



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 of March 13, 2012

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Attendance: Chair Romero, Vice Chair Valenzuela, Commissioner Wolfe, County Manager Don Krupp, Health Officer Dr. Diana Yu, Interim Department Director Steve Romines, Environmental Health Division Director Art Starry and Clerk of the Board of Health Lydia Hodgkinson.

Chair Romero called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the agenda of March 13, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of minutes** – Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes of February 14, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- c) **Correspondence** – Commissioner Wolfe read a letter from Mary Selecky, Secretary of the State of Washington Department of Health (WSDOH) applauding and thanking the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) for their success with the Healthy Retail Stores Project. DOH has produced a one-page “success story” on PHSS’ achievement. This document can be viewed on line at <http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/2011-success-story-thurston-county>. Chair Romero requested the website be run on TCTV. The Healthy Retail Stores Project was funded with “Communities Putting Prevention to Work” federal stimulus funds through WSDOH. PHSS partnered with local convenience stores and two local farmers to provide healthy food and fresh produce for the local community. Dr. Diana Yu commented the project pilot was successful for participating farmers but not a benefit for the retail store owners. The Department continues to look for other interested retail stores to partner with the still interested farmers.

2) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES - none

3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD - none

4) ORAL HEALTH: ADULT ACCESS TO CARE

Mary Ann O’Garro, Epidemiologist for the Public Health and Social Services Department, gave a presentation on Adult Access to Oral Care in Thurston County. Ms. O’Garro explained a substantial number of Thurston County adults do not have dental insurance coverage and do not obtain care. Ms. O’Garro’s presentation focused on the importance of oral health; and provided local data from the 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey regarding dental insurance, dental visits and health benefits for Thurston County residents. Commissioner Valenzuela questioned that Medicare does not cover dental care. Ms. O’Garro explained dental coverage may be added to Medicare coverage at an additional cost. Resource options for community care in Thurston County are the Olympia Union

Gospel Mission, Thurston County Dental Access Network and the CHOICE Regional Health Network's ABCD Program. Ms. O'Garro noted 1,300 dental patients were seen by the Union Gospel Mission volunteer dentists in 2011. Commissioner Wolfe questioned if there was any data regarding the relationship between throat cancer and tobacco use. Ms. O'Garro did not have this type of data. Vice Chair Valenzuela questioned if there were Performance Measures for improving oral health care for Thurston County adults. Ms. O'Garro did not know of any at this time. Chair Romero shared she had visited the Union Gospel Mission and noted the dental program faces many challenges. She thanked Ms. O'Garro for monitoring this information regarding oral health issues. Dr. Diana Yu noted the Union Gospel Mission is facing the potential loss of volunteer malpractice insurance. She will check the status of this threat and keep the Board informed.

5) MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC) UPDATE

Patti Swanson, Administrative Services Manager for the Public Health and Social Services Department and Supervisor of the Emergency Preparedness Program for the Department, introduced Kenneth Walker the current AmeriCorp Vista Volunteer working in the Thurston County Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Program. She also introduced Sue Poyner the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Department. The MRC is a community-based volunteer program that strengthens and expands the local public health system's response during a public health emergency or disaster. The mission of the MRC is to allow local health professionals and others to voluntarily contribute their skills and expertise to provide public health surge capacity. Members include medical and non-medical professionals who contribute their unique skills and expertise to prepare for and respond to health emergencies. The Thurston County MRC is one of over 800 nationally recognized MRC units. The National MRC program is celebrating its 10th anniversary and Thurston County MRC is in its 9th year. Dr. Diana Yu serves as the Medical Director of the Thurston County MRC. Mr. Walker and Ms. Poyner gave an overview of the MRC, including an update of MRC activities. Thurston County MRC members have assisted in a range of activities including events, training exercises and missions. The Board Members were invited to attend a MRC Volunteer Appreciation Event being held in the evening of April 5, 2012 at the Public Health & Social Services Department at 412 Lilly Road NE.

Commissioner Wolfe questioned if there are any plans to deal with the upcoming Senior Games and Canoe Journey events that will bring in large volumes of people to the community over the same days. Dr. Yu stated the MRC will be activated in partnership with Medic One to deal with both events. She also provided clarification on dates and locations for both events.

