



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 September 18, 2012

3:45 p.m.) Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Sandra Romero, Chair; Karen Valenzuela, Vice-Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Commissioner; Robin Campbell, Budget and Fiscal Manager; Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director; 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 September 18, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3:50 Presentation:

The Affordable Care Act

Insurance Reforms

Chair Romero introduced Brendan Williams, Deputy Commissioner of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. Mr. Williams provided an overview and outline of the Affordable Care Act (ACC) in regards to Insurance Reforms. Over the coming years, the federal Affordable Care Act will bring major changes to obtaining health insurance, changes to insurance costs and terms, and to the health and social services most will receive. Mr. Williams discussed changes already implemented in the price and terms of private health insurance purchased by individuals and small businesses.

Health Benefit Exchange

The Affordable Care Act establishes a new way to shop for health insurance and apply for publicly sponsored coverage. A Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) is being developed as a 'health insurance market place' for individuals, small employers and those on Medicaid. Chair Romero introduced Mr. Richard Onizuka, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of the new Washington Health Benefit Exchange. Mr. Onizuka provided an overview, background and implementation information of the Exchange.

Panel Discussion

Mr. Williams and Mr. Onizuka discussed and provided information in response to the Board's questions and requests for clarification on the following:

Vice Chair Valenzuela - information regarding numbers of uninsured people.

Commissioner Wolfe – clarification of requirements for small business owners with 50 or less employees.

Commissioner Wolfe - information regarding status of Exchanges in other States.

Vice Chair Valenzuela – clarification of provisions that have already gone into effect such as children under 27 to obtain coverage through their parents' plans and the pre-existing condition exclusions.

Vice Chair Valenzuela - consequences of individual mandates not being followed.

Chair Romero – who qualifies to be an insurer in the Exchange?

Chair Romero – eligibility of those above the 133% federal poverty level (FPL) for tax credits.

Commissioner Wolfe – clarification of who will participate in Exchange

Commissioner Wolfe - how does the public sign up to use the Exchange?

Commissioner Wolfe – number of staff employed by the Exchange

Chair Romero – is the Office of Insurance Commissioner expanding?

Dr. Diana Yu – can those above 400% FPL qualify to join the Exchange and is it beneficial to the Exchange?

Vice Chair Valenzuela – provisions for public health preventative care

Chair Romero – (audience question) May an employer that currently provides employee insurance drop their plan and join the Exchange?

Chair Romero – (audience question) requested clarification regarding potential insurers and the need to establish rates with providers.

Commissioner Valenzuela – clarification of the requirement that 85% of insurance premiums be spent on medical services.

The Board thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Onizuka for the attendance, presentations and informative answers.

4:40 Presentation

Health Communication and Health Promotion – Using Technology

Chris Hawkins, Chronic Disease Prevention Program Coordinator and the Environmental Health Educator gave a presentation on the use of communication technology to improve the Department's reach and effectiveness by making better use of old and new media to connect with local residents, including in clinical care programs. By request of Board of Health Chair Sandra Romero, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (TCPHSS) staff looked into use of communication technology for its clinical services, specifically the Nurse Family Partnership Home Visitation Program (NFP). The inquiry also prompted a review the wide array of methods and media to communicate with our community. There are new media and technologies continually becoming available, and the department is looking for ways to improve our reach and effectiveness by making better use of these new avenues to connect with local residents.

Mr. Hawkins' presentation covered the following:

- 1) The range of communications/information technology and media that can be used to assist TCPHSS in reaching a wider audience or be more effective in delivering information or services;
- 2) Reviewed how TCPHSS is currently using these technologies; and
- 3) Described opportunities to expand TCPHSS use of communications/information technology.

Mr. Hawkins noted staff is working with the NFP Program authority discussing the pros, cons and limitations of using telemedicine for the NFP program. Commissioner Wolfe questioned and Mr. Hawkins confirmed that teleconferencing is used by some programs within the Department. He stated Department staff is working with the County Public Information Officer for additional revamp and development of social media channels.

