



## 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 8, 2013

#### **3:50 p.m.) Call Meeting to Order**

**In Attendance:** Karen Valenzuela, Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Vice-Chair; Sandra Romero, Commissioner; Don Krupp, County Manger; Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director; Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Chair Valenzuela called the meeting to order.

- ♦ **Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:** Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the agenda for January 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 December 4, 2012 Public Hearing and the December 11, 2012 regular meeting. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **3:35 p.m.) Presentations**

##### **Implications of the Affordable Care Act for Public Health**

Don Sloma, Public Health and Social Services Department Director, described the topic to be presented and discussed. He explained over recent months the Board of Health has heard several presentations about the ways in which the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will change health insurance purchasing, and how it will change the price, terms, number eligible for subsidies and the substance of health services that insurance will cover. At the Board's request the provisions in the ACA that either affect state and local public health agencies will be presented by and discussed with panelists. The Board Members will hear the Washington State Department of Health's view as well as the views of public health leaders from three local health jurisdictions, Kitsap, Clallam and Jefferson counties.

Mr. Sloma introduced Mr. Martin Mueller, Public Health Systems Development Director of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Mr. Mueller was present to discuss the provisions of the ACA his department sees as most significant for state and local public health. Mr. Sloma then introduced Mr. Scott Daniels, Deputy Director of the Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD), who was present to provide an overview highlighting the ways in which the ACA informed their thinking on a new Strategic Plan. Mr. Sloma then introduced Dr. Tom Locke, MD, MPH, Health Officer for the Clallam County Health & Human Services Department, the Jefferson County Public Health Department, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, consultant to the Kitsap Public Health District and an ex-chair of the Washington State Board of Health. Dr. Locke was present to speak on his views of public health, the ACA and opportunities that lie ahead for local public health.

Mr. Sloma explained that after the panelists' presentations they will enter into discussion with the Board. Chair Valenzuela thanked the panelists for attending and sharing their information.

Mr. Martin Mueller addressed the Board (handout provided) explaining DOH's perspective on Health Care Reform's impact on public health. He described the ACA key provisions to public health: expansion of health insurance – more people with better coverage, preventive benefits; National Prevention Council and the Nation Prevention Strategy; Prevention and Public Health Fund; and non-profit hospital community benefit requirements. He described DOH's current health reform efforts: actively engaging with national partners, working closely with sister state agencies, identifying policy and budgetary impacts to specific programs, communicating with partners, putting the *Agenda for Change* action plan into practice and implementing grant activities supported by the Prevention and Public Health Fund. These activities include: Community Transformation Grant (CTG), Immunization Grants and the Health Path Washington Initiative. He provided additional information regarding the *Agenda for Change* - transforming our Public Health Network: ensuring foundational public health services, adopting strategic priorities and transforming business practices and partnering with the public health system. Mr. Mueller shared some ideas for Long Term Implications for Public Health: expansion of health insurance coverage; role of prevention and other population-based services, including information management, in “bending the health care cost curve”; and collective impact – health in all policies and fostering policy, environment, and systems changes in communities. Mr. Mueller explained the Future Role of Public Health: aligning and integrating work with primary care providers; engaging populations that will benefit from the ACA health benefits; convene stakeholders around public health and lead the community.

Mr. Scott Daniels thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about the ACA. He explained the Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) is a local public health district, not a human services provider. The District represents the county and the cities while also providing public health services to the tribes. He described his presentation as an on-the-ground “what it looks like to them” perspective as it is not clear how the ACA will sort out for districts like Kitsap. Mr. Daniels described six challenges: 1) direct clinical services will recede by local health jurisdictions, communicable disease investigation and Tuberculosis work will continue, they will most likely over-see immunization program; 2) change in clientele - who will they provide diminishing clinical services to?; 3) task of getting people signed up for health benefits; 4) keeping pace with the requirements of the ACA electronic medical records; 5) work force challenge – more and more people will have insurance, health care community providers will need to provide more services creating a need for more health care workers - this will create greater competition for health care workers putting pressure on public health for salaries and benefits; and 6) better coordinating with the health care delivery system, which is a positive challenge providing a number of opportunities that will only improve public health in the communities. Mr. Daniels then went on to describe the created opportunities as a result of the six described challenges: 1) the public health expertise of epidemiology which is the work to provide community health data, to provide evaluation of that data, to use the data to figure out how healthy is our community, what are the impacts on community health and use the epidemiology and data to figure out what are the most effective interventions to improve health. Health Reform provides a unique opportunity to use the epidemiology expertise such as working collaboratively with non-profit hospitals, which are required to complete a community assessment, to benefit the hospitals and public health. As another example, Mr. Daniels noted United Way of Kitsap County has decided to use KPHD's community health assessment as a mechanism to determine funding priorities in the Kitsap County; 2) Partnerships with hospitals, examples: home visiting programs breastfeeding support – new parent support, transitional care programs, and infection control; 3) Navigating the public into the health care system – new program called “Health Navigator”; 4) Leadership and information technology: electronic medical

records - Health Information Exchange, improving data systems for Notifiable conditions (diseases), improving the Washington State's immunization records. Mr. Daniels briefly discussed and offered to provide additional information regarding the KPHD's 2011 -2021 Strategic Plan Summary and the Kitsap Community Health Priorities documents. He discussed KPHD's goal of accreditation and the potential for future funding. Handouts were provided to the Board.