Ms. Poyner explained the Department is now dealing with the challenge of continuing support of the County's MRC Volunteer Program for the remainder of 2012 and future years. She explained that Mr. Walker is now half way through his 1 year position with the Department and thanked him for all his hard work. At the end of the next 6 months the Vista Volunteer position funding will no longer be available and the will not be refilled with a Vista Volunteer. Ms. Poyner explained the Leadership Team is working on strengthening leadership with sustainability as well as looking at strategies to replace the 40 hour a week position in some other capacity.

Chair Romero requested clarification of the difference between the Healthy Living function versus Relay for Life event for which Mr. Walker provided an explanation. Vice Chair Valenzuela requested

clarification of the MRC involvement during the mid January storms emergency response. Mr. Walker explained there were 14 MRC volunteers working with the Red Cross in two shelters providing mental health and basic health support. Vice Chair Valenzuela explained that there is a constituent that continually voices concern that Thurston County does not have mechanisms in place to adequately respond to emergency situations in any capacity. Dr. Yu explained the MRC volunteers do not operate independently. Ms. Poyner explained that although the MRC is a Public Health resource it is activated by Emergency Management to provide support for public health emergency responses only by collaborating with partners in the community and other emergency responders.

Chair Romero noted she attends Fire Commissioner Meetings and suggested this informative presentation be presented at one of their meetings. Staff will follow up on this suggestion.

Interim Director Steve Romines acknowledged Dr. Diana Yu's commitment to the MRC Volunteer program. He stated and the Board agreed, as a whole the program would not exist without all of her hard work, effort and coordination.

6) **SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION TO RENEW THE MORATORIUM ON ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS IN WOODLAND CREEK ESTATES AND COVINGTON**

Art Starry, Environmental Division Director requested the Board set a Public Hearing on April 10, to receive testimony on a resolution to renew the moratorium on permits for on-site sewage systems in the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington neighborhoods. On October 11, 2011 the Thurston County Board of Health adopted Resolution H-4-2011 imposing a moratorium on accepting permit applications, and the issuance of permits, for the repair, expansion or installation of on-site sewage systems on properties in the Covington and Woodland Creek Estates subdivisions ordered to connect to public sewer. This resolution expires April 11, 2012 and needs to be renewed at six-month intervals until the sewer project is complete. In response to documented water quality problems in Woodland Creek, home owners within the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington neighborhoods are being required to abandon their on-site sewage systems and connect their homes to sewer. The sewer conversion work will not be completed until the end of 2013. Vice Chair Valenzuela expressed concern that the moratorium would need to be renewed every six months. County Manager Krupp provided explanation regarding the six month renewal requirement. Mr. Starry explained the moratorium will only need to be renewed until sewer services are in place and ready for home owners to hook up to. **Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to set a Public Hearing on April 10, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. at the Thurston County Courthouse to receive testimony on a resolution to renew the moratorium on permits for on-site sewage systems in the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington neighborhoods. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

7) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Yu informed the Board she has reached out to local City Councils to talk about the Healthy Child Weight Coalition and is scheduled to meet with each of them over the next four months.

8) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Steve Romines the Interim Department Director updated the Board on the following:

- Department Director - The selection process to fill the Department Director position has begun and continues. Interviews were held on March 9, 2012. The selected candidates are Don Sloma, Harvey Crowder, Joe Wall and Art Starry.
- Tobacco Use and Smoking Policy – a Thurston County Campus Policy is in process of being finalized with a couple small modifications to recognize requirements on county property for county employees. The Policy is scheduled to be brought to the Board at the April 10, 2012 Board of Health meeting.
- 2012 Restaurant License fees – An Issue Alert was sent out regarding 33 out of 980 food service establishments that did not renew their permits. Mr. Romines noted some of these may be out of business. To date all but 16 of these have paid their renewal fees. Chair Romero questioned the status of the Rainier School Concession Stand. Mr. Romines stated concession stand is not operated by the School District and is only in operation during basket ball season.
- Art Starry is following up with an issue regarding pesticides used on berry fields in the County a number of years ago. A State of Washington Department of Ecology grant is being applied for to fund staff time to determine if there are any concerns with the pesticide in question.
- Mr. Romines was contacted by Earlyse Swift, Coalition Manager for the Reduce Underage Drinking Coalition (RUaD) and Mary Segawa, Liquor Control Board Alcohol Awareness Program Manager asking him to give testimony on local impacts of underage drinking in Thurston County. Although they contacted him regarding the underage drinking impacts on the emergency medical services' side, Mr. Romines also feels it is a public health issue. He has contacted his peers and may be giving testimony to the Coalition on the local impacts on the Public Health side. This issue comes up due to the potential privatization of liquor sales and the potential increase in underage drinking.
- Homeless Housing Coordinator selection - the Home Consortium has selected Theresa Slusher for the Homeless Housing Coordinator for the County. This position will be a good resource to connect with the homeless population and their needs especially during an emergency mode when it is difficult to determine if the homeless are in distress. Vice Chair Valenzuela stated Ms. Slusher will continue working for the Housing Authority at a half time capacity and working for the County under a performance based contract being drawn up by Mark Freedman the Department's Social Services Division Director.
- April 2nd – 8th Public Health Week – the Department is tying the proposed County Tobacco Policy to public health week. A Chronic Disease Prevention activity - Healthy Child Weight is being planned. Chair Valenzuela requested a Public Health Week Proclamation be read.
- April Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month – A Proclamation is to be read at a Board of County Commissioner's meeting and possibly also at a Board of Health meeting.

