



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 May 8, 2012

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Attendance: Chair Romero, Vice Chair Valenzuela, Commissioner Wolfe, County Manager Don Krupp, Department Director Don Sloma, Health Officer Dr. Diana Yu, 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 May 8, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) Approval of minutes** – Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the Board of Health Special meeting minutes of April 3, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) INTRODUCTION OF NEW DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR DON SLOMA

Chair Romero introduced and welcomed Don Sloma the new Department Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (TCPHSS). Mr. Sloma takes over as Director from Sherri McDonald who retired recently after a 20-year career with the county. Chair Romero also acknowledged and expressed appreciation to Steve Romines for his outstanding job as the Interim Department Director for the months of March and April 2012. Chair Romero gave a history of Mr. Sloma's 40 years of experience in public health, legislative policy, mental health, welfare reform and civil rights. He most recently worked on public health policy and practices with the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation and the Washington Health Foundation. He also served five years as the Executive Director for the Washington State Board of Health. The Commissioners, serving as the Board of Health, will work with Mr. Sloma, everyone in Public Health and Social Services and the community on a visioning process to create a strategic plan and goals for the future of public health in the Thurston County. It is hoped that one of the outcomes will be new partnerships on the local and regional levels as well as a strengthening of existing collaborative efforts. Mr. Sloma thanked the Board for selecting him for the position and stated he is honored to be given the opportunity to work with the community at this level. He also expressed gratitude to Steve Romines for his interim service. Vice Chair Valenzuela and Commissioner Wolfe expressed their appreciation to Steve Romines and welcomed Mr. Sloma.

3) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES - none

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

**5) TRIS CARLSON WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION HEALTH CHAMPION AWARD RECOGNITION**

Art Starry, Director of the TCPHSS Environmental Health Division, recognized Tris Carlson for his Public Health Champion Award by the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA). WSPHA celebrated National Public Health Week (April 2-6) by recognizing Health Champions - individuals, coalitions and businesses, nominated by their colleagues, for their dedication to improving public health. This year WSPHA recognized Tris Carlson as a Public Health Champion for his work that helps to prevent food and water borne communicable diseases. Mr. Starry explained Mr. Carlson is most recognized for his work as a member and Chairman of the Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach shellfish committee. This committee started work in 2002, in response to declining marine water quality and shellfish area closures, and developed a multifaceted work plan to protect public health and improve water quality. Under Mr. Carlson's leadership, the committee oversaw the implementation of the plan, which resulted in measurable water quality improvements and the lifting of many commercial shellfish harvesting closures and restrictions. This result has drawn state and national acclaim. As Chairman of the shellfish committee, Mr. Carlson led stakeholder efforts to develop septic system monitoring and maintenance programs for Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach. Much of water quality improvement in Henderson is attributed to the implementation of the special septic system program. Mr. Carlson and committee members attended many meetings and hearings and worked with the public to develop a fair and effective program. They actively participated in community workshops and hearings to help assure that the programs would be acceptable to community members and approved by our Board of Health and Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Starry stated Mr. Carlson is also active in other public health and water quality efforts. He was a member of the committee that developed the Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan, and is the Chairman of the Thurston County Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board. Tris Carlson thanked the Board for recognizing his award. He also thanked WSPHA and those who nominated him. He gave special thanks to staff members Mark Swartout, Art Starry, Sue Davis and Linda Hofstad. The Board thanked Mr. Carlson for his accomplishments, for working to bring back the health of Puget Sound and for his perfect example of "how things get done".

**6) TAKE BACK YOUR MEDS - WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION HEALTH CHAMPION AWARD RECOGNITION**

Art Starry recognized the Take Back Your Meds Coalition for their Public Health Champion Award by the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA). WSPHA celebrated National Public Health Week (April 2-6) by recognizing Health Champions - individuals, coalitions and businesses, nominated by their colleagues, for their dedication to improving public health. This year WSPHA recognized the Take Back Your Meds coalition as a Public Health Champion in the Alcohol/Tobacco and Drug Prevention category. The program is a collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Office, local Police Departments, the Coroner, TOGETHER!, Thurston County Public Works and Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (TCPHSS). Participating jurisdictions cover collection and disposal costs.

Mr. Starry acknowledged Jim Cooper with TOGETHER!, John Snaza the Thurston County Sheriff and Terri Thomas with the Public Works Department Education and Outreach Program for their hard work.

