



## 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 8, 2013

#### **3:40 p.m.) Called Meeting to Order**

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

**Excused absence:** Dr. Diana Yu, Health Officer

Chair Valenzuela called the meeting to order.

- ♦ **Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:** Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the agenda for October 8, 2013. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- ♦ **Approval of Board of Health meeting minutes:** Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from September 10, 2013. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- ♦ **Welcome Dr. Rachel Wood, MD, MPH - Thurston County Public Health Officer Designee:** Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director, introduced Dr. Rachel Wood the newly appointed Thurston County Health Officer effective December 3, 2013. Mr. Sloma welcomed Dr. Wood and provided her background and credentials. The Board welcomed Dr. Wood.

#### **Presentations – The Affordable Care Act (ACA):**

##### **ACA Changes in Primary Care and Public Health**

Dr. Wood gave a presentation providing information on ways public health can help clinicians take better care of their patients; improve ways doctors and their staff can help local and state public health departments and; ways citizens can get more involved. Dr. Wood's presentation summarized how: every clinical encounter is a chance to do public health/preventive care; the patient-centered medical home helps with preventive care; it is time for the high-cost sick care system to become a high-value health care system; and how Public Health fulfills our mandate to "prevent, promote, protect" in a time of decreasing resources and the new Affordable Care Act (ACA). Dr. Wood described what she feels will be her role as the new upcoming Health Officer. The Board thanked Dr. Wood for her "jumping right in" approach by involving herself in the work already going on in the community by Thurston Thrives, the Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC), United Way, Big Brothers Big Sister, etc.

### **Affordable Care Act Insurance Reforms and Plan Offerings**

Don Sloma introduced Jason Siems, Deputy Insurance Commissioner of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. Mr. Siems provided an overview of where we were before the Affordable Care Act (ACA) went into effect; gave an ACA implementation timeline including major milestones, requirements and penalties; briefly described the Washington Health Care Finder ([www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org)); gave an overview of the Medicaid Expansion; briefly described the Qualified Health Plan review and certification process for providers; and gave an explanation of options available for the public to obtain coverage which consists of customer support by telephone, online or in person. At the Board's request Mr. Siems provided additional information regarding assistance to the public, Medicaid qualification information and the income verification process. Mr. Siems stated the Insurance Commissioner will continue to review Health Plans as applied by Insurance Providers and will be a back up to the system. Mr. Sloma provided an explanation of Network Adequacy, one of the 10 essential health benefits required to be a Qualified Health Plan, as essentially approving a plan and verifying it can deliver what the plan promises. The Board thanked Mr. Siems for attending the meeting and providing the information.

### **Affordable Care Act Health Care Exchange Update**

Mr. Sloma introduced Winfried Danke, Executive Director of CHOICE Regional Health Network and Libby Weisdepp, Communications and Operations Manager. Mr. Danke addressed the Board and explained CHOICE is one of the ten lead organizations contracted with the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) to develop a network of In-Person Assister Program and referral partners to carry out the program. The In-Person Assister Program was established to help consumers learn about, apply for and enroll in appropriate health insurance coverage. CHOICE was awarded their contract in June and has a seven county region which includes: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston Counties. Mr. Danke then gave a presentation providing statistics on Washington State's uninsured, as per an Urban Institute study, and discussed the Medicaid Expansion (aka Alternative). Ms. Weisdepp continued the presentation by describing the Qualified Health Plan (QHP) which is an insurance plan certified by the HBE that provides the ten essential health benefits, follows rules on cost-sharing and meets other requirements as described. The presentation included descriptions of the QHP Metal Tiers: bronze, silver, gold and platinum levels; the new continuum of affordable options for 2014 health care coverage and described the In-Person Assistants Responsibilities. Ms. Weisdepp then visited the [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org) website and entered in an example search for health coverage. The presentation also provided statistics since the October 1, 2013 launch through October 7, 2013 including the number of website visits, number of calls received by the Call Center, QHP enrollments and Medicaid newly eligible enrollments. Ms. Weisdepp and Mr. Danke then answered Board Members' questions regarding coverage qualifying requirements, coverage plans and limits, important dates and deadline for enrollment, penalties if coverage not obtained by 2014 and how Lead Organizations and Regions were chosen. The Board expressed their appreciation for the information and thanked all guests for attending.