Dr. Tom Locke addressed the Board thanking them for the opportunity to speak on his views of public health, the ACA and opportunities that lie ahead for local public health. Dr. Locke provided his background being a medical practitioner for 36 years, a local health officer for 25 years and working with the tribes for over 30 years. His work with the tribes has been a historic process. He shared how his experiences have shaped his opinions on ACA. Dr. Lock gave his opinion of how the ACA will affect health care systems across the country. He feels the three major areas: 1) Disparity – we fail to provide cheap and effective health care such as treating blood pressure and diabetes for everyone; 2) we are a high risk behavior country – we have high rates of gun related violence, high motor vehicle accidents and high drug use statistics; 3) we have a health care system that does well in certain areas but is a low value system – the costs we have to pay to receive the results we get is not impressive. He feels if we want to have a healthier population we need to turn these three issues around. Dr. Locke described a possible solution which he feels is best articulated in a notion originated by the Institute of Health Care Improvement called the “Triple Aim” which consists of three simultaneous goals: 1) improve population health; 2) improve the patient experience of care; and 3) bend the cost curve - slowing down the rate of cost increase. Dr. Lock then discussed where he feels public health will fit if the future health care system is successful: 1) the majority of public health practitioners will not be working for government agencies - public health will become disseminated through the entire health care system; 2) the leaders in health reform will be those who reexamine their fundamental mission as public health providers; and 3) epidemiology will need reinforced – it is the core science that will drive improving population health, will bring greater accountability to the health care system, focus efforts on priority areas. Dr. Locke shared his opinion on accreditation and although he supports the goals of accreditation is doubtful that it will open stable funding for public health. He summarized by stating the future of public health is shrinking as we know it, but for those who take on this challenge to become the leaders in health status, the future is very exciting and bright.

Chair Valenzuela thanked the panel for their presentations and opened the floor for Board Members' questions.

Commissioner Romero asked Dr. Locke what he feels the barriers are in regards to providing cheap and effective treatment for blood pressure type services. Dr. Locke addressed the question describing several barriers due to the current system.

Vice- Chair Wolfe questioned with government agencies suffering from work force challenges and with the probability that public health workers will not be working for government, what recommendation would they give their son or daughter who was considering a public health career? Dr. Locke stated he would still recommend a career in public health because there will be public health jobs just not in local government. Mr. Daniels agreed with Dr. Locke. Mr. Mueller feels skills in epidemiology, community organizing and strategic planning will be in demand in public health. Mr. Daniels noted one of the goals in health care reform is to increase prevention by adoption of new health policies which creates a need for policy development skills to face population based health problems. Dr. Locke commented on five institutes of medicine reports he recently read and shared the vision they present.

Chair Valenzuela thanked Mr. Mueller for the information on “What Influences Our Health” and “How Money is Spent on Health” contained in two charts in his presentation handout. She feels the ACA is robust on access but less on cost and quality. She asked each panelist to elaborate on their opinion on how the ACA addresses cost and quality. Dr. Locke agreed with Chair Valenzuela’s opinion that the ACA’s strong point is access and discussed requirements of the ACA that address quality improvement such as use of electronic medical records systems. Mr. Daniels expressed his opinion that moving away from a fee for service model to a managed care model is what is needed for health care to focus on prevention.

Vice Chair Wolfe asked Mr. Sloma how the Thurston Thrives project fits into the ACA. Mr. Sloma addressed the question describing aspects of Thurston Thrives and how it ties into ACA leadership and facilitation. Dr. Locke stated he feels Thurston Thrives project is right on target with ACA prevention in public health. He also noted the ACA does support prevention in public health and provided examples of potential funding such as Community Transformation grant (CTG) and demonstration grants.

Commissioner Romero noted fire departments and grocery stores provide blood pressure checks at no cost, and questioned what the panelists thought it would take to expand services in grocery stores to provide diabetes checks for example. She asked the panelists if there is a road map or if they have any ideas to provide these basic inexpensive health care services. Dr. Locke gave his perspective describing self-care versus expert care and described some challenges of improving the health care system to shift that boundary to expand the percentage of self-care. Dr. Diana Yu gave her perspective that public health is often seen as a credible provider of advice so self-care can be administered. Mr. Daniels described work being done in Kitsap with their CTG funding.