Commissioner Wolfe was excused from the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Vice Chair Valenzuela questioned, and Dr. Yu confirmed, that full time working mothers are able to participate in the NFP program. The Community Health Nurses work 4/10 schedules to accommodate the evening home visits.

Department Items

1) Board Members' Reports

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

◆ Vice-Chair Valenzuela reported:

- Participated, along with Chair Romero, in a Home Consortium Advisory Committee meeting.
- Attended the Housing Authority Grand opening of work force housing in Tumwater.

◆ Chair Romero reported on:

- Participated in Grand Re-opening of the Silver Springs Organic facility.
- Participated in the County Sheriff's and City of Olympia Fire Department's distribution of free car seats and installation instruction event on September 8th.
- Attended a Child Prevention Task Force meeting, which focused on the Purple Crying program.
- Participated in the annual Alzheimer's walk around Capitol Lake.

2) Director's Report - Don Sloma Director reported on the following items:

- ◆ Ward Lake still closed awaiting latest samples taken last Friday (9/14/12)
- ◆ Black Lake Swimming Advisory has been lifted, water samples from Black Lake show algae toxin levels have dropped below the state's water quality threshold
- ◆ Silver Springs Composting facility near Rainer opened on Sept. 7th, the facility had been closed for several months while undergoing upgrades and improvements
- ◆ Disposal of approximately 250,000 used needles in bio-waste disposal at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center.
- ◆ WasteMobile (mobile hazo house) events will take place at the Black Lake Station 95 on September 22nd and 23rd; at the Delphi Station 91 on Sunday the 23rd; the WasteMobile is a joint effort by the Public Works and Public Health and Social Services Department
- ◆ Water Lab - discussion with LOTT regarding drinking water testing; LOTT does not have drinking water certification and does not want to take samples from the public
- ◆ Food Establishments without permits - nine notices of violation went out on September 5th; since then five establishments have paid; moving forward on closure actions for the remaining four establishments later this week; staff will personally visit each place and close them down due to a lack of food permit.
- ◆ CDBG Entitlement - everything has been submitted; waiting for HUB determination; collecting information to formulate a 10 year plan due early next year.

3) Health Officer's Report – Dr. Yu reported on:


- ◆ Update on Pertussis in the County
 - A Silence Whooping Cough campaign is scheduled to launch this week. (handout presented)
 - Joint campaign by the Group Health Foundation, the Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department, and the Washington State Department of Health - to help stop the spread of Pertussis.
- ◆ Back to school immunization clinics (handout presented) planned for
 - 9/22 at Rochester Middle School
 - 9/29 at Yelm Middle School
 - 10/6 at Group Health Olympia Medical Clinic. Do not have to be a member.
 - All clinics are scheduled from 9 – noon.
- ◆ Provided names of pharmacies that have adult Tdap vaccine available.