Jim Cooper thanked the Board and provided a brief history on the creation of the program. Take Back your Meds, a coalition of 270 organizations from across Washington, supports medicine take back programs aimed at reducing access to unwanted medicines, risk of poisoning and environmental contamination. Coalition members include law enforcement and environmental groups, medical organizations and wastewater agencies, working family and natural resources organizations. Over the last several years, the coalition has successfully worked to increase awareness of the problem of unwanted medications and improper disposal methods. Coalition members have taken the initiative and supported the cost of operating temporary take back programs in 17 of Washington's 39 counties, collecting over 160,000 pounds of medicines. They have also dedicated significant time and effort to pass legislation to create a secure, statewide medicine take-back program provided by pharmaceutical manufacturers. While legislation has not yet been passed, these efforts did garner extensive media coverage. Thurston County is one of the 17 counties with a local drug take back program which started with one drop-box at the Courthouse in January 2010. Boxes are now set-up at Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm, Rainier, the County Courthouse and the Coroner's Office. Since inception, the County program has collected and properly disposed of more than 6,591 pounds of unwanted medicine. These efforts are augmented by the drug take back location at Group Health. Mr. Cooper noted that unfortunately the amount collected is just a small fraction of the amount of unwanted and expired medications that are in the community. It is hoped someday there will be a statewide sustainable program that makes drug take back services readily available to the entire state.

Sheriff Snaza thanked Art Starry, Tris Carlson and Dr. Diana Yu for their hard work in protecting the public and the environment. He expressed concern about protecting our youth for which he feels the Take Back Your Meds Drop Boxes help the Sheriff's Department do. In addition, Sheriff Snaza would like to make it easier for the public to use the drop boxes by finding ways to make boxes more accessible to the public.

Commissioner Wolfe questioned if unwanted or expired vitamins can be disposed of in the drop boxes to which Dr. Yu responded yes they can. The Board thanked everyone involved for keeping our youth safe and protecting our environment.

7) SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL AND COMPLETE STREETS

Chris Hawkins, with the Chronic Disease Prevention Program and the Environmental Health Division of the Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department, gave a Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets presentation. PHSS works with community partners to offer Safe Routes to School programming in many school districts and school sites around Thurston County. These projects help to implement the Healthy Kids Safe Streets Action Plan developed with Thurston Regional Planning Council in 2010. Safe Routes to School programs involve a mix of education, encouragement, enforcement and engineering to increase levels of walking and bicycling to school and improve safety.

Mr. Hawkins explained with the award of a Community Transformation Grant to Washington State Department of Health (DOH), PHSS will have additional resources to support Safe Routes to School projects in North Thurston Public Schools. The goal of the funding is to create increased access to

opportunities for physical activity in lower income areas of the County and PHSS will be focused on extending their support from the two schools currently involved, Lacey and Mountain View elementary schools, to include two additional school sites. Mr. Hawkins explained another area of focus for DOH is establishing complete streets policies or supporting local implementation of the state complete streets policy. The presentation also provided additional information about complete streets policies, which ensure that the design of transportation infrastructure supports many modes of transportation, particularly active forms like walking, bicycling, and transit use. Mr. Hawkins provided an example of the description of “Complete Streets” being the main streets which are also highways that run through the cities of Yelm, Rainier and Tenino. Designers and traffic planners would design roads to provide safe access to all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists and public transportation users but also protect and preserve a community’s environment and character. Mr. Hawkins noted that although smaller communities do not have traffic planners Thurston County for example could help by completing audits of roads. Vice Chair Valenzuela noted in the City of Tumwater road improvements have been made to provide safe access to users. Mr. Hawkins described several upcoming events: Bike to School on May 9th at the North Thurston Public Schools Woodland Elementary in collaboration with Safe Kids Coalition; Free Helmets at the Lacey Fun Fair on May 19th and 20th; and a Walk to School event in the fall.

8) COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS: HOW DOES THURSTON COUNTY COMPARE?