### **Department Items**

#### **1) Approval of Resolution H-1-2013 appointing Hearing Officers**

Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director, provided a background for the request to approve Resolution H-1-2013 appointing Hearing Officers. Article I Section 2.9 of the Thurston County Sanitary Code requires the Thurston County Board of Health to appoint individuals to perform the duties of hearing officers as described in the code. The proposed Resolution appoints an independent contractor, Sharon Rice as hearing officer. Ms. Rice has been an independent hearing officer for Thurston County Public Health and Social Services since 2008 and will hear most contested appeals and waivers. Her role as hearing officer is included in the Scope of Services of a recently approved Professional Services Contract between Thurston County and Ms. Rice that goes into effect January 1, 2013. The Resolution also appoints County employees Art Starry, Don Sloma, Dr. Diana Yu and Steve Petersen to also service as hearing officers.

**Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve Resolution H-1-2013 appointing hearing officers for the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion.** Chair Valenzuela requested that for future resolutions of this type that staff position titles be listed instead of individual staff names. Mr. Starry stated he will confer with our Prosecuting Attorney regarding the matter. **The motion carried.**

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

- ◆ On Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup> TCTV taped a Thurston Thrives presentation by Chair Valenzuela and himself which will air thru February on local access television.
- ◆ Housing Program Administration - continued efforts to consolidate and provide better services for affordable housing/living circumstances.
- ◆ On January 9<sup>th</sup> Mr. Sloma will speak to a group organized by TOGETHER! to share our Department's message about negative aspects of marijuana use and it's legalization.
- ◆ Congratulated the Board on their approval of the first ever health chapter in the Comprehensive Plan.
- ◆ Woodland Creek Conversion program – a handful of property owners have not signed up to hook up to sewer, but anticipate by the end of the month to have everyone on board.
- ◆ Tobacco Free Thurston County – the county bargaining units have defined issues to be resolved. Timberland Regional Library is promoting a smoke free campus.

**Health Officer's Report – Dr. Yu gave an update on:**

- ◆ Number of Pertussis cases in Washington State epidemic have leveled off, but cases due continue. The disease is still out there. Still encouraging everyone to get a TdaP vaccination and stay away from babies if you have a respiratory illness of any kind.
- ◆ Seeing an increase of influenza A case activity which is contained in this year's vaccine. Noted there are a number of other virus that have similar symptoms to influenza.
- ◆ Norwalk virus – a virus which causes vomiting and diarrhea; there are cases showing up in the community.
- ◆ Influenza cases in the community are at a level that will require care givers in hospitals to wear a mask if they chose to not be vaccinated.
- ◆ Reiterated the importance of washing your hands, covering your cough, staying home if you are sick and staying away from babies if you have an illness of any kind.

**Board Members' Reports - Board Members reported on public health and social services involvement:**

- ◆ **Commissioner Romero reported on:**
  - Met with the WSU Extension Director on the on-going quest on how to handle dairy nutrients and how spreading fresh manure affects our ground water.
  - Have met twice with St. Peter's hospital on the Purple Crying Project.
- ◆ **Vice Chair Wolfe reported on:**
  - Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC) – gave a brief description of the collaborative and stated they continue to meet weekly via conference calls, making progress, may start meeting bi-weekly soon. She expressed her appreciation that Commissioner Romero will be joining the conference call meetings.
- ◆ **Chair Valenzuela reported on:**
  - Gave an update on a 2163 Affordable Housing Fund task force appointed by the Board, which includes the Public Health Department Director, the County Budget Manager, and staffed by a Public Health employee. The Task Force met with the Mayor of Olympia in December and met again yesterday January 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss how to better allocate the money into the community to address homelessness and affordable housing needs. A

recommendation from the Task Force will be presented to the Board no later than the end of February 2013.

- o Thanked Mr. Sloma for working on the weekend taping the Thurston Thrives TCTV presentation. Vice Chair Wolfe noted she has received a copy of the recording.

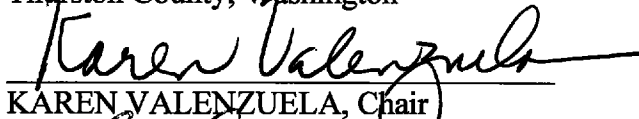
Chair Valenzuela again thanked Mr. Mueller, Mr. Daniels and Dr. Locke for attending and sharing their information.

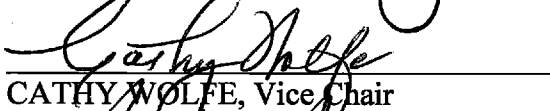
2) **ADJOURNMENT**

**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: February 12, 2013