



## **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 April 12, 2011**

#### **1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Vice-Chair Romero moved to approve the agenda of April 12, 2011. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

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

Connie Phegley, Heather Ranbo and Esther Rosner, citizens and Syringe Exchange Program volunteers spoke in support of Thurston County's Syringe Exchange Program. They also expressed their concerns regarding decreased program funding. The Board stated they are proud to be in a county that has this type of program. Sherri McDonald noted tomorrow she will be meeting with the director of United Communities Aids Network (UCAN) to discuss funding issues.

#### **4) MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UPDATE**

Chair Wolfe stated she enjoyed the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) appreciation event held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Sue Poyner the Local Emergency Response Coordinator thanked the Board for their attendance at the appreciation event. Ms. Poyner introduced Cord Anderson a Vista Volunteer assigned to the Public Health & Social Services Department to assist with the MRC. Mr. Anderson gave a presentation on the MRC program providing an overview and update of the MRC and its activities. The MRC is a community-based volunteer program that strengthens and expands the local public health system's response during a health emergency or disaster. The mission of the Thurston County Medical Reserve Corps is to allow local health professionals and others to voluntarily contribute their skills and expertise to provide public health surge capacity. Thurston County's MRC consists of 129 volunteer members which include 70% medical and 30% non-medical professionals who contribute their unique skills and expertise to prepare for and respond to health emergencies. Thurston County MRC members have assisted in a range of health emergencies that include response to local flooding in 2008-2009 and H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009 - 2010. The National MRC program has established core competencies for all volunteers which includes psychological first aid training. At Chair Wolfe's request Ms. Poyner provided a description of psychological first aid training which



includes learning to take care of your partners, yourself and learning to deal with fears in health emergencies or disasters. The Thurston County MRC is one of over 800 nationally recognized Medical Reserve Corps units. Dr. Diana Yu serves as the Medical Director of the Thurston County MRC. Dr. Yu invited the Board Members to attend the Psychological Aid Training being held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Lilly Road Building. Ms. Poyner noted information for anyone interested in volunteering for the MRC is available at the Public Health and Social Services Department website. Chair Wolfe again commended staff for the outstanding MRC appreciation event and expressed her appreciation of the camaraderie of the volunteers.

**5) THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Sherri McDonald explained staff was to provide continued discussion and information on the Accountable Care Act (federal health reform) and concepts of community prevention activities in preparation for the SW Washington Regional Health Authority meeting on the concept of "Regional Health Authority" set for Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, WA. Deborah Allen, Personal Health Division Director, provided a presentation on possible funding for these efforts and a proposal to use Board of Health priorities, the development of the Health & Human Services chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, the Thurston Regional Planning Council's Plan for a Sustainable Community Health Panel, and the concept of Regional Health Authority in a model that will yield better use of staff time, particularly in this time of diminishing resources. At Commissioner Romero's request Ms. Allen provided additional explanation of "Accountable Care Organization". Dr. Yu and Kristen West of CHOICE Regional Health Network provided additional explanation. The Board stated they had many more questions and suggested having on-going briefings on the topic in addition to a follow-up briefing on the April 29<sup>th</sup> SW Washington Regional Health Authority meeting. The Board thanked everyone for their hard work and the presented information. Ms. McDonald noted additional information was provided in their meeting packets.

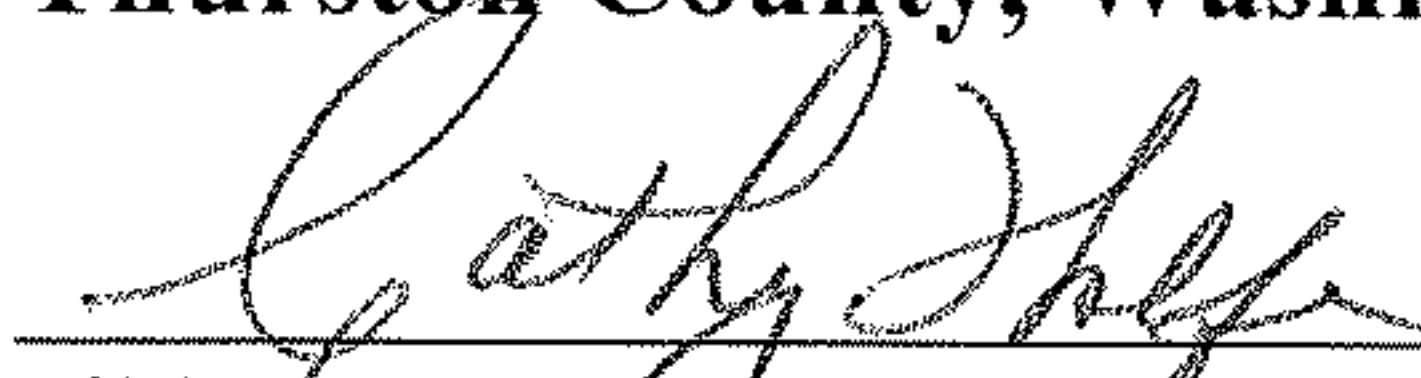
**6) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT** – due to time restraint item removed from agenda

**7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – due to time restraint item removed from agenda

