



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 11, 2014

1) 3:35 p.m.

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

2) Presentation – POGO

Chair Wolfe welcomed Player on Greater Olympia (POGO) and introduced Mr. Greg Allison, Executive Director and Conductor of the program. Mr. Allison described POGO a social-transformation-through-music program that demonstrates the power of ensemble music to dramatically change the life trajectory of youth while transforming the communities around them. POGO is based on a program called El Sistema (The System) started by Jose' Abreu nearly forty years ago in Venezuela. Mr. Allison presented the POGO Orchestra members and introduced Julie Funchion a Viola Teaching Artist and acknowledged Linda Pyle also a Violin Teaching Artist, Katherine Sartori a Conductor and Jen Grady the Cello Teaching Artist, all of which instruct the POGO students Monday through Friday after school at Washington Middle School. The orchestra then performed Hunter's Chorus and Clash of the Triads for the Board Members and audience. Students Ashley Palmer-Sellers, Dawson Beaman and Katherine Arnold shared their positive experiences being a part of POGO. Students Max Gaver and Max Parker performed a cello duet. Chair Wolfe thanked the students for their performances and expressed her appreciation of the program and what it does for our youth.

3:55 P.M. – Chair Wolfe called for a 5 minute break to prepare for the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council Meeting

4:00 P.M. – Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order

3) Thurston Thrives Advisory Council Meeting

a) **Introductions** – Board of Health Chair Wolfe opened the Advisory Council meeting. The Advisory Council members in attendance introduced themselves.

Advisory Council Members in attendance: Curt Andino; Mariella Cummings; Nicole Hill; Kevin Haughton, MD; Raj Manhas; Cole Mason, MD; Jay Mason, MD; Lisa Smith; and Shelly Willis

Advisory Council Members Absent: Michael Cade; Barbara Clarkson; Dennis Mahar; Lon Wyrick

Education Action Team Members in attendance: David Schaffert, Jennifer Forster, Mike Hickman and Paul Knox

In attendance for Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS): Don Sloma, Director; Mary Ann O'Garro, Epidemiologist and Chris Hawkins, Active Healthy Communities Coordinator.

Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director, introduced Michael Hickman, the Education Action Team Lead. The Action Team Members introduced themselves. Mr. Sloma stated the Education Action Team presentation will provide information on how we can keep educating our kids, keep them interested in school and in learning; and how we can improve educational outcomes and use the education system as a health improvement tool as well as getting people ready for the rest of their lives. Mr. Sloma explained the connection between POGO and the work of the Education Action Team. He stated there is a growing recognition in the educational system that not all kids learn the same way and we need to find ways to reach out and open them up to education. POGO is one great example of reaching out to our youth.

b) Topic Area Definition and Health Implications, and Community Data/Assessment and Risks

Mary Ann O'Garro, PHSS Epidemiologist, gave a presentation describing the connection between health and education, explaining education is the foundation that lifelong health is built upon. She provided statistics in relation to education and depression and fair or poor health. Ms. O'Garro also provided a Data Snapshot Report of the most current local data that supports the work of the Thurston Thrives Education Action Team. The report provided a current snapshot of community health issues associated with educational attainment.

c) Community Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

Michael Hickman, Action Team Lead, presented the Action Team Report. He shared K-12 Education data; discussed Education Health Indicators; described the team's analysis of threats, opportunities, weaknesses and strengths; he described their Theory of Action; and shared their Issue Statement. Mr. Hickman stated POGO is a great example of an active and relevant learning activity to engage students. He noted the data that caught the attention of the Team more than any other was the post-secondary education and training information. Education beyond high school is increasingly important in obtaining living wage employment, thereby reducing unemployment-related social costs and taxpayer burdens, yet nearly half of the youth who were part of the class of 2012, 9th graders in 2008, have not been reported to

have yet enrolled in post-secondary education or training. The Team feels enrollment in post-secondary education, in addition to high school completion, must be elevated as a policy issue in Thurston County. He stated the Theory of Action - if Thurston County schools and communities systematically partner then high school, postsecondary education, and career outcomes for these youth will improve. Mr. Hickman then shared the Cradle through Career System which overlaps the K-12 Education Support System with Early Childhood Support System and the Post-Secondary Education and Economic/Workforce/Employment Support System. He gave an example of early childhood support in the area of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and resiliency, and the role the school system can play by learning about the early impacts of ACEs to help our children succeed.