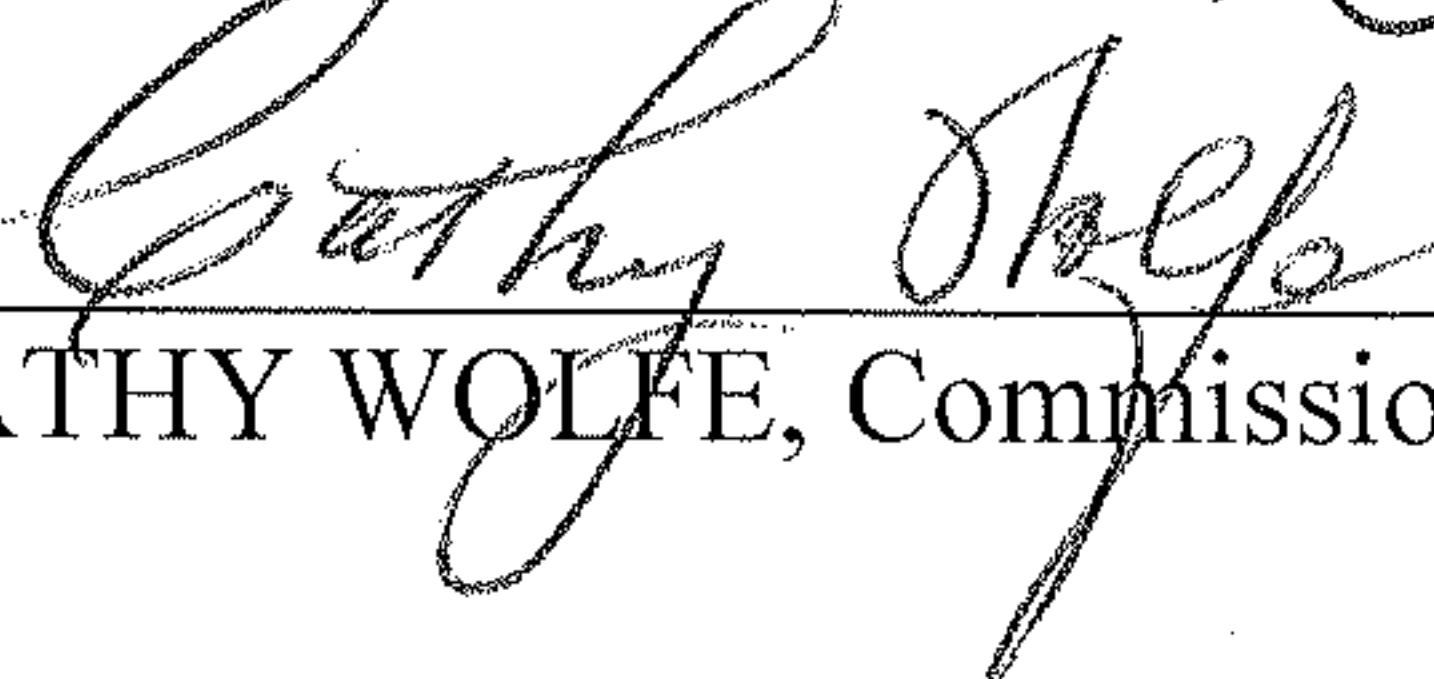
4) **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting of September 18, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

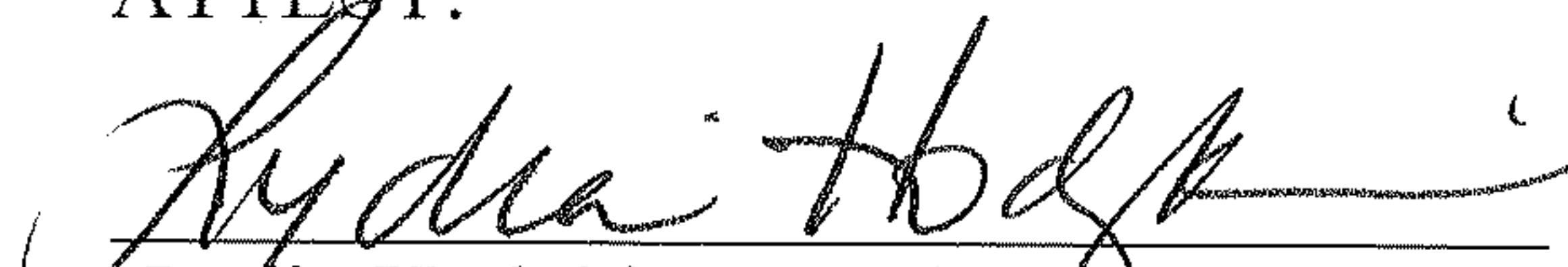
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


SANDRA ROMERO, Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Vice Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: November 13, 2012