



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 July 9, 2013

1) 3:40 p.m.) Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Karen Valenzuela, Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Vice Chair; Sandra Romero, Commissioner; 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.

- a. **Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:** Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the agenda for July 9, 2013. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. **Approval of Board of Health meeting minutes:** Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from June 11, 2013. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. Chair Valenzuela made two corrections to the minutes: 2a) Lon Wyrick was in attendance for the Thurston Thrives portion of the meeting and 2h) Joel Hansen, Business Manager of the Nutritional Therapy Association, addressed the Board of Health and Thurston Thrives Advisory Council, announcing that their "association" would like to be involved in the Thurston Thrives process. Motion carried.

2) Presentations:

Recognition of Linda Loyle receiving the "Heart of a Social Worker" Award –

Deborah Allen, Disease Control and Prevention Division Director, recognized Linda Loyle, Coordinator of the Thurston County Veterans Assistance Fund, for receiving the Department of Veterans Affairs, Puget Sound Health Care 2013 "Heart of a Social Worker" award. Ms. Loyle was nominated for the award for her "tireless work to help fill in the gaps of ensuring homeless Veterans remain housed." She was also commended for encouraging local veterans to use the services of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive health care and other program benefits. Ms. Loyle has been with the Thurston County's Veteran's Program since 1988. The Board congratulated Ms. Loyle for the well deserved award. Ms. Loyle thanked the Puget Sound Health Care social workers for presenting her with this award and she commended them for their outstanding work with the veterans. Ms. Loyle recognized Roseanna Hodgeboom from the American Legion VFW Post 94 and Joseph Worsley from Post 11402 for their hard work and their part in her receiving the award. Ms. Hodgeboom and Mr. Worsley work with the Thurston County Veterans program weekly to assist Veterans.

Veteran's June 5, 2013 Conference -

Linda Loyle, Coordinator of the Thurston County Veterans Assistance Fund, provided an overview of a Veteran's Conference held on June 5, 2013 for Veterans Service Providers at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. The conference was organized by the Board of County Commissioners and staff from the County's Veterans' Assistance Fund where 100 representatives from various service providers came together to strengthen the network that supports Thurston County's veterans. The event was co-convened by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and the County's Veterans' Advisory Board. Commissioner Sandra Romero and Commissioner Cathy Wolfe were in attendance and welcomed providers from local, state, military and federal agencies and many non-profits to the conference. The workshop included speakers from the local area including Dan Penrose, South Sound Military and Communities Partnership, Judge Brett Buckley, Thurston County District Court and Colonel Thomas Brittain, chief of staff for the 7th Infantry division at Joint Base Lewis McChord. A panel of experts provided information regarding housing, employment, and health services. Attendees participated in discussion sessions surrounding these topics, including the Veterans' Assistance Fund.

Ms. Loyle explained veterans currently account for 16 percent of Thurston County's population, and that number is expected to rise rapidly in the next several years as the military draws down its forces. By 2016, nearly 50 percent of Thurston County residents will be connected to the military in one way or another.

Ms. Loyle stated as a result of this workshop: service provider contact information is being shared, a resource guide for veterans and military families is being developed, work is being done to improve transportation options to the VA, Puget Sound Health Care facility at American Lake and work is being done to enhance Veterans' Assistance Fund services.

Vice Chair Wolfe commented she was very encouraged with the successful event and hopes another conference will be held. Chair Valenzuela questioned why so few Veterans apply to use available services. Ms. Loyle stated Veterans are not aware of the services available to them. Don Sloma, Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Director stated the eligibility is a very complex process and encouraged all Veterans to apply for services to let the system determine what they are eligible for. Chair Valenzuela commented additional conferences should be held to address the lack of awareness issue. The Board thanked Ms. Loyle for the successful event.

Thurston Coalition for Women's Health – Healthy Relationships Social Media -

Chris Hawkins the Active Healthy Communities Coordinator provided an introduction to the topic. He then introduced Patrick Smith, a student from Grand Canyon University, interning with PHSS. Mr. Smith is working on the Thurston Thrives initiative and will be assisting Action Team leads gather information and prepare for presentations to the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council and the Board of Health. Mr. Hawkins provided background information and an update on the Communications work of the Thurston Coalition for Women's Health. Year 2 of this cooperative agreement from the Office on Women's Health (OWH) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services provided \$20,000 to continue communications efforts across Thurston County regarding women's health issues. He gave a brief description of the Girl's Circle a program, targeted to girls 10 to 14 years of age, developed in collaboration with the YWCA also funded by the OWH. In addition, Mr. Hawkins described a subcommittee of the Coalition, in collaboration with and facilitated by TOGETHER!. The subcommittee meets regularly to develop and implement the communications strategies for women's health. Mr. Hawkins then introduced Danielle Koenig the Communications Director and Megan