1) **Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board** - none

2) **Follow-up on Citizen Issues** - none

### **3) Department Items**

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

◆ **Commissioner Romero reported on:**

- Joint meeting with Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) – discussion on idea of county-wide burn ban
- LOTT meeting
- TCTV taping – ground water study
- Blood Center fundraiser
- Involved in continuing discussions about the declining Honey Bee population
- “Dine Out for Life ” - Stonewall Youth
- SafePlace fundraiser dinner

◆ **Vice Chair Wolfe reported on:**

- Joint meeting with BoCC and ORCAA – discussion on idea of county-wide burn ban
- Dinner meetings with Don Sloma and community partners in support of the Thurston Thrives Initiative
- TCTV taping with Art Starry and other staff – water quality work
- Blood Center fundraiser
- Food Bank fundraiser

◆ **Chair Valenzuela reported on:**

- Joint meeting with Olympia Downtown Association, Olympia City Council, PHSS staff – discuss downtown Olympia issues with Syringe disposal
- Joint meeting with BoCC and ORCAA – discussion on idea of county-wide burn ban
- HOME Consortium – represents the County
- Habitat for Humanity Project – annual celebration
- SafePlace – annual celebration
- Commented on Thurston County’s adoption of a ban on plastic bags in un-incorporated county areas

#### **Director’s Report - Don Sloma reported on the following items:**

- ◆ Syringe Exchange Program – program being looked at in downtown Olympia
- ◆ Draft Hazardous Waste Management Plan complete –
  - comments received requesting a plan for syringe disposal be included in the plan
  - placing collection boxes for used syringes at the Lilly Road location and the Courthouse being discussed
- ◆ Back-to-School Immunization Clinic
  - administered over 350 vaccinations
  - 116 children were immunized; 15 vaccines were offered
  - Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers (physicians, nurses, and others) contributed over 300 volunteer hours
  - Clinic provided in partnership with the MRC and Group Health Cooperative.

- ◆ Small Water System Rule Changes Proceed
  - Proposed changes to Article III of the Thurston County Sanitary Code retain the water quality monitoring and permitting requirements of our current regulations
  - Amend other sections to comply with new state law that goes into effect on January 1, 2014.
- ◆ Bat at school –
  - staff received a call that a student brought a live bat to school
  - Interviews revealed that no one was exposed
  - Direct contact with a rabies-infected bat can transmit the virus to pets and humans, which requires costly vaccinations to prevent onset of the deadly disease
  - About 20 bats a year are sent from Thurston County for testing. Typically, only one of those normally tests positive
- ◆ Thurston Mason Regional Support Network and Chemical Dependency Program - trained over 200 community mental health service providers on the new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Five (DSM-5).
- ◆ Thurston Thrives
  - Changing roles
  - More info to come

**Health Officer's Report – In Dr. Diana Yu's absence, Mr. Sloma reported on the following items:**

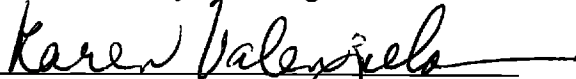
- ◆ E. coli cases continue to be reported
  - Our current case count is 18 Thurston residents, typically we have 5 each year
  - No specific food, water, or common source of exposure
  - Recommend public be vigilant about food handling, especially raw beef, also avoid unpasteurized dairy and drinks
  - Fresh vegetables can be contaminated by wildlife droppings so washing everything well before eating
  - More info at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health)
- ◆ Thurston County is part of nationwide outbreak of salmonella linked to raw chicken
  - 3 cases in Thurston; 248 nationwide
  - Recommend proper cooking temperatures
- ◆ Influenza in Thurston County
  - First case reported this year; earlier than usual
  - Get your flu shots now
  - Everyone who does not want flu should get the shot

Commissioner Romero commented on the improving quality of reports given at the Board of Health meetings. Mr. Sloma gave credit to staff and thanked them for their quality of work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

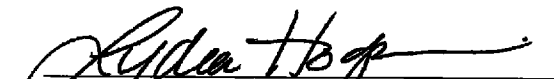
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

  
KAREN VALENZUELA, Chair

  
CATHY WOLFE, Vice Chair

  
SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: November 12, 2013