public health literature. Commissioner Valenzuela stated she had attended the December Climate Legislative and Executive work group convened by the Governor and the four legislators who serve on the work group. She expressed her concern that although Governor Inslee and two of the four legislators felt strongly about addressing climate change the other two legislators do not. Mr. Hawkins stated he shared Commissioner Valenzuela's concerns but feels Governor Inslee will not give up on making climate change mitigation a priority. The Board thanked Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Cummings for the presentation.

4) 2014 Public Health and Social Services Legislative and Policy Matters

Don Sloma, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department Director and Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, presented a summary of the key public health and social services issues anticipated coming before state legislative leaders this year. Each year PHSS staff is asked for the county's position on legislative issues and for assistance preparing for and responding to legislative requests. Staff is asking for guidance about legislative and policy issues that are top priority for the county, and if/how they should respond to requests regarding legislative issues. The presentation identified bills and legislative issues that may be of most interest to the county; explained what the bill or issue does; described the public health risk or opportunity; provided the status of the bill or issue; and gave suggested positions the county may wish to adopt to guide PHSS staff efforts. Mr. Sloma and Mr. Starry described possible bills and legislative issues for Public Health. Mr. Sloma clarified the "Require free blood borne pathogen (BBP) -infectious disease testing for good Samaritans" proposed bill in response to Vice Chair Romero's question of who pays for BBP testing now. She also questioned if the funds that provide state employees with free diabetes testing are also available to county employees. Mr. Sloma explained that type of funding is not available to the county and then gave examples of how employers are able to provide this type of service. He also noted the "Healthiest Next Generation" draft bill may provide free testing of diabetes type services. At Chair Wolfe's request, he provided additional clarification of the "Healthiest Next Generation" draft bill. Commissioner Valenzuela requested the position recommendation of "oppose" for the "Require free blood borne pathogen (BBP) -infectious disease testing for good Samaritans" likely bill be changed to "monitor". Discussion ensued regarding a state wide medication "Take Back Program" bill not being pursued at this time due to King County's proposed "Producer Funded Take Bake program" bill which is under review. Mr. Sloma described possible bills and legislative issues for Social Services. Mr. Starry stated the Board will be given updates on new issues that arise during the 2014 legislative session and will be asked for guidance if staff is asked to speak on a topic. Vice Chair Romero requested staff monitor two upcoming hearings being heard in senate.

5) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Winfried Danke, CHOICE Regional Health Network Director, thanked the Board for allowing CHOICE to use the Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) Department building for the Mental Health Access Program (MHAP) for the last seven years. MHAP services are provided in the PHSS conference rooms every Wednesday evening from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Danke thanked the board for the leadership to allow use of the building seven years ago. MHAP Clinical Director Nancy Murphy addressed the Board also thanking them for use of the building. She described the mental health clients that use MHAP services and the valuable service MHAP does for the community. MHAP provides their clients with referrals to a free medical clinic, for housing and for prescriptions. She explained the volunteer providers have to be either a licensed therapists or psychologist. New provider volunteers are always needed and welcome. Volunteer information can be found at www.crhn.org/MHAP. Forty-six volunteer providers have served 525 individuals over the past seven years and volunteered 4,419 hours. For information on how to receive a referral to MHAP call (360) 539-7576. Ms. Murphy noted local restaurants provide dinners to the volunteer providers. The Board stated they would like the opportunity to recognize these restaurants. They thanked Mr. Danke and Ms. Murphy for the information and their expression of gratitude. It was noted the PHSS building continues to be available for MHAP use.

6) Follow –up on Citizen Issues – none

7) Board Members' Reports - Board Members reported on public health and social services involvement since the last Board of Health meeting:

◆ **Commissioner Valenzuela reported on:**

- Thurston Thrives Community Design Action Team meeting
- Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup meeting
- Joint meeting with Olympia City Council
- Public Hearing on marijuana regulations
- Annual Thurston Chamber State of the Community Forum
- Legislative Steering Committee meeting
- Meeting about Pierce County Experience with prioritizing mental health services

◆ **Vice Chair Romero reported on:**

- LOTT meeting
- Washington State Building Code Council meeting – she was appointed to Legislative Committee
- Met with Yelm Mayor Ron Harding – Yelm adult residents high ACE's scores

◆ **Chair Wolfe reported on:**

- CHOICE and Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC) working together to become an Accountable Collaborative for Health (ACH)
- Joint meeting with Olympia City Council
- Public Hearing on marijuana regulations
- Meeting about Pierce County experience with OptumHealth Running their Regional Support Network for Community Mental Health

8) Director's Report - Don Sloma reported on the following items:

- ◆ Invitation from Educational Service District #113 to speak to Superintendents
- ◆ Request from local school districts to address playground safety
- ◆ Tobacco Free Campus - Thurston County properties became tobacco free effective January 1, 2014; signs and decals being installed at all County properties
- ◆ Housing and Community Renewal – progress being made on the Family Support Center, Smith Building rehabilitation project; scheduled for completion end of March 2014
- ◆ Thurston Mason Chemical Dependency Program – gave update on the Housing Case Management pilot program
- ◆ Reclaimed Water Infiltration Study update
- ◆ Scatter Creek Aquifer – Septic System Management Project update
- ◆ Thurston Mason Developmental Disabilities Program update

9) Health Officer's Report

Dr. Rachel Wood provided an update on Tuberculosis (TB) cases in the County – 5 people with active or suspect active TB

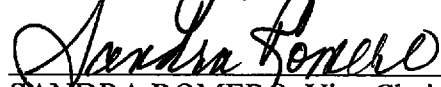
10) ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Romero moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Thurston County, Washington


CATHY WOLFE, Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Vice Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: March 11, 2014

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.