



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 November 13, 2012

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

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

Chair Romero called the meeting to order.

- ◆ **Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:** Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the agenda for November 13, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- ◆ **Approval of Board of Health meeting minutes:** Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from September 18, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3:55 Presentations

Pertussis Epidemic 2012

Dr. Diana Yu, Health Officer, gave a presentation providing an overview of public health outbreak response, using the Pertussis epidemic as an example. She acknowledged Kenneth Walker of the Emergency Preparedness Response team, for the visual portion of the presentation. In May of 2012, Washington State Health Officials officially declared a Pertussis Epidemic. Since then, public health staff and partners, including the Thurston County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), have been working diligently in response to this epidemic and decrease the impact on our community. The MRC has been a key component in the strategy to support the department response to this epidemic. Dr. Yu's presentation described public health response activities which include: Disease surveillance, immunizations, information sharing, responding to inquiries and communications with health care providers and other partners. Vice Chair Valenzuela expressed her appreciation for the great visual presentation and the good examples of partnerships. The Board thanked Dr. Yu for the presentation.

Personal Health Division Overview

Deborah Allen, Personal Health Division Director, gave an overview of the Personal Health Division of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. She noted the "Personal Health Division" name is no longer a descriptive of the services provided by the Division and welcomed the Board's help in re-naming the division to better reflect services currently provided. She explained in 2009 WIC and Family Planning Clinical services were eliminated and in 2010 the Travel immunization clinic closed. As of 2012 the Division still has a small role in the clinical treatment of Tuberculosis. She noted although the Division does sporadically provide immunizations, the service is an emergency response effort using the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers. The Division, with a budget of \$2.3M and 17.5 full time employees promotes conditions in which the population of Thurston County can be healthy. It does this through three kinds of work: Controlling infectious diseases – for

example, hepatitis C, Pertussis, tuberculosis (TB), and many others; Preventing causes of chronic diseases – such as obesity, diabetes, arthritis, and cancer are examples; Supporting the emotional, behavioral, and developmental well-being of infants, children and adolescents. The Division programs are funded through a variety of sources, including state and federal block grants, competitive grants, and Medicaid reimbursements and County General Funds. Ms. Allen also noted the Veteran's Assistance Program was added to the Division about a year ago. A Board Briefing has been scheduled with the Veteran's Advisory Board in early January 2013.

Ms. Allen described the scope and general operational processes of the Infectious Disease Control Program. She explained RCW Title 70 addresses Public Health and Safety giving the Board of Health the power and duty to provide for control and prevention of infectious diseases. It further gives the Health Officer the power and duty to control and prevent spread of infectious diseases. Ms. Allen described a list of 70+ infectious diseases that are required to be reported to the local public health departments. The State Board of Health determines the diseases on this list and also how urgent the response needs to be when they are received. Ms. Allen described the Notifiable Conditions Surveillance Control System. She then introduced Jeanie Knight, Senior Epidemiologist and Supervisor of the Investigation and Control of Disease Team. Ms. Knight described case investigation and follow-up procedures for reported cases of infectious diseases. Commissioner Wolfe requested clarification of the Health Officer's authority regarding instances where an infected patient is given restricting instructions and they do not comply. Dr. Yu stated as the Health Officer she does have the authority to call in law enforcement to protect public health. Ms. Allen invited the Board to observe a staff investigation in action. She then talked about prevention including safe sexual practices; avoid sharing of drug paraphernalia and immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases. She noted that as of October the Center for Disease and Control began a public education campaign recommending individuals born between 1945 and 1965 be screened for chronic Hepatitis C. Ms. Allen and Ms. Knight provided the Board with additional clarification on the new guidelines and recommendations. Vice-Chair Valenzuela requested and Ms. Allen provided information regarding Thurston County's immunization rates. Ms. Allen stated staff is working to ensure better data is entered into the State Immunization Registry by providers to provide more accurate immunization rates.

Ms. Allen then provided an overview of the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program which is eligible to young women under the age of 23, low income (Medicaid eligible) and it is their 1st pregnancy. She explained issues addressed by NFP and the elements of services provided: assessment – identify problems faced by clients such as mental health problems and substance abuse; teaching, guidance, counseling - nurses develop a therapeutic relationship during the initial phases of the program and as the relationship grows and trust is established nurses can move to teaching, guidance and counseling as relevant to pregnancy and parenting; treatment – provide motivational interviewing a evidence based practice in the treatment of individuals with substance use disorders and other self defeating behaviors; and case management – link clients with community resources for health care, housing and resources for infant. Ms. Allen discussed positive outcomes of the NFP program. Chair Romero questioned if Adverse Childhood Experiences Scores (ACES) are used when assessing NFP clients. Ms. Allen stated not at this time, but the program is starting a process to screen for ACES to provide more systematic documentation. Mr. Sloma stated although results do not show decreased client substance abuse specifically, it does show positive results in behaviors. The Board thanked staff for the information.

