



## **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 April 9, 2013**

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

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

Chair Valenzuela called the meeting to order.

- ◆ **Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:** Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the agenda for April 9, 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 March 12, 2013. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Presentations:**

##### **Proclamation – April Public Health Month**

Vice Chair Wolfe read a Proclamation designating the month of April 2013 as Public Health Month in Thurston County. April 1-7, 2013 was designated as Public Health Week on both the national and state level by the American Public Health Association, the Washington State Public Health Association, Washington State Association of Public Health Officials, and Washington State Department of Health. The Board expressed their appreciation that Thurston County is joining this effort by proclaiming April 2013 as Public Health Month. Chair Valenzuela noted the Public Health Association has a very good Public Health video posted on their website. ([www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org))

##### **Proclamation – April Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month**

Vice Chair Wolfe read a Proclamation designating the month of April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Thurston County. The Board calls upon all citizens, communities, state agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live. Commissioner Romero introduced Kim Gabbard, Supervisor for the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Children's Administration, who was present to accept the Proclamation. Ms. Gabbard addressed the Board expressing her gratitude for the Proclamation and the Board's acknowledgement of the importance of the prevention of child abuse. Ms. Gabbard also shared several DSHS child abuse investigation statistics and provided the Child abuse reporting telephone number: 1-866-END-HARM (1-866-363-4276). The Board thanked Ms. Gabbard for her attendance and the shared information.

### **Proclamation – April Alcohol Awareness Month**

Commissioner Romero read a Proclamation designating the month of April 2013 as Alcohol Awareness Month. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) has proclaimed April as Alcohol Awareness Month. The Board joins NCADD by calling upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges in Thurston County to support efforts that will reduce stigma, increase community awareness and increase support for individuals and families coping with alcoholism. Through these efforts, together, we can provide “**Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow**” for those in our community who are facing challenges with alcohol use and abuse.

The Board thanked Mr. Sloma for bringing forward all three Proclamations.

### **Presentation – 2012 Pesticide Annual Report and Review of Integrated Pest Management Prescription**

Patrick Soderberg, Thurston County Hazardous Waste Specialist, provided a background of County’s Pest Management Program and a summary of the 2012 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Report. The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) adopted the Thurston County Pesticide Use Policy in 1989 and the revised Pest and Vegetation Management Policy in 1993. The Board adopted these policies after significant public involvement and input from the Pesticide Use Study Committee. These policies established a mandate for all County departments using pesticides to adopt IPM programs and prescriptions. Additionally, it created the Pest and Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (PVMAC). During this time, the County placed a moratorium on the use of pesticides until the IPM policies and programs were approved by the BoCC. The Pest and Vegetation Management Policy applies to only County departments and use of pesticides on County property or land managed by the County. In 1990, the BoCC appointed nine citizens to the PVMAC. The Committee has been directed to assist in the implementation of the Pest and Vegetation Management Policy. This Policy emphasizes development and implementation of IPM programs that provide effective pest and vegetation management with minimal environmental and public health impacts. Often, an indirect result of IPM is a reduction in pesticide use.

Mr. Soderberg introduced Jeff Britt a representative of the PVMAC since 1993. Mr. Britt addressed the Board providing additional information about the committee stating there are currently six members with three positions open. He also provided a brief overview of the pesticides used by the County in 2012. Rodent pressure at various County facilities and invasive plant control at Glacial Heritage Preserve resulted in increases in chemical control that were offset by a significant decrease in herbicide use for aquatic weed management. Overall, there was a slight decrease in pesticide use from 2011. The Advisory Committee has expressed a need to better understand the vegetation management tactics at Glacial Heritage Preserve. The last few years have shown steady increases in annual herbicide use on forbs and grasses with no real prediction for a return to low levels of herbicide use. The Committee would like to ensure that the management and long-term goals of the Preserve coincide with the County’s IPM Policy. Mr. Soderberg has scheduled a “field trip” to Glacial Heritage Preserve for the Advisory Group Members in early May. Mr. Britt then stated the PVMAC recommends adoption of the Thurston County Roads and Transportation Services Division Guardrail Vegetation Control prescription for the control of weeds around guardrails. The Board thanked Mr. Britt for his many years of service with the Advisory Group.

Mr. Soderberg described the Guardrail Vegetation Control Prescription explaining the herbicides are used to control weeds around guardrails where it is unsafe for County staff to trim the vegetation. He then introduced Lane McAllister of the Thurston County Public Works Department, Road Operations Division. Mr. McAllister provided additional information describing control of guardrail vegetation since 1989 and the unsafe conditions for staff. Commissioner Romero expressed concerns about the herbicide use. Mr. Soderberg and Mr. McAllister addressed the Board's questions regarding the herbicide and the time restrictions of approval of the prescription. The Board then requested a Board Briefing be scheduled to further discuss the prescription and its effects on the environment. Action on this item was delayed to a future Board of Health meeting to be held as soon as possible after the additional briefing of the Board.