Mary Ann O’Garro an Epidemiologist with the Public Health and Social Services Department explained that each year the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation partner to produce ‘County Health Rankings’. The rankings include important measures of health, including those that influence quality of life and how long we live. The rankings are a tool to help communities look closer at what is influencing the health of local residents. Ms. O’Garro gave a presentation on how Thurston County compares to all other counties in Washington State and national benchmarks in the 2012 ‘County Health Rankings’ release. She provided an explanation of how the ranking information was gathered; explanations of the measures used in the rankings and gave some specific rankings for Thurston County. At the Board’s request she will provide a list of data sources used for the ranking measures. The Board questioned why immunizations are not a tracked measure. Ms. O’Garro explained only data that is consistently tracked every year can be used in the rankings which immunizations are not. Chair Romero expressed concern at the high percentage of fast food restaurants in Thurston County. The Board requested “action” to improve Thurston County’s ranking, stating any slip in ranking is not acceptable. The Board Members expressed their appreciation for the presentation and information.

9) BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS

- Commissioner Wolfe reported on:
 - Regional Health Improvement Collaborative Planning (RHIC) Team:
 - the RHIC team continues to meet monthly
 - next meeting planned for May 18th
 - Participates in a conference call every Monday morning with Christina Hulet who is the Project Management Support to the Planning Team and the County

- Planning what information to bring to a meeting of the five-county Boards of Health scheduled for June 22, 2012, location to be determined.
- Vice Chair Valenzuela reported on:
 - Thurston Regional Planning Council's (TRPC) Sustainability HUD Grant – Sustainable Thurston Task Force meetings information and update:
 - County has been engaged in first phase of grant – meeting of several different Panels.
 - Commissioner Wolfe and Sherri McDonald, the previous Department Director, were active on the Health Panel, Commissioner Valenzuela active in the Local Food Systems panel.
 - Briefly discussed the Local Food System Panel draft White Paper.
 - All Panel meetings have been concluded, all draft Panel White Papers have been submitted and are available for viewing on the TRPC website.
 - Task Force preparing to reconvene next week and continue conversation on where group goes from here.
 - Invited Don Sloma to follow and participate in the Task Force.
- Chair Romero reported on:
 - Participated in a Public Hearing by ORCAA (Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency), our air quality monitor for Thurston County, where a proposed change to the organic recycling facility Silver Springs Organics was the topic.
 - Attended a luncheon where Commissioner Wolfe gave out awards; a Zonta Club Member received an award.
 - Attended a meeting of the new organization called Alliance for a Healthy South Sound which is a five county, two tribe effort to reduce pollution in the South Sound.
 - Coffee Chats:
 - Holds Coffee Chats once a month in Rainier, Yelm and Lacey.
 - Brings a Department Educator to each meeting; recently Dr. Yu came and talked about the Health department and the job she does; in April an Environmental Health Educator discussed septic tank information as related to drinking water.
 - Would like to see this education included in our County Health Rankings
 - Commented on the Child Abuse Prevention Task force that has been up and running for the last several months.
 - A meeting of the five-county Boards of Health is scheduled for June 22, 2012, location to be determined in Centralia.

10) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Don Sloma provided the following information and updates:

➤ **Region 3 Healthcare Coalition Exercise:**

- Exercise held today about surge capacity emergency preparedness.
- TC PHSS was responsible for planning this regional exercise with the Medical Reserve Corps and the five counties of Mason, Pacific, Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Pacific.
- This is one of the many multi-county regional activities going on around the medical care system.

Mr. Sloma thanked the Board Members for their welcoming words and support since he came on board. He also thanked staff for their outstanding welcome. He feels despite the challenges being faced with the current Pertussis epidemic, we have a team that is ready to go and they need to be recognized for the work that they do.

➤ **Pertussis Update:** Dr. Yu will discuss under the Health Officer's report.

➤ **Henderson Inlet Water Quality Improvement:**

- DOH plans to upgrade 100 more acres of Henderson Inlet for shellfish growing.
- This is the second upgrade since 2010
- Amazed with this environmental improvement. Commended Art Starry, Staff and the Board for all of their work that has gone into this accomplishment over the years.

➤ **State of Washington Department of Ecology - Coordinated Prevention Grant:**

- Just learned Department will receive approximately \$365,000
- To be used for solid and hazardous waste programs, Education and Outreach, Used oil collection, Inspections and technical assistance to small business who use hazardous materials, and Solid waste complaint response and enforcement.

Chair Romero asked where Intercity Transit could recycle used parts contaminated with oil. Dr. Yu stated they should contact Gerald Tousley with the Department's Solid and Hazardous Waste Program for recycling information.

