



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 August 14, 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; Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director; Dr. Diana Yu, Health Officer; 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 August 14, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- ◆ **Approval of the Board of Health Minutes from June 12, 2012 regular meeting, July 10, 2012 regular meeting, and July 10, 2012 Public Hearing:** Vice-Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from June 12, 2012, July 10, 2012 regular meeting, and July 10, 2012 Public Hearing. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3:35 Presentations:

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) participation at Paddle to Squaxin 2012

Chair Romero introduced Dr. Diana T. Yu the County Health Officer. Dr. Yu spoke in recognition of the MRC volunteers for their participation in the Paddle to Squaxin 2012 Event. The MRC volunteers helped staff first aid stations for the event. Starting on July 26th, volunteers helped visiting canoe families who were welcomed by the Nisqually Tribe for a few days before the actual landing ceremony. Then on July 29th they started providing care at the first aid station at Burfoot Park during the soft landing, and at the landing site at the Port of Olympia. Many volunteers also helped provide first aid throughout the rest of the Paddle to Squaxin activities held at the Squaxin Island Reservation in Mason County until August 5th. The special effort by these volunteers, including some who have been very active providing Tdap vaccines at the various clinics in the month of July, and also helping out at the Washington State Senior Games, proved how invaluable their services are. Dr. Yu stated we are very fortunate to have such dedicated individuals in our community who train and help out regularly so they are ready to deploy at a moment's notice to provide surge public health capacity. She gave special recognition to Roxanne Cobb for her time, over 130 hours, and efforts. Dr. Yu then presented a video of a portion of the event she had recorded. In response to Commissioner Wolfe's question, Dr. Yu stated there were only minor injuries during the course of the event. The Board thanked and commended the MRC volunteers and Dr. Yu for their hard work and commitment.

To view some MRC volunteers in action visit

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/preparedness/PDF/PADDLETOSQUAXIN2012.pdf.

The Affordable Care Act, Health Homes and Medicaid Managed Care

Chair Romero introduced Senator Karen Keiser and gave her background. She also introduced MaryAnne Lindeblad newly appointed Director of the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), Bea Rector Project Director of Aging and Disability Services Administration for the Washington State Department of Social & Health Services and Nathan Johnson Assistant Director for Health Care Policy with HCA, all of which were present for questions.

Senator Keiser gave a high level overview of Health Care Reform in Washington State (a handout was provided). Her presentation provided information regarding: 2010 – Implementation (Rescission, Lifetime coverage limits, Pre-existing conditions, Adult dependents, Temporary risk pool, reinsurance program, Medicare “donut hole”, Small business tax credit); 2011- Medicare information; 2014 - Expansion begins (exchanges, sliding scale tax credits, pre-existing conditions, individual and employer mandates); 2014 - Medicaid Expansion information; and 2014 - Basic Health Alternative explaining the Senator Cantwell amendment which gives states the option of a Basic Health Plan. She noted the 2014 Medicaid Expansion will have huge positive impacts for local Boards of Health regarding mental health systems, the 911 system and the jail. Senator Keiser stated she feels Health Care Reform is a step towards a kind of community, county and state where people get high quality efficient affordable care that benefits us all. In response to Vice Chair Valenzuela’s question, she provided additional information regarding coverage for undocumented workers and legal workers for less than five years. Commissioner Wolfe requested clarification and Senator Keiser provided additional explanation regarding coverage eligibilities based on different federal poverty levels. At Chair Romero’s request, Senator Keiser elaborated on “cost shifting” regarding hospitals providing medical services to the uninsured. Commissioner Wolfe gave a brief description of the Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC) and asked Senator Keiser for her opinion of local collaborating efforts to improve the health care system. Senator Keiser expressed her approval of multi-county efforts collaborating for an integrated coordinated system. She provided a brief description of the newly formed Health Benefit Exchange. Senator Keiser commended all of the agencies and administrative members for their efforts to get Health Care Reform up and running. The Board thanked the Senator for attending the meeting and her informative presentation.

