



## 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 June 12, 2012

#### **3:30 p.m.) Call Meeting to Order**

**In Attendance:** Sandra Romero, Chair; Karen Valenzuela, Vice-Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Commissioner; Don Krupp, County Manager; Don Sloma, Department Director; Dr. Diana Yu, Health Officer; and Emmie San Nicolas, 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 June 12, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- ◆ **Approval of the Board of Health Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2012, May 8, 2012, and April 10, 2012 Public Hearing:** Vice-Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the meeting minutes from April 10, 2012, April 10, 2012 Public Hearing and May 8, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **3:35 p.m.) Presentation**

##### **Recognizing the Community's Response to Pertussis**

Dr. Diana T. Yu, Health Officer, reported that Washington State is currently experiencing a whooping cough (Pertussis) epidemic. The number of confirmed whooping cough cases in Thurston County has surpassed the total number seen in all of 2011. Cases within the county continue to increase. Due to the serious health complications that can result from whooping cough, state and local public health agencies are implementing enhanced strategies to interrupt the spread of the disease.

The Thurston County response to Pertussis has included working with partners to improve: 1) access to whooping cough vaccine and 2) availability of information about the disease. Key representatives of local organizations were recognized by the Board for their ongoing partnership efforts with the Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) Department to help immunize the entire county population as Governor Gregoire has requested. These groups include: Olympia Group Health Cooperative, Thurston County Medical Reserve Corps, Nisqually Tribe, Washington State Department of Health, local hospitals, pharmacies, health care providers and schools.

Dr. Yu briefly summarized both efforts to date and outlined plans for an upcoming clinic in Yelm scheduled to be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>, from 5:30PM-9:00PM, at the Yelm City park stage located at 208 1<sup>st</sup> Street S., during Yelm Prairie Days.

#### **1) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board**

##### **Carrie Vanzant, Regional Vice-President of Operations, Sea-Mar Community Health**

**Centers:** Ms. Vanzant is new to the role and wanted to introduce herself to the board and other agencies in attendance mentioning that she is starting to reach out to members and leaders in

our community who provide outreach to the Thurston County population noting that she plans on connecting with many and looks forward to working together.

**Linda Thompson, RN/Manager at the Olympia Group Health Clinic:** Ms. Thompson reported that Group Health enjoys collaborating with the Public Health & Social Services Department and the Medical Reserve Corps helping the needs of individuals in our community who are less fortunate, ensuring they have access to healthcare.

**Paula Rauen, Executive Director of the Olympia Free Clinic:** Ms. Rauen reported that the clinic is celebrating its one (1) year anniversary serving over 1,000 clients noting that the service number certainly speaks to the need for services within our community. The clinic operates on Wednesdays from 5:30PM-8:30PM at the Family Support Center in Downtown Olympia. Services are available to adults who are low-income or have no insurance.

**Marissa Altamirano, Medical Manager for the Olympia Union Gospel Mission:** The medical clinic is in its third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year of operation this month. Ms. Altamirano recognized the volunteers in our community who without their help services would not be made possible. Ms. Altamirano acknowledged interns, Marci and Liz, and the providers who after a long day still come to the clinic to volunteer their services for the Union Gospel Mission patients.

Dr. You mentioned that our community has a wonderful group of organizations who play a large part in our safety net including the Thurston County Project Access and CHOICE Regional Health Network who although does not provide direct assistance for the Pertussis Clinics, provided outreach to the people who needed the vaccine.

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

**Department Items**

3) **Environmental Health Division**

a) **Schedule Hearing to Amend Article I, Appendix A of the Thurston County Sanitary Code**

Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director, and on behalf of the Environmental Health Division proposed to amend the Environmental Health Fee Schedule. The proposed fee ordinance revises and reorganizes fees for food establishments, reduces field inspection fees for sewage system operational certificates and separates the examination fee from the certification fee for all on-site sewage system professional certifications.

The proposed fee changes provide options for low risk, temporary food vendors, such as hot dog or espresso stands, that set up at multiple temporary events each year that can reduce their annual permit fees. The changes will also reduce the costs for sewage system professionals who take a certification exam from an approved entity other than the county and reduce field inspection fees so they accurately reflect the staff time needed to do the associated work.