➤ **Thurston-Mason Regional Support Network (TMRSN):**

- Working to identify a new provider for multisystemic therapy (MST)
- Two county efforts, Mason and Thurston.

➤ **Tobacco Use and Smoking Policy:**

- The County-wide policy is ready and waiting on discussions between the County Human Resources Department and the Bargaining Units.

➤ **Thurston County Comprehensive Plan:**

- Mr. Sloma sent an email with the most recent draft attached to the Board Members last week.
- Following the Board's request the plan is to hold public meetings held in South County in Rochester by the end of May.
- Plan can be submitted to Planning Commission for adoption by the end of May for their public hearing process
- Chris Hawkins addressed the Board's questions regarding time frames and deadlines for the Plan. The Board does not want to hold up process.

➤ **Syringe Needle Exchange:**

- Concerned about funding for the program
- Trying to chase down a final determination from the State of Washington Department of Health to determine if they really intend to refocus their HIV prevention resources from counties who provide HIV prevention services.
- Effective July 1, PHSS could potentially lose the \$100K/year in federal funds PHSS budgeted to receive through DOH to purchase clean needles and supplies.
- PHSS is looking for funds to continue preventing HIV, HEP C and other blood borne conditions in Thurston and the five bordering counties through our successful syringe exchange program.
- If the program goes away:
 - Hospitalizations and medical treatment costs may increase
 - Drug related crime may increase
 - Drug treatment may decrease
 - Downtown businesses may be affected
- Mr. Sloma suggested two options:
 - The Board could send a letter of appeal to the Secretary of DOH.
 - Find other funding to replace the loss of federal funds.

11) **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Dr. Yu provided updates on the following:

➤ **Pertussis/Whooping Cough:**

- Epidemic levels for Thurston County and Washington State
- Department has stood up a "Response Team" for Pertussis Using the Incident Command Structure (ICS) for two reasons – to handle Pertussis calls and to handle incoming vaccine from the State
- 12 confirmed cases in Thurston County in 2012; 8 confirmed cases in Thurston County in 2011
- Discussed vaccine availability and distribution information.

- An immunization clinic is in the planning stages; website will be updated when date is confirmed.
 - Provided vaccination recommendations for all ages; discussed types of vaccines for children and adults; Tdap is the adult Pertussis vaccine
 - There is no shortage of vaccine, it is available.
 - Still recommends if sick cover your cough, wash your hands and stay away from infants.
- **Communications Plan for the 7-5-2-1-0 Campaign:**
- Dr. Yu visited and gave a presentation Lacey City Council in March
 - Will be meeting with other jurisdictions in June
- **Summit on Prevention of Child Death:**
- Summit being held on the evening of May 17th at the Health Department on Lilly Rd
 - Board Members invited to attend – Board Members are not available on that date.
- **Hepatitis C information:**
- At Chair Romero's request, Dr. Yu has compiled Hepatitis C information for the Board Members.
 - Discussed Hepatitis C briefly
 - www.hepeducation.org is a source for Hepatitis C information

Chair Romero requested that additional information be provided for infectious diseases featured in the weekly Management Report. Don Sloma stated the Communicable Disease section of the Department's Management Report is being modified to highlight a disease each week.

12) 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

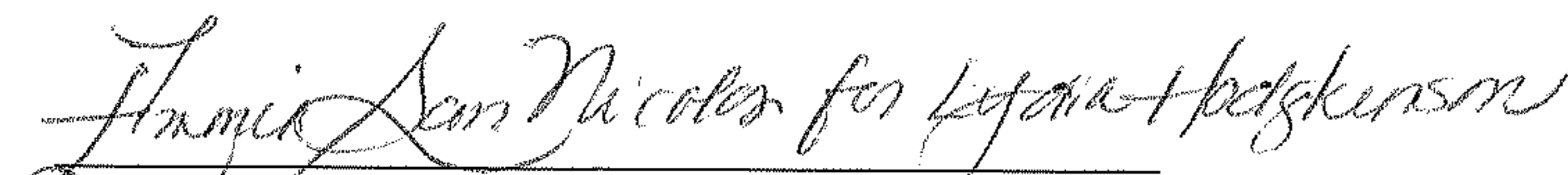


KAREN VALENZUELA, Vice Chair



CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: 6/12/12