Sullivan the Operations Director of TOGETHER!. Ms. Koenig and Ms. Sullivan addressed the Board describing the Subcommittee's Communications Plan and video project. This spring, as part of implementing the Coalition's social media strategy, TOGETHER! produced videos about healthy relationships for an adolescent audience as part of the communications plan of the Coalition. Young people, some of whom were participants in the YWCA of Olympia's spring break camps, participated in the development, performance and production of the videos. The two final released and promoted videos were played for the audience. The videos relay a message to peers about what is a healthy relationship and what are the warning signs about unhealthy relationships, which help prevent violence among youth. The YouTube link has been promoted by members of the Coalition. A handout containing links to the YouTube videos was shared. Ms. Sullivan described how the message about healthy relationships for adolescent audiences has been, and will continue to be, shared with local schools. Chair Valenzuela stated on a recent trip to Africa she discovered a initiative similar to the Girls' Circle in Rwanda called "Girl Hub" a project partially supported by the Nike Foundation. Chair Valenzuela questioned if continued funding from OWH has been confirmed. Mr. Hawkins stated year three funding is still in question, but information should be available within the month. The Board thanked Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Koenig and Ms. Sullivan for the information and presentation.

Tobacco Use & Smoking Policy Implementation Update

Kateri Wimsett, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator provided an update on the implementation plan for the Thurston County Tobacco Use & Smoking policy that was adopted May 21, 2013 and will go into effect January 1, 2014. This Policy prohibits smoking and use of other tobacco products and e-cigarettes on many Thurston County properties. Employees and members of the public will need to move off of county property to use tobacco and related products. Ms. Wimsett's presentation provided tobacco youth/adult rates for the county, region, and state; tobacco prevention efforts across time; and the next steps for the current funding in the county. She shared implementation status information: permanent "Tobacco Free Campus" signs have been created, an example was presented; information has been posted on the County Sharepoint Site; a Cessation Resources Brochure has been created; and on-going media outreach continues. Central Services and staff are looking into posting temporary signs in early fall in areas where public congregates providing information on the upcoming new policy. Ms. Wimsett noted the new policy does not include County Parks. Staff is working with the Parks Department to implement the policy in the future. Discussion ensued regarding e-cigarettes being included in the policy. Chair Valenzuela questioned if a time frame for removal of the "smoke shack" between buildings one, two and three of the County Courthouse has been set. Ms. Wimsett stated a date has not been set but it is being discussed.

3) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board – none

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

◆ Vice Chair Wolfe reported on:

- Health and Human Services Funding Group meeting
- Will attend a Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC) meeting Friday, July 12, 2013; conference call meetings to resume soon.
- 2-1-1 meeting – potential funding in State budget

◆ Commissioner Romero reported on:

- Thurston County Council on Children & Youth Retreat – reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)
- Bee issue – continued discussion in community for solutions to dying bees
- Coffee Chats in Rainier, Yelm, Lacey with Brendan Williams – topic Affordable Care Act
- Reopening of Hawks Prairie Fire Station
- 9-1-1 Thurston Communication Board meeting

◆ **Chair Valenzuela reported on:**

- Her recent trip to Rwanda, Africa; noting the following information about Rwanda:
 - A ban on plastic bags
 - No smoking in public places
 - Motorcycle helmets required to be worn
 - Free HIV testing and medications
 - Condoms are free
 - Bottled water BPA free
 - Hand washing facilities always supplied, even if running water is not available
- Attended an Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) Board Meeting – they assisted with “No Idling” signs around County campus; ORCAA Board has requested a joint meeting with the Board of Health to discuss burn bans
- HOME Consortium meeting
- Thurston Thrives meeting at the June 11th regular Board of Health meeting – the Food Action Team presented; after the meeting Nineveh Assyrian Food Service served food to the Board and Thurston Thrives Advisory Board Members.