The proposed fees were the subject of a briefing on May 30, 2012.

Mr. Starry addressed the Board's questions regarding a public comment period.

**Vice-Chair Valenzuela moved to set a public hearing on July 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 280 of the Thurston County Courthouse to receive testimony and consider action on an ordinance amending Article I, Appendix A of the Sanitary Code for Thurston County. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**b) 2011 Integrated Pest Management Report**

Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director introduced Patrick Soderberg, Hazard Waste Specialist, and provided a brief background mentioning the Board of County Commissioners adoption of the Thurston County Pesticide Use Policy in 1989 and the revised Pest and Vegetation Management Policy in 1993. Mr. Soderberg further explained that the purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines for county personnel who are involved with operations and provide advice related to pests and vegetation management and to set an example in implementing integrated pest and vegetation management programs that minimize the use of pesticides. The policy requires all county departments and programs that manage pests or vegetation to submit an annual report to the Pest and Management Advisory Committee.

Mr. Soderberg announced that The Pest and Vegetation Advisory Committee would like to submit the 2011 Integrated Pest Management Report. The report details the management of pests and vegetation at County owned or managed facilities (buildings, parks, grounds, etc.). A memo that summarizes the 2011 report was distributed.

Mr. Soderberg addressed the Board's questions regarding current vacant committee positions on the Pest and Vegetation Advisory Committee and what are other counties solution and process for Pest Management.

**c) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Prescriptions for Rodent Control**

Patrick Soderberg, Hazardous Waste Specialist, reported that the Departments of Central Services and Public Works are requesting approval of Integrated Pest Management prescriptions for the control of rodents. There are separate prescriptive methods proposed for rodent control; one for the Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) and another for all other County buildings and facilities. Mr. Soderberg mentioned that the prescriptions were developed by County personnel along with local pest control contractors to specifically address challenges at different facilities. Both prescriptions have been reviewed and amended to address comments from the Pest and Vegetation Advisory Committee and are being recommended for approval by the Thurston County Board of Health.

The Thurston County Pest and Vegetation Management Policy require approval from the Board of Health to use a pesticide that fails the review process. The criteria that the Board of Health will use are:

- I. The pest and vegetation problem has been assessed, and control is deemed necessary;
- II. The use of the pesticide is a necessary element of the integrated pest and vegetation management prescription;
- III. The risk to public health, ground water, and the environment is determined to be minimal.

The Board commented on their admiration of a great program and the accomplishments of program staff, while also acknowledging their appreciation for the Pest and Vegetation Advisory Committee and their participation.

**Vice-Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the Integrated Pest Management prescriptions for rodent control at the Waste and Recovery Center and at other County facilities. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

4) **Board Members' Reports**

**a) Board Members reported on public health and social services involvement:**

◆ **Commissioner Wolfe reported on:**

- Regional Health Improvement Collaborative Planning (RHIC) Team:
  - Continues to participate in conference call scheduled for Monday mornings;
  - Contract for Project Manager for RHIC has been extended for the next three (3) months;
- Five (5) County Board of Health Meeting scheduled for June 22, 2012, held at the Train Depot in Centralia:
  - Should be well represented by county representatives;
  - Include RHIC in the meeting agenda for discussion.

◆ **Chair Romero reported on:**

- Involvement in ongoing efforts with the clean drinking water project with LOTT to ensure that the study go forward for recharging waste water from the communities into the county's ground water is safe;
- Working with the Nisqually River Council to ensure healthy watersheds to bring back the fish population;
- Working with the Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce to determine the factors that play into people abusing their young children;
- Attending a Water Forum sponsored by the Lott Alliance and Thurston County to discuss reusing our drinkable water supply;
- Continuing to attend the Salmon Recovery Meetings;
- Participating in a fund raiser at the Pride Parade to help a program that provides assistance to young gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual youth cope with peer pressure.

