



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 April 10, 2012

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Attendance: Chair Romero, Vice Chair Valenzuela, Commissioner Wolfe, County Manager Don Krupp, Health Officer Dr. Diana Yu and Clerk of the Board of Health Lydia Hodgkinson.

Excused Absence: Interim Director Steve Romines

Chair Romero called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Chair Romero noted due to time constraints Item 7 - Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets and Item 8 - Tobacco Use and Smoking Policy Update may be postponed to next month's Board of Health Meeting. Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the agenda of April 10, 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 March 13, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) PROCLAMATION

The Board of Health proclaimed the month of April 2012 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Thurston County. Chair Romero acknowledged Shelly Willis from Family, Education and Support Services and Jon Tunheim the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney for their hard work in increasing awareness of increased crime cases against small children and infants in the county. Vice Chair Valenzuela read the Proclamation. Shelly Willis accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Board. Commissioner Wolfe acknowledged the Family Education and Support Services for their nomination as the non-profit of the year.

3) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES - none

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

5) NORTH THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL RAMS IN ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A HELMET LAW IN THURSTON COUNTY

Joe Pallitto, the North Thurston High School's "RAMS in Action" Club Advisor and three student club members presented statistics and information regarding the implementation of a helmet law which would require all Thurston County residents to wear a helmet while bicycle riding. They also shared a

letter from Safe Kids Thurston County in support of the bicycle helmet law and information regarding a Pierce County Helmet Law which went into effect in 1994. Mr. Pallitto stated the next step for RAMS in Action is to present this same information to local city jurisdictions. Commissioner Wolfe suggested that this topic be brought up at a future Thurston Regional Planning Council meeting. The Board asked Ms. Pallitto to keep the Board informed of the club's actions and thanked him and the students for their hard work in support of the proposed helmet law.

6) ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)

Ruth Harms with the Thurston Community Network gave a presentation on "The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences" (ACEs). ACEs are stressful childhood experiences such as abuse, neglect, witnessing domestic violence, or growing up with alcohol or other substance abuse, mental illness, parental discord, or crime in the home. ACEs are a common pathway to social, emotional, and cognitive impairments that lead to increased risk of unhealthy behaviors, risk of violence or re-victimization, disease, disability and premature mortality. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Kaiser Health Plan's Department of Preventive Medicine have been studying ACEs for more than a decade. Ms. Harms' presentation included information on the impact of trauma on children and families, Brain Development Research, ACEs Study and Prevention of ACEs. Ms. Harms and Shelly Willis with Family Education and Support Services addressed the Board's questions regarding statistics and survey questions contained in Ms. Harms' presentation. Ms. Harms described prevention programs such as the "Compassionate Schools Initiative" which provides strategies for working with children with ACEs and self care for school staff and parents. She also discussed the evidence-based prevention program to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome called the "Period of PURPLE Crying" whose goal is to provide a DVD, booklet and a knitted cap for all new parents in every hospital in Washington State, share information with all caregivers and provide information to the public. Ms. Harms stated a donation of \$2 provides the cost of a DVD. For more information about the program, make a donation or to join in the cap knitting campaign, go to www.clickforbabies.org. Dr. Yu stated she will provide information regarding preventable deaths in her child Death Review update at a future Board of Health Meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Harms for her presentation.

7) SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL AND COMPLETE STREETS – item postponed to next Board of Health Meeting.

8) TOBACCO USE AND SMOKING POLICY UPDATE – item postponed to next Board of Health Meeting.

9) APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY SCATTER CREEK AQUIFER GRANT AGREEMENT G1200391

Steve Petersen, Environmental Health Division Program Manager requested the Board approve the Department of Ecology Grant Agreement #G1200391 funds the On-site Sewage Management for the Scatter Creek Aquifer Project. He gave a brief history of the project explaining the Scatter Creek aquifer is a shallow, unconfined, and extremely vulnerable ground water supply. The aquifer serves more than 1000 public water systems and single-family wells and is the sole source of drinking water

for more than 18,000 area residents. Septic systems and land use activities within the aquifer recharge area are polluting the Scatter Creek aquifer, resulting in violations of drinking water standards, increased public health risks, and water quality degradation of Scatter Creek and Chehalis River. Preliminary results from a numerical ground water model indicate septic systems, the principal means of sewage disposal in the area, pose a significant public health risk to the aquifer. This grant will expand groundwater monitoring by existing Environmental Health staff. Mr. Petersen acknowledged Nadine Romero Hydrogeologist with the Resource Stewardship Department Water Resources Program and Jane Mountjoy-Venning an Education and Outreach Specialist II with the Public Health & Social Services Department Environmental Health Division for their work on the Scatter Creek Aquifer project. Mr. Petersen addressed the Board's questions regarding soils types in the area, the number of wells and septic systems and testing recommendations for private wells in the area. Dr. Yu and Mr. Petersen addressed the Board's questions concerning nitrate levels from past studies and what the impacts are to residents. Mr. Petersen stated if the Board chooses to approve agreement G1200391, staff will request a Board Briefing in the near future to discuss the creation of a stakeholders group.

Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve and authorize the Director of the Public Health and Social Services Department to sign the Department of Ecology Grant Agreement #G1200391 for the On-site Sewage Management in the Scatter Creek Aquifer project for a maximum consideration of \$237,509. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10) RESOLUTION H-3-2012 APPOINTING ALTERNATE 2012 THURSTON COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. Diana Yu explained since 2000 the Board of Health has formally appointed alternate Health Officers to serve when emergency situations arise when the primary Health Officer, Dr. Diana Yu, is not available due to illness, vacation, etc. Resolution No. H-3-2012 retains Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, John Bausher, MD, and Steve Standaert, MD, MPH as alternate Health Officers for 2012. Dr. Yu stated listed alternate Health Officers are health officers in other counties with the exception of Dr. Standaert who is not a health officer but meets all health officer requirements. The appointment of an alternate local Health Officer shall be activated when contacted to act in the capacity of the Thurston County local Health Officer by the following individuals: the primary local Health Officer for Thurston County, the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, or the Chair of the Thurston County Board of Health. Dr. Yu stated her vacations and in turn health officer coverage are pre-planned therefore do not require an emergency health officer appointment. The Board shall be immediately notified in the event an Alternate Health Officer is appointed.

Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve Resolution H-3-2012 appointing Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, John Bausher, MD, and Steve Standaert, MD, MPH as alternate Health Officers for 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11) 4:30 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING see separate minutes

The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony on a resolution to renew a moratorium on accepting or issuing septic system permits within the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington neighborhoods. The moratorium was established in 2011 in conjunction with another resolution that requires all residences, buildings, and properties in these neighborhoods to connect to public sewer to protect public health and abandon their existing on-site sewage systems.

12) DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Dr. Diana Yu presented combined Director's and Health Officer's Reports providing the following information and updates:

- ◆ Environmental Health fee modifications: Dr. Yu asked the Board to set a Public Hearing to be held at the May 8, 2012 Board of Health meeting to take testimony on various adjustments to Environmental Health fees. The proposed fee changes provide options for the public that will reduce costs and barriers and should not be controversial. The total estimated impact to the on-site program would be \$1,000 per year and \$3,000 per year for the food program. Dr. Yu stated a Board Briefing would be scheduled prior to the May 8th Public Hearing to provide further information. Don Krupp, County Manager provided further clarification and some examples of the fee changes and reductions. Vice Chair Valenzuela clarified that if upon further discussion at a Board Briefing the Board decides to take no action they have the option cancel the public hearing. Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to set a public hearing for May 8, 2012 at 3:30 or as soon thereafter as possible to hear testimony regarding various Environmental Health fees. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- ◆ Restaurant inspection update: Only two restaurants that haven't renewed their food services permit. There are two more left that have not either renewed their food or their septic permits. They will be visited this week by food section. So far, the facilities that have been closed were opened back up in a few hours after things got settled. A few others had been closed by owner and we did not find out until we paid them a visit. Some also had changed owners and the previous bills and letters did not reach them. Those were fixed without problems. Chair Romero requested information be compiled and brought to the Environmental Fee revision Board Briefing regarding reasons why some food service establishments do not pay fees such as is it a hardship or other types of reasons.
- ◆ County Public Health Rankings: the 2012 County Health Rankings compiled by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Thurston County ranked 14 compared to all other Washington State counties. Dr. Yu provided a few examples of percentages of Health Outcomes and briefly discussed with the Board possible reasons Thurston County dropped from a ranking of 13 in 2011 to 14 in 2012. The Board stated slipping in ranking is not acceptable and want to strive for a ranking of 1. Dr. Yu also stated she

has spoken to a reporter from The Olympian Newspaper regarding the rankings. Mary Ann O'Garro the Department Epidemiologist is reviewing the data and preparing a presentation to bring to the May 8, 2012 Board of Health meeting.

- ◆ Smoking Tobacco Policy: A final draft of the policy is now with Human Services (HR) who is working through issues with the Bargaining Units. The Department and HR will need to analyze any issues that arise and will bring them to the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Yu stated Kateri Wimsett an Education and Outreach Specialist with the Department is preparing an update to be presented at the May 8, 2012 Board of Health Meeting.
- ◆ Legislative update: Proposed budget cuts do not look as bad for local public health as previous drafts versions reviewed. There are some impacts to the State of Washington Department of Health, but not as serious as previous versions.

13) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Yu provided a Whooping Cough (Pertussis) update – Based on reported cases to date of Whooping Cough we are at epidemic levels for Washington State. Locally we are not experiencing the levels of positive cases other counties are experiencing. Thurston County to date has had 16 cases reported so far in 2012, of which only 4 were confirmed. Dr. Yu stated it has always been recommended Whooping Cough vaccination but this is an opportunity for us to make efforts to increase vaccination and surveillance so we do not experience an epidemic locally. The Department is continuing to highly encourage people to get vaccinated against Whooping Cough. Dr. Yu gave vaccination information and recommendations for adults, children and infants who are most at risk. She stated that at Senator Keiser's request Group Health Cooperative donated and administered vaccinations at the Legislature on May 7th. Dr. Yu stated vaccine is available through physicians, medical centers and pharmacies.


14) ADJOURNMENT

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

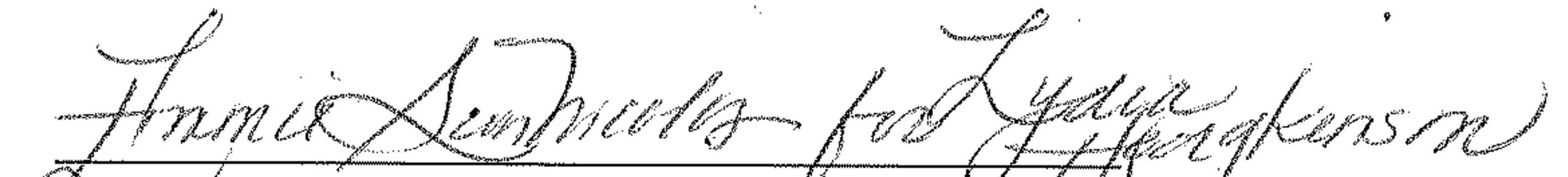
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


SANDRA ROMERO, Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Vice Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: 6/12/2012