d) Recommended Strategic Map and Plan

Mr. Hickman gave an overview of the Team Strategy Map including Strategies; Objectives; and the Goal of “Every child completes high school, earns a post-secondary credential, and has skills to find living wage employment”. Action Team Members gave examples of existing work and pilot projects in support of the recommended strategies:

- Paul Knox – described the following: United Way’s “Reading Buddy” program; applying for a grant to initiate a Community Service Learning program for high school students within the Tumwater School District; for the past three years United Way has funded a bilingual woman who engages Spanish speaking parents around parent education in Rochester School District Kindergarten classes.
- Mr. Hickman – discussed a newly formed Reengagement program – Thurston GRAVITY Reengagement Consortium.
- Jennifer Forster – described South Sound Reading Foundation partnership programs with North Thurston Public Schools and the Olympia School District: Community Access Nights; Summer Playground Pals which provides free books; and Early Learning Story times at Lydia Hawk Elementary.
- Mr. Hickman – discussed the development of pilot projects to develop technology solutions to enable practitioners to identify a request for services and link up with community based services.

Mr. Hickman shared an example of social media presenting maps of Thurston County showing locations and pilot projects. He then shared next steps for the Team: Set Intermediary Measures for Objectives and Goal; Collaborate with Child/Youth Resilience and Economy Action Teams; Identify opportunities for resource alignment; and seek additional resources to support expanded implementation of strategies.

e) Questions and Answers – Board and Advisors

The Board, Advisory Board and Action Team asked questions and shared information as follows:

- Commissioner Romero – questioned how drug addiction and mental health issues were considered by the Team; Mr. Hickman responded that these were among the non-academic areas important to student success that the team discussed.

- Raj Manhas – discussed how serious issues of poverty cause stress on our children; the issue of students in poverty situations are not able to travel out of town to attend universities for post-secondary education; discussed child resiliency socially and emotionally.
 - Maddy De Give – at Mr. Manhas’ request shared her support of a comprehensive system supporting both student academic and emotional behavior; she shared North Thurston Public Schools use of universal screening that has successfully decreased disciplinary office referrals across district.
 - David Schaffert - commended the Education Action Team for their good work; discussed engaging private sector in utilizing the importance of relationships with our youth.
 - Raj Manhas – discussed a Math awareness program that took place a few years ago.
 - Curt Andino – discussed engaging the private sector; discussed Habitat for Humanity “Youth Build” program in partnership with Community Youth Services and Tumwater School District’s New Market Skills Center.
 - Lisa Smith - discussed focusing on financial education and literacy; gave example of seven business owners under 30 years of age.
 - Cole Mason, MD – shared support in prevention by addressing early education.
 - Raj Manhas – discussed pre-kindergarten early education.
 - Kevin Haughton, MD – discussed correlation between sports activities and programs such as POGO.
 - Mariella Cummings – complimented the Action Team on their hard work; discussed loss of physical education and activity in schools; discussed the “100 Mile Club” program at Olympia School District’s McLane elementary school run by volunteers; she will post a couple of questions to the Action Team on the Action Team blog
 - Mike Hickman – encouraged everyone to keep public conversations going
- f) Opportunity for Public Comments from Community members – None**
- g) Discussion – Board, Advisors and Action Team - (see item “3e” above)**
- h) Closing – Don Sloma stated the information presented will be posted on the Thurston Thrives Education Action Team blog at www.thurstonthrives-education.blogspot.com. All Thurston Thrives Action Teams presentations and information can be found at www.ThurstonThrives.org .**

Chair Wolfe thanked everyone involved in Thurston Thrives, specifically the Education Action Team today.

4) Board of Health Members’ Reports – none

- 5) **Director's Report** - none
- 6) **Health Officer's Report** – none
- 7) **Adjournment** – meeting was adjourned

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington



CATHY WOLFE, Chair



SANDRA ROMERO, Vice Chair



KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: April 22, 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.