

THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of January 4, 2011

1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

Commissioner Valenzuela called the meeting to order.

- a) **Election of Board of Health Chair and Vice Chair for 2011** - Commissioner Valenzuela moved to nominate Commissioner Wolfe as Chair of the Board of Health. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Wolfe moved to nominate Commissioner Romero as Vice-Chair of the Board of Health. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Sherri McDonald requested that agenda item number 6 be heard before item 5. The Board removed item number 7 from the agenda. Vice-Chair Romero moved to approve the agenda of January 4, 2011 as amended. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- c) **Approval of Board of Health Minutes** - Vice-Chair Romero moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes of December 7, 2010. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) **UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES** - none

3) **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Dr. Diana Yu introduced Tara Wolff, Policy Advisor for the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH). Ms. Wolff is visiting local Boards of Health while working on a project to create a strategy to improve nutrition and physical activity in order to address obesity. Commissioner Valenzuela noted she is a former Department of Health employee and welcomed Ms. Wolff. Chair Wolfe stated Thurston County is working on including Health and Human Services in the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Valenzuela questioned Dr. Yu regarding her SBOH membership. Dr. Yu stated she represents local Health Officers for the SBOH and is still a member until June 2011. Her intention is to apply for an additional term. Chair Wolfe expressed interest in visiting a SBOH meeting. Ms. Wolff welcomed the Commissioners to attend and noted the SBOH members do not travel but attend the meetings via teleconference.

Dr. Yu introduced Dr. Rachel Wood the Lewis County Health Officer. Dr. Wood will be filling in as Health Officer for Dr. Yu while she is unavailable beginning January 6 thru February 4th. Dr. Wood will spend 4 hours 1 day a week to touch base with staff and will be on call 24/7.

4) **CONSENT ITEMS** – none

5) **WAIVE PURCHASING POLICY, SECTION 13 COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE CONTRACT WITH OFFICES OF SHARON RICE, HEARING EXAMINER, PLLC.**

Art Starry, Director of the Environmental Health Division, gave a description and history of hearing officer services. Article I of the Thurston County Sanitary Code requires a hearing officer to hear appeals, waivers, civil penalties, and other matters prescribed by code. In 2008 the Board of Health directed the Department to have an independent third party hear appeals, contested waivers and contested civil penalties. The firm of Toweill Rice Taylor, LLC has provided hearing officer services since 2008. The firm is dissolving at the end of this year, however, Sharon Rice, a principal of Toweill Rice Taylor, can continue to provide hearing officer services with her own firm. The Department wants to contract with Sharon Rice as hearing officer as needed to implement the sanitary code. County policy requires departments to use the vendor list and seek bids when a new services contract is proposed. However, the Department is very satisfied with the work of Sharon Rice as hearing officer and wants to retain her in that capacity. As Sharon Rice is a principal in both firms, the contract scope of work and compensation in both contracts is similar, and because she will continue to act as the hearing officer, we ask that the Board waive the competitive solicitation requirements of the Thurston County Purchasing Policy. Vice-Chair Romero questioned County Manager Don Krupp regarding hearing officer services for the Board of County Commissioner (BoCC). Mr. Krupp stated he will verify the status of these services for the BoCC. **Vice-Chair Romero moved to waive the competitive solicitation requirements of Purchasing Policy, section 13, pursuant to section 10-D of the Purchasing Policy, and approve and authorize the Director of Public Health and Social Services to execute the professional services contract with Offices of Sharon Rice, Hearing Examiner, PLLC to conduct administrative hearings for Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

6) **RESOLUTION APPOINTING ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER**

Mr. Starry explained that Article I Section 2.9 of the Thurston County Sanitary Code requires the Thurston County Board of Health to appoint people to perform the duties of hearing officers as described in the code. The proposed resolution identifies people recommended for appointment as hearing officers for the activities identified in the Thurston County Sanitary Code, including an independent contractor the Offices of Sharon Rice, Hearing Officer, PLLC. **Vice-Chair Romero moved to approve Resolution H-1-2011 that appoints administrative hearing officers to conduct hearings as allowed by Article I of the Thurston County Sanitary Code.** Commissioner Valenzuela questioned when hearing officer services were needed. Mr. Starry stated these services are required to hear Environmental Health appeals, contested waivers and civil penalties. **Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

7) APPROVAL OF MASON COUNTY CONTRACT FOR 2011 HEALTH OFFICER SERVICES – item removed from the agenda

8) TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS POLICY OPTIONS

Sherri McDonald gave a brief description of tobacco free campus policy options to be presented and offered to schedule a separate Board briefing if desired after the presentation. She also explained the State funding for the Tobacco program which was originally funded thru June 2011 has been decreased by \$33,000 and ended January 1, 2011. Ms. McDonald noted if the Board wants to consider a campus tobacco policy, funding options for which the Department has ideas, will need to be discussed. Kateri Wimsett an Education and Outreach Specialist with the Chronic Disease Prevention program explained that at the June 2010 the Board of Health meeting a presentation was given on health effects of tobacco smoke. Discussion included the numbers of youth and adults that currently use tobacco products and the primary and secondary effects of tobacco use. The Board directed staff to research the Tobacco Free Campus Initiatives that have been enacted by Providence St. Peter Hospital, Capital Medical Center, Mason County and other large employers. Ms. Wimsett discussed and provided written materials highlighting two Tobacco policy options for Thurston County along with the financial and health advantages and disadvantages for each option; results from a 2009 Thurston County tobacco attitudes survey; health effects of secondhand smoke exposure; and important considerations for both policy options. She also noted the Thurston County Administrative Manual Smoking Policy has not been revised since June 1994 and needs to be updated to reflect the Clean Indoor Air Act. Ms. McDonald addressed Commissioner Valenzuela's question regarding the allowance of tobacco use in county vehicles by the Sheriff Department's Labor Agreement. Ms. Wimsett addressed Commissioner Valenzuela's question regarding how the smoke free campus policies are working for Mason County and Providence St. Peter's Hospital. Mason County has had a policy successfully in effect for several years. Providence's policy transition went smoothly and continues to go well. Ms. McDonald noted she has discussed the idea of a tobacco free campus with the Executive Management Team and requested their comments. Commissioner Valenzuela expressed concern regarding enforcement of the Clean Indoor Air Act at all County buildings. Chair Wolfe stated the Board has considerable interest but has many questions and issues to work out before a tobacco free campus can be considered. She requested a briefing session be scheduled. Ms. McDonald will move forward with scheduling a briefing in the near future.

9) COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT FROM THE THURSTON COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sherri McDonald gave a presentation and update for the Thurston Council for Children and Youth. The Council was established in 2008 and is composed of two bodies, the Leadership Council and the Community Council. The Leadership Council is a cross-jurisdictional representation of policy makers and elected officials. The Community Council is made up of service providers from social and health services agencies in Thurston County. Both Councils work together to find solutions sharing common county-wide priorities. The theme of the Council is "Is it good for the children?" The Council advocates for children and youth with policy makers and businesses, builds partnerships for collaboration and cooperation of efforts, works to efficiently use resources and help to identify additional resources, support local efforts and identify needs and gaps in services. Ms. McDonald

presented the Council's Community Needs Assessment Report completed in October 2010 which was distributed to groups and individuals that are interested in furthering the vision of the council. The presentation described the Council's priorities which include reducing food insecurity among our children and youth; increase access to affordable health care; and increase access to and improve the quality of the Early Learning System. Vice-Chair Romero questioned if helping with family household budgets would have an impact on food security priority. Ms. McDonald stated the data provided in her presentation was based on the Healthy Youth survey of 8th, 10th and 12th graders which did not ask questions that in depth. Ms. McDonald explained the report is to be a tool for policy makers to set priorities for program funding. She described the Council's next steps which are to identify: funding sources for each area, service and funding gaps, specific goals and time lines, and decrease fragmentation; and encourage the County and cities to include this information in their comprehensive plans. Commissioner Valenzuela commented that the Human Services Review Council funding does put a focus on funding nutrition for children and seniors. Vice-Chair Romero commented on public schools making progress in providing improved healthier lunches for students. Chair Wolfe stated she does want to incorporate the Community Needs Assessment Report information into County policy decisions and focus on these priorities. The Board thanked Ms. McDonald for the information.

10) DIRECTOR'S REPORT - none

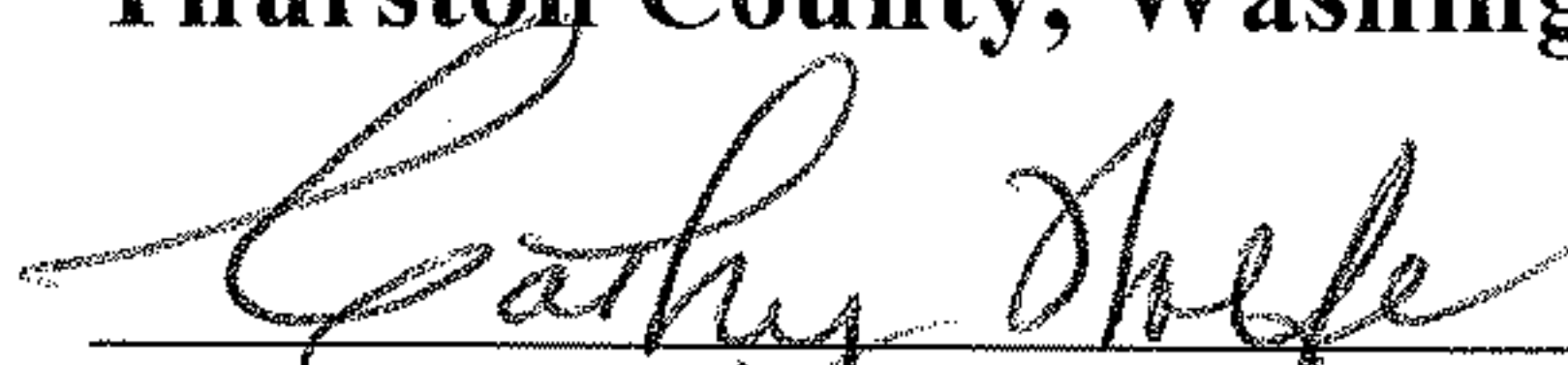
11) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Yu stated while on a 5 week vacation in the Philippines she will be taking some time to check out Tuberculosis (TB) screening programs there. She then provided an update on TB cases in Thurston County and stated standards for control of TB are close to being finalized. Dr. Yu also noted that TB control is the sole responsibility of local county health departments.


12) ADJOURNMENT

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


BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


CATHY WOLFE, Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Vice-Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: February 1, 2011