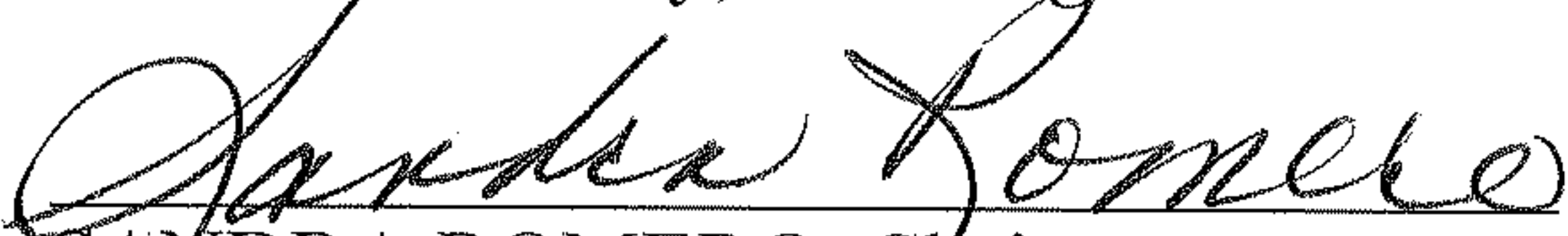
- The Department is applying for a grant that would provide a 2 year CDC-paid Public Health Associate staff member to expand our capacity to deliver essential public health services. The CDC funds the position and chooses the candidate. The Department provides the space and direction. Patti Swanson, the Department's Administrative Manager explained the grant is a fellowship which requires each grantee develop two separate projects over a two year period (2012 – 2014). The first year the project would focus on enhancing the Department's public health emergency preparedness and incident management team. The second year, the project would focus on the Department's community health assessment to enhance the Department's goal to meet accreditation and the national public health standards. The grant is being applied for only at this point and has not been awarded.
- Legislative budget funding updates - Mr. Romines and Art Starry gave a brief update on public health budget issues. At Vice Chair Valenzuela's request Mr. Starry gave an update and discussed the substitute senate bill 6116. County Manager Don Krupp commented on the bill also.


The Board thanked Mr. Romines for his informative Director's report.

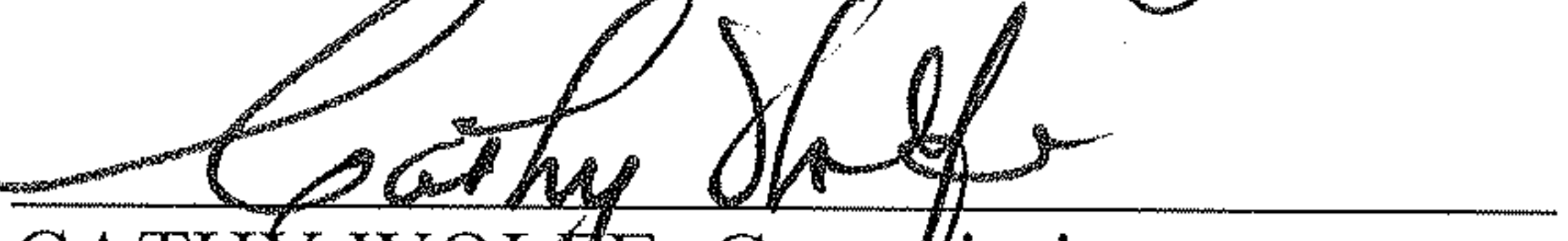
9) **ADJOURNMENT**

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:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: April 10, 2012