- ◆ **Vice-Chair Valenzuela reported on:**
  - No Report

5) **Director's Report**

a) **Don Sloma, reported on the following items:**

- ◆ **Five (5) County BOH:** The agenda and arrangements for the Five County Boards of Health meeting in Centralia scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2012, is currently being finalized.
- ◆ **Integrated Community Engagement and Planning Efforts:** A proposal is currently being developed for integrated community engagement and planning efforts as requested by the board to include Public Health Standards, the County Strategic Plan, CD, kids development, food systems, comprehensive plan, housing and community renewal, Regional Support Network (RSN), Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC) Planning, and more require separate planning processes.
- ◆ **County Comprehensive Plan:** On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission was briefed on the Health and Human Services Chapter to the County Comprehensive Plan. Changes to the plan were discussed and included revisions to explicate linkages between chapter's health objectives, land use, and transportation planning prior to next review scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012; providing background, goals, and policies as it relates to Access To Care; more information on septic systems; changes to goals and policy on breastfeeding, and public hearing as the next step.
- ◆ **RSN Managed Care Plans:** Negotiations have started with five (5) managed care plans for RSN services to Medicaid clients in Thurston and Mason County.
- ◆ **Social Hosting:** As a result of work under a contract the Chemical Dependency Program has with TOGETHER!, the Rainier City Council passed a law to curb underage drinking. Effective June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, if an underage gathering involving alcohol occurs, the person who owns, rents, leases or controls the property located in the City of Rainier where the party happened can be fined. Mr. Sloma addressed Madam Chair Romero's question on whether other counties have similar laws.
- ◆ **Developmental Disability Exception Process:** Because of our highest in the State Developmental Disability (DD) employment rates, our DD Program staff was recruited to help with State policy on an exception process that DD people be employed for nine (9) months before considered for other services.
- ◆ **Integrated Pest Management Program:** The Program has been recognized and copied by the City of Boulder, Colorado.

- ◆ **Nisqually Reach Watershed Protection Area Communication:** In the next few weeks, septic system owners in the Nisqually Reach Watershed Protection Area will be mailed a letter with information about the septic system monitoring and maintenance program, what charges will apply next year, and why their home is considered part of the protection area. The Nisqually program is modeled after the successful Henderson Inlet O&M Program. Owners will be provided information on how they can request a review if they believe they were improperly included in the Nisqually area or if they believe the proposed charges are incorrect. Property owners will have approximately one (1) month to contact us if they want to contest the charges or whether their property should be included in the area. Background information will include the Board of County Commissioners' and the Board of Health's adoption of ordinances on February 14, 2012 that created a special septic system monitoring and maintenance program for the Nisqually Reach area. A citizen stakeholder group developed the proposal to help reduce surface water pollution caused by septic systems that resulted in shellfish harvesting closures and restrictions. The program goes into effect in 2013, and requires septic system owners to document that they regularly monitor and maintain their systems via a renewable permit process.
- ◆ **Immunization Program:** Currently undergoing some changes and will be combined with the Investigation and Control of Disease Program. These changes are well received by the State Department of Health and a plan has been developed to move forward.
- ◆ **Safe & Active Routes To School:** Lydia Hawk Elementary and Principal Charles Harrington to participate.
- ◆ **PHSS Staff & Partners:** Meetings with PHSS staff groups and community partners is continuous. More listening sessions are being scheduled over the next few months.
- ◆ **Budget Related:**
  - The Hazardous Waste Program will be receiving a 50,000 grant to update its Hazardous Waste Plan that was last revised in 1998;
  - Discussion continue about the Vocational Rehabilitation Contract that might enhance the transitional services program for people with disabilities and possible budget increase dependent on changes due to reimbursement for services;
  - Participated in the Community Transformation Grant Meeting where it was determined that CHOICE Regional Health Network is to receive \$33,000 of available funds to conduct two (2) projects on Chronic Disease Assessment and efforts to engage hospital and providers and raise awareness of how health communities work. The Board is requesting a report within a year on progress.
  - Concerns on the decrease of Syringe Exchange Funds and its availability in 2013;

- Discussion continues about Medicaid Administrative Match towards \$243,000 a year contributing to our budget as the department continues to bill, however, changes may be made to how services are billed resulting in a 25% decrease.
- ◆ **Pertussis Update:** The response relied heavily on volunteers and staff time with no real cost applied. An estimate of cost was provided.

6) **Health Officer's Report**

a) **Dr. Diana T. Yu reported on:**

- ◆ **Pierce County AIDS Network:** Dr. Yu and Don Sloma met with the Director of the Pierce County AIDS Foundation to discuss:
  - Current activities they took over from UCAN;
  - Collaborate in establishing mutual understanding on the work to be involved.
- ◆ **Five (5) County BOH: Should Health Officers attend?**
  - Grays Harbor's Health Officer is expected to attend.
- ◆ **Foresight vs. Hindsight 5/17/2012 Summit:**
  - Fifty-five (55) community members attended (youth, judges, juvenile justice, schools, behavioral health, city council members represented);
  - Many representatives are members of the Child Abuse Task Force Committee;
  - Discussion included outcomes to improve community communication between agencies to get around confidentiality rules;
  - Improve awareness of ACCESS;
  - Will work with Gail Gosney and John Tunheim.
- ◆ **Pertussis Vaccine Received:**
  - 1,250 – For low income and uninsured
  - 200 – Gift from AmeriPrise (Insurance Company)
  - 1,000 - From State of Washington Department of Health
  - 50 – Vaccine for Children (VFC)
  - 620 have been delivered to community partners

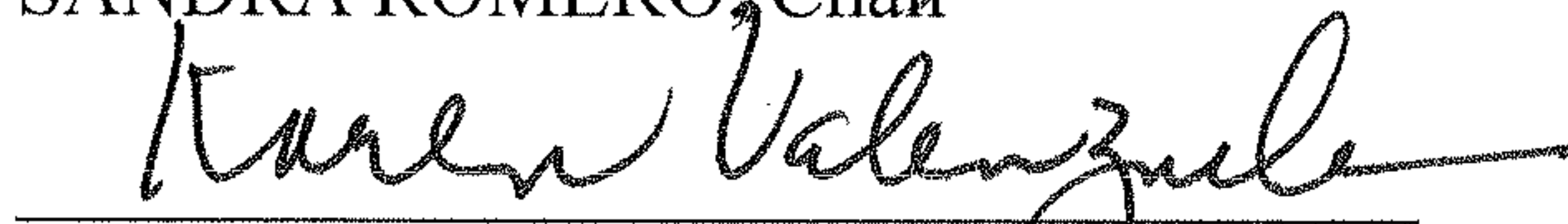
There are twenty-seven (27) confirmed cases in Thurston County of which many of the infant cases have been reported from the Yelm area. Information is being made available announcing the June 21<sup>st</sup> Yelm Clinic at Yelm's City Park.


7) **Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Valenzuela moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting of June 12, 2012.  
Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

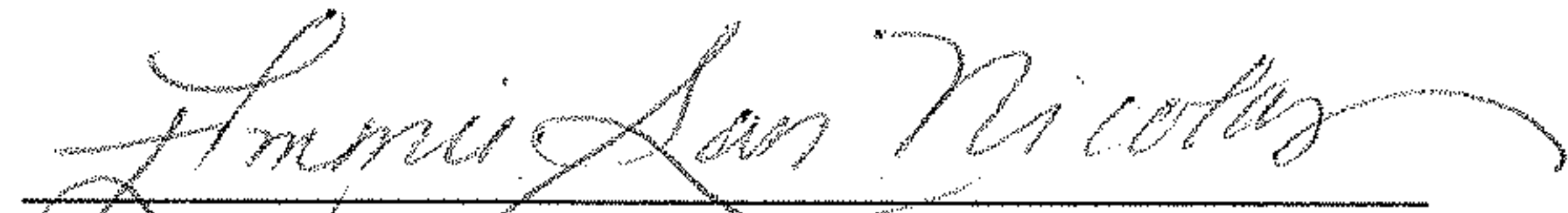
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

  
SANDRA ROMERO, Chair

  
KAREN VALENZUELA, Vice Chair

  
CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Emmie San Nicolas, Clerk of the Board

Date: 8-22-2012