MaryAnne Lindeblad addressed the Board providing information regarding two projects the Health Care Authority is collaborating on with Aging and Disability Services Administration. The first project is the Health Homes project intended to coordinate and integrate care for high risk clients. Health Homes is not a “place” but is a set of services provided by a set of providers delivered to high risk individuals. They are now looking to identify organizations and entities to serve as “Health Homes”. Ms. Lindeblad described a second project dealing with Integrated Care for beneficiaries that are dual eligible meaning they are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. She noted the state is engaged in joint conversations with King, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties around implementation of the Integrated Care strategy. Ms. Lindeblad addressed Don Sloma’s question regarding when thinking about health homes and efforts to integrate care for high health care system utilizers where does she see Medicaid going relative to the justice system including therapeutic courts, jail diversion programs, mental health patients and patients with chemical dependency. Ms. Lindeblad commented on Chair Romero’s question regarding how Health Care Reform will benefit prevention services, specifically Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Senator Keiser provided information regarding prevention services that are in place now under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Commissioner Wolfe questioned, and Senator Keiser commented on, how seriously the Legislature is taking ACEs work.

Vice Chair Valenzuela questioned if the Affordable Care Act includes Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) services. Senator Keiser stated County NFP services inclusion in the ACA is dependent on where the program funding comes from but now is the time to look into this level of details. Chair Romero thanked both Senator Keiser and Ms. Lindeblad. Commissioner Wolfe thanked Bea Rector for her presentation on Integrated Care at the 5-County Board of Health meeting held on June 22, 2012.

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

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

Department Items

3) **Board Members' Reports**

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

◆ **Commissioner Wolfe reported:**

- Regional Health Improvement Collaborative Planning (RHIC) Team:
 - Continues their Monday morning conference calls.
 - Don Sloma noted a letter of invitation to participate in Health Homes has been received and the Board's guidance will be requested by September 21, 2012.
 - Don Sloma and Christina Hulet, the RHIC Consultant, have been meeting with the newly appointed Director of CHOICE Regional Health Network.

◆ **Vice-Chair Valenzuela reported:**

- Attended Emergency Management Services Council (EMS) meeting – contract funding has been added to provide the County SWAT team with a Medical Director to assist on site.
- Board members participated in the Senior Games and attended the Senior Games Dinner.
- Participated with the Department of Corrections in a community meeting held in the Rochester area regarding potential uses of the Maple Lane facility.
- Attended a Home Consortium retreat on August 13th; also attended by Commissioner Romero and Don Sloma.

◆ **Chair Romero reported on:**

- Commended the Public Health & Social Services Department (PHSS) for their portion of the weekly Management Report. Requested clarification on the information provided for the programs implemented with the Community Transformation Grant (CTG). Mr. Sloma addressed her question.
- Requested information regarding an article read in a National County Newspaper stating a high rate of immunization exemptions in Washington State. Mr. Sloma stated Dr. Yu will be providing an update on immunizations in her Health Officer's report.

4) **Director's Report**

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

- ◆ A highlight in the 2012 Action Agenda for Puget Sound Partnership listed Henderson Inlet as a success story and included a quote from Commissioner Romero: "County staff worked with many agencies including the state Departments of Health and Ecology on this effort and put in many, many hours of their own. But a lot of credit also goes to Henderson Inlet area residents for their individual efforts to reduce the impacts of poorly operating septic systems, and to the citizen members of the Shellfish Protection District Committee." Mr. Sloma commended staff that leads the classes on how to care for septic systems classes. Commissioner Wolfe also commended staff, specifically naming Dave Tipton.
- ◆ PHSS just received notification of a \$300,000 grant award for the 2nd year of a 5 year grant for the Girl's Circle Program.
- ◆ Provided an update on the 4,000 Nisqually area septic system owners that were notified last month of the new septic system requirements, rates and charges that will apply to their properties beginning in 2013. Nineteen property owners requested reviews resulting in eight properties being removed from the program and charges for three others reduced.
- ◆ The Department is now on track for full contract compliance with Department of Health regarding the Vaccine for Children program.
- ◆ Difficulty in obtaining affordable housing remains a major barrier to health improvement among our Nurse Family Partnership clients, chemically dependent people, the mentally ill and homeless families. Work is being done, lead by County Manager Don Krupp, on housing issues in the county and bringing a more regional approach around planning and governance. The Home Consortium discussions are a part of the planning. Mr. Krupp has continued discussions with the smaller cities and there may be additional partners on this effort in the near future.