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

- ◆ Noted food service trucks, such as Nineveh Assyrian, are permitted by the PHSS Department's Environmental Health Division.
- ◆ Response to Potential E Coli Outbreak - The Department stood up an incident response team whose purpose is to:
 - Identify additional cases of E Coli
 - Investigate outbreak and identify likely source(s)
 - Provide accurate information and direction to affected community to prevent spread of illness
- ◆ Scatter Creek Aquifer Project Community Workshop scheduled for July 30 -
 - The workshop will present information from the groundwater study.
 - The workshop will be held at Rochester Middle School on July 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- ◆ Thurston Thrives Update -
 - The first Thurston Thrives action team (Food) presented to the Board on June 11, 2013.
 - Three other action teams launched this month (Child & Youth Resilience, Community Design and Economy).
 - Attending Thurston Chambers July 10th to discuss Thurston Thrives.
 - More information can be found at: www.thurstonthrives.org

- ◆ New Blogs:
 - Environmental Health Matters -
 - Provides information on current environmental health issues.
 - Find the blog at: www.environmentalhealthblog.blogspot.com
 - Thurston Thrives - Food Action Team
 - The first of several anticipated blogs relating to the different Thurston Thrives action areas begins operating.
 - Community members can participate in the dialogue by going to www.thurstonthrivesfood.blogspot.com
- ◆ Community Transformation Grant cultivates first Community Garden -
 - The Garden of Weedin' provides beds to residents for growing fresh and nutritious food.
 - A second garden is nearing agreement.
 - More information is available at: www.thurstoncommunitygardens.org
- ◆ Safe Kids of Thurston County receives \$4,600 from the Community Foundation:
 - Funds will provide safety and childproofing items for infants and toddlers served by the Nurse Family Partnership.
- ◆ On Track for Moving Environmental Health Division Staff from Building 4 to the Lilly Road building
 - Sea Mar WIC to move out of Lilly Road Building on July 31st.
 - Staff move planned for the week of August 12th
 - Installation of Fiber Optics, to enhance connection to Courthouse, is nearing completion
 - Special thanks to Brian Ferris and his staff for making it happen. Central Services is doing a great job assisting with this endeavor
- ◆ Food Handler Classes Move to Lilly Road -
 - Classes have moved from the courthouse to PHSS offices at 412 Lilly Rd.
 - More information and class schedules are available at: <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehfood/pdf/ClassSchedule.pdf>
- ◆ PHSS and Resource Stewardship hosted a discussion on sustainability of millage-funded developmental disabilities and specialized recreational services on June 13th
 - Sixteen community service organizations attended.
 - There was interest in collaborating to find solutions to the current challenges.
 - A follow up meeting is planned.
 - Thanked Cliff Moore, Resource Stewardship Director

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

- ◆ As a promoter and participant in the 7-5-2-1-0 Grow Happy Kids initiative Dr. Yu invited everyone to participate in free Zumba in the Park every Saturday afternoon at different park locations. Visit the following website for further information:
<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/personalhealth/chronicdiseaseprevention/75210.html>
- ◆ A group of physicians are bicycling into town to attend a community discussion on Climate Change at 12:30 pm on July 18th at Providence St. Peters Hospital. The traveling group of physicians is looking for someone to champion the Climate Change issue in this area.

Commissioner Romero suggested the Madigan Hospital be engaged on this topic. Dr. Yu will send information to her contact at Madigan.

- ◆ Provided updates on:
 - Pertussis in county – number of cases near normal for this time of year, but not gone.
 - New Tuberculosis (TB) case being investigated
 - Hepatitis A cases as related to Thomas Farm Berry recall – one case in county has been determined not related to this berry recall
- ◆ E. Coli (type of illness related to undercooked hamburger) – 6 cases in county now under investigation; provided a description of cases and the investigation process. Vice Chair Wolfe questioned if extra staff is being utilized for investigation. Dr. Yu stated all Investigation & Control of Disease (ICD) staff plus staff from the Food Program are being utilized. Mr. Sloma noted that during an investigation such as this regular on-going work does not get done and that investigation costs are being tracked. The Board requested the final cost information.


ADJOURNMENT

The Board thanked all present at the meeting. **Vice Chair Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

BOARD OF HEALTH

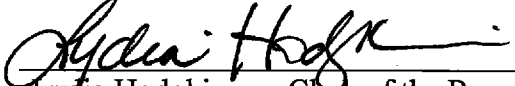
Thurston County, Washington


KAREN VALENZUELA, Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Vice Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: August 13, 2013

Thurston Community Television (TCTV)

The Board of Health monthly meetings; held on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m., 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., Fridays at 6:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.