### **Presentation - Launch of Thurston Thrives**

Chair Valenzuela expressed the Board's excitement for the launching of Thurston Thrives. Each Board Member spoke in support of the initiative describing their individual focus interests for the project.

Chair Valenzuela expressed her support of Thurston Thrives. As a former public health worker and a former Tumwater City Council member she has always been interested in how both cities and public health might work together to improve the Built Environment to make it an easy choice for people to make healthier choices such as walking to the store instead of driving to the store or biking the trail instead of driving to work.

Vice Chair Wolfe expressed her excitement about the whole Thurston Thrives process especially noting initiative is to not reinvent the wheel but bring people together and build on what is already out there. The Board of Health needs the help of the community and the Thurston Thrives process will tap into the expertise of all the experts out in the medical community, social services and the work being done by the Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC). She thanked Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director, for bringing Thurston Thrives forward and thanked everyone for their participation.

Commissioner Romero stated she has always had an interest in the importance of Thurston County's clean air and water. In addition, she expressed her strong concern about the child abuse statistics in Thurston County. She would like to see a focus placed on finding ways to protect the children of our community and find ways to make them resilient enabling them to become successful adults. She also expressed her excitement about the Thurston Thrives project.

Chair Valenzuela introduced Mr. Sloma who gave his perspective of the Thurston Thrives initiative. Mr. Sloma addressed the Board stating he sees Thurston Thrives as the beginning of a Community coming together around the things we all know are necessary for a healthy thriving community. He shared his excitement about the opportunity to help coordinate this effort. Mr. Sloma explained the three decisions the Board is being requested to make to officially launch the Thurston Thrives initiative: 1) approve the Thurston Thrives scope, process and timeline as guidance for the conduct of the initiative going forward; 2) approve the roster of members for the Advisory Council; and 3) approve the roster of Action Team Leaders. Mr. Sloma then introduce Chris Hawkins the Active Healthy Communities Coordinator and the lead staff person in the development of Thurston Thrives.

Mr. Hawkins addressed the Board thanking them for their support in the development of Thurston Thrives. He expressed his excitement in launching Thurston Thrives in the community. Mr. Hawkins gave a presentation describing Thurston Thrives and the process and timeline it will follow. He noted a number of the Advisory Council member appointees are present and will be given the opportunity to speak briefly about their reasons for becoming involved in the project after his presentation. Thurston Thrives is the Thurston County Board of Health's initiative to engage the community and foster the collaboration needed to build health into our everyday lives, to make healthy choices easy for everyone. Thurston Thrives engages the community in public health priorities. It will integrate, not reinvent, existing plans and groups. It is a Board of Health led process, focused and engaged to create a collective impact and move the community beyond thinking of health as just government programs and medical treatment. Thurston Thrives' goals are to produce: a few simply stated community outcomes; lead organizations and main helpers for each outcome; and a limited number of clear milestones. Outcomes will be communicated frequently and widely as an ongoing community "call to action". The Board is being asked to appoint thirteen members to the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council -- key leaders from across the community who will advise the Board during the initiative. The Board will also approve leads for the action teams, groups which will craft recommendations to address factors recognized in the annual County Health Rankings as having strong influence on health outcomes for our community -- in areas ranging from income/economy to medical care to youth resilience. Over a year period, through mid-2014, the Board and its advisors will hear from each of nine action teams. There will be opportunities for public participation throughout the process -- comments are welcome at each public meeting of the Board of Health with the Advisory Council and through an on-line forum. Many excellent people in our community have already stepped forward, as well as the assistance offered by the Washington State Auditor's Office Local Government Performance Center for guidance and effective measurement tools, as the recommendations of the action areas are developed. The initiative will conclude in fall of next year when the Board and its advisors finalize a comprehensive action strategy toward community health improvement.

**Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the roster of members for the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council as presented. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the roster of Action Team Leaders as presented. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the Thurston Thrives scope, process and timeline as guidance for the conduct of the initiative going forward. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

The following Thurston Thrives Advisory Council Members addressed the Board and described their interests for participating in the project:

Raj Manhas, Superintendent of North Thurston Public Schools  
Michael Cade, Executive Director of the Thurston Economic Development Council  
Cole Mason, MD, retired pediatrician and Board Member of the Thurston Mason Medical Society  
Mariella Cummings, RN, CEO of Physicians of Southwest Washington and President of Results, Incorporated  
Shelly Willis, Executive Director of Family Education and Support Services  
Curt Andino, Executive Director of South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity  
Lisa Smith, Executive Director of Enterprise for Equity  
Dennis Mahar, Executive Director of Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

Jay Mason, MD, retired pediatrician and Board Member of Thurston Mason Regional Support Network

Mr. Hawkins acknowledged those Members not present:

Barbara Clarkson, longtime Thurston County resident and community leader  
Kevin Haughton, MD, Primary Care Section Chief of Providence Medical Group in Southwestern Washington  
Nicole Hill, Tumwater City Council Member and Director of Nisqually Land Trust Conservation Projects  
Lon Wyrick, Executive Director of Thurston Regional Planning Council

The Board Members acknowledged and thanked all Thurston Thrive supporters and staff for their hard work and interest in the project.