5) **Health Officer's Report**

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

- ◆ Gave information about H3N2 virus a swine flu strain:
 - not spread from human to human
 - contracted by contact with pigs
 - cases mostly in the Midwest
 - there is no vaccine available
 - advising individuals that are around pigs to take precautions
 - providing information to local physicians regarding an available test through Department of Health
- ◆ Update on Pertussis in the County
 - will be holding three back to school vaccination clinics run by the Medical Reserve Corps in Rochester, Yelm and Group Health in Olympia
- ◆ Immunization rates :
 - briefly discussed local immunization rates
 - although we do have a higher exemption rates, they are not exceptionally high
 - will provide more detailed information at a future Board of Health meeting

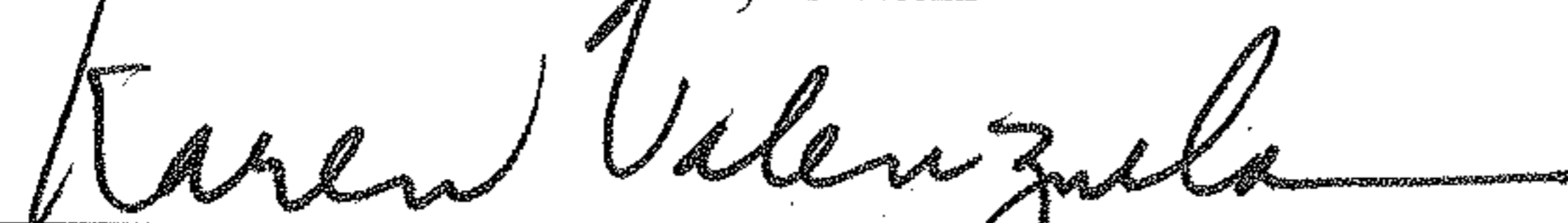
6) **Adjournment**


Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting of August 14, 2012.
Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH

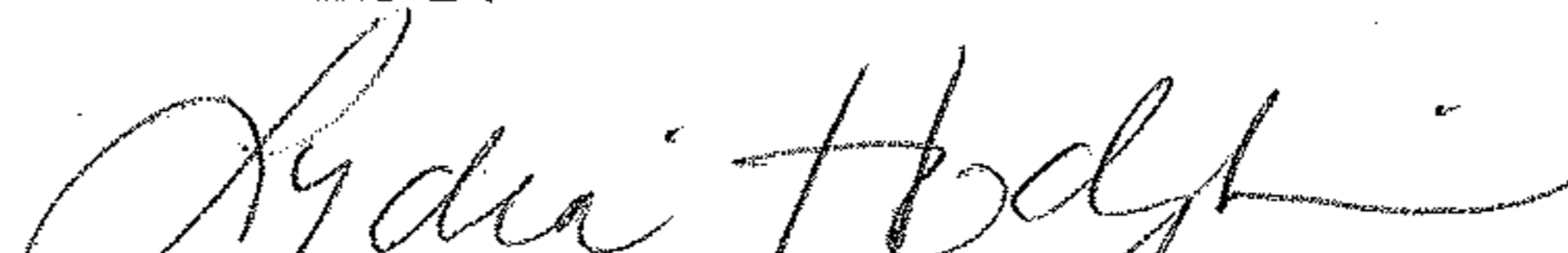
Thurston County, Washington


SANDRA ROMERO, Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Vice Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: 10/9/12