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

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

Department Items

3) **Set a Public Hearing to consider amendments to Article I Appendix A and Article II, Section 5.2 of the Thurston Sanitary Code**

Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director, requested the Board set a public hearing on December 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 280 of the Thurston County Courthouse to receive testimony and consider action on an ordinance amending Article I and Article II of the Sanitary Code for Thurston County. This hearing will be in conjunction with the Thurston County budget hearing. Mr. Starry gave a background for the request stating the Environmental Health Division sets fees to recover the full cost of reviewing permit applications and providing services to the public. This practice started in 2006; the hourly rate used to calculate the fee schedule has been adjusted twice since then, most recently in 2009. Mr. Starry explained this year, 2012, the Department analyzed permit volume, labor, revenue and cost data to determine if the fee structure meets the established cost recovery goals. This evaluation revealed that payroll, overhead and administrative costs have increased the cost of providing services, resulting in a program budget deficit. This deficit will continue to grow without further action by the Department. Based on analysis the hourly rate needs to be increased, in addition to most Environmental Health fees, to fully recover costs and provide needed staffing levels. Environmental Health Division staff briefed the Board of County Commissioners on August 7, 2012 and October 25, 2012 regarding the proposed fee adjustments. The Board directed staff to hold a public hearing to solicit public testimony regarding the proposed fee adjustments. Mr. Starry stated the Ordinance and supporting documentation will be available to the public tomorrow, November 12, 2012. **Vice Chair Romero moved to set a public hearing on December 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 280 of the Thurston County Courthouse to receive testimony and consider action on an ordinance amending Article I and Article II of the Sanitary Code for Thurston County. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

4) **Board Members' Reports** – by passed

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

- ◆ Blue Green Algae
 - Black Lake and Clear Lake continue to have blue-green algae blooms
 - Toxin levels at both lakes have dropped below precautionary levels established by Washington State Department of Health DOH, but warning signs are being kept in place until the algae blooms subside
 - Warnings have been issued advising people to avoid water recreation activities
 - Smaller algae blooms are present on Long Lake and Lake St. Clair – neither bloom producing significant levels of toxin.
- ◆ Water Lab
 - We have hired Erik Iverson for the biologist position.
 - Testing water samples should resume the last week of the month (26th). The Lab is closed Thanksgiving week.
 - Commended Lewis County who provided assistance with water testing during this interim period
- ◆ Change in Food Handler Class Location

- With the upcoming departure of Sea Mar WIC from the Lilly Road building and the increased use of the web-based food handler testing, the Department would like to move the food handler classes from the courthouse to the Lilly Road building.
- The online food handler testing has reduced class size from 60-80 per class to 6-12 per class and has reduced the number of classes held each month.
- As soon as the request is approved, and the Department is ready to make the change the public will be notified.
- ◆ Health Chapter is moving forward in the County Comprehensive Plan - the Planning Commission will be holding a hearing November 14th (tomorrow) on the draft Health Chapter in an amendment to the Comp Plan this year.
- ◆ Housing Program Survey
 - Housing Program Staff issued a survey soliciting information on how to use the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. This is a required function of developing the next five year Consolidated Plan.
 - We had 60 individuals respond the first week.
- ◆ Human Services Review council (HSRC)
 - Requests for Proposals for 2013 funding are due by 5:00 today (November 13).
 - Eighteen proposals have been received so far.
 - Funding decisions should be complete by mid December.
- ◆ Drug Take Back
 - Staff recently worked with a local pharmacist to collect and dispose of expired and unwanted drugs and pharmaceuticals.
 - Almost 600 pounds of materials were collected
 - Disposed of as moderate risk waste as part of the county's business waste program, with concurrence from the Department of Ecology.
 - Pharmacist paid disposal costs for the collected materials

6) **Health Officer's Report**

Dr. Yu stated there have been three reported cases of Influenza this year. She recommends everyone get a flu shot now.


7) **ADJOURNMENT**

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

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


SANDRA ROMERO, Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Vice Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:


for Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: December 11, 2012