Mr. Hawkins introduced Elisa Kaufmann an Education and Outreach Specialist with the Department's Healthy Environment and Action Team. He then shared an "Intro to Thurston Thrives" video created by Ms. Kaufmann. The video and other Thurston Thrives information can be found at [www.ThurstonThrives.org](http://www.ThurstonThrives.org).

### **1) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board**

Michael Hickman, the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Service District #113, addressed the Board representing District #113's Superintendent who has been appointed to the Thurston Thrives Education Action Team. Mr. Hickman shared the District's interest in the project and thanked the Board for including them in Thurston Thrives work in improving education. He also reminded the Board that District #113 represents the three large school districts in Thurston County but they also represent the smaller outlying districts as well. The Board thanked Mr. Hickman for speaking on behalf of District #113.

### **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:**

- LOTT Board meeting – continuance of proper sewage treatment and the disposal of the bi-product.
- Attended a Child Abuse Prevention Task Force meeting – big victory: St. Peter's Hospital now participating in the Purple Crying project, a shaken baby syndrome prevention project
- Attended a "get the scoop on cow poop" meeting at the LOTT plant where a Snohomish County non-profit group shared their solution for dairy waste disposal.
- Attended a meeting of the State Commission on Hispanic Affairs - hearing their issues of quality and availability of housing in Thurston County.

- Encouraged everyone to walk around the LOTT Sewage Treatment plant to view all of the construction going around the plant and to see the enormity of what it takes to deal with our waste
- ◆ **Vice Chair Wolfe reported on:**
  - Attended United Way Board meeting – Mr. Sloma gave a presentation on Collective Impact and Thurston Thrives initiative
  - Attended an Area Agency on Aging meeting – changing formats of meetings by rotating meeting locations to other counties, discussing and visiting existing aging and senior programs
  - Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC) – still meeting on a regular basis, now focusing on mentally ill offenders
- ◆ **Chair Valenzuela reported on:**
  - Attended Thurston County Home Consortium monthly meeting – focused on doing even more on homelessness in Thurston County
  - Attended an Olympic Region Clean Air Board & Finance Meeting – interaction with concerned citizens around discussion of construction and operation of biomass plants in our communities and their emissions.

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

- ◆ Linda Loyle, Program Manager of the Department's Veterans Assistance Program, has been selected to receive a Social Service Award by the Department of Veteran's Affairs for her many years of service. Ms. Loyle is coordinating a Veteran's Event on June 5<sup>th</sup> bringing forward services that are available for veterans.
- ◆ John Libby, an Environmental Health Specialist for the Department's Environmental Health Division, has retired after many years of service in the Hazardous and Solid Waste Program.
- ◆ Gave an update on the budget legislation.

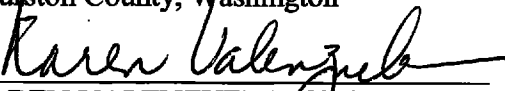
**Health Officer's Report – Dr. Diana Yu reported on the following items:**

- ◆ Will attend a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteer Appreciation Event that night being held at the Public Health and Social Services Department on Lilly Road – highlighted 2012/2013 events the MRC provided supported for. Vice Chair and Commissioner Romero will be in attendance.
- ◆ Expressed her appreciation for the high caliber of those participating on the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council. She is more than willing to participate in Thurston Thrives in any capacity the Board wishes.
- ◆ Provided an update on the following:
  - Whooping cough – continue to see cases, they have decreased, but whooping cough is still here
  - Influenza has decreased but seasonal Influenza resurgence has appeared on the East coast, may move to the West coast in the next couple of weeks
  - Cases of a new avian influenza in china as well as other types of diseases that under surveillance
  - The CDC has reported a new type of drug resistant infection by organism called CRE, not well known – the local infection control group is monitoring the infection and working on controlling the spread.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

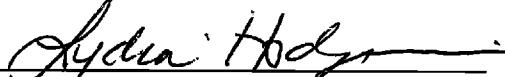
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

  
KAREN VALENZUELA, Chair

  
CATHY WOLFE, Vice Chair

  
SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: May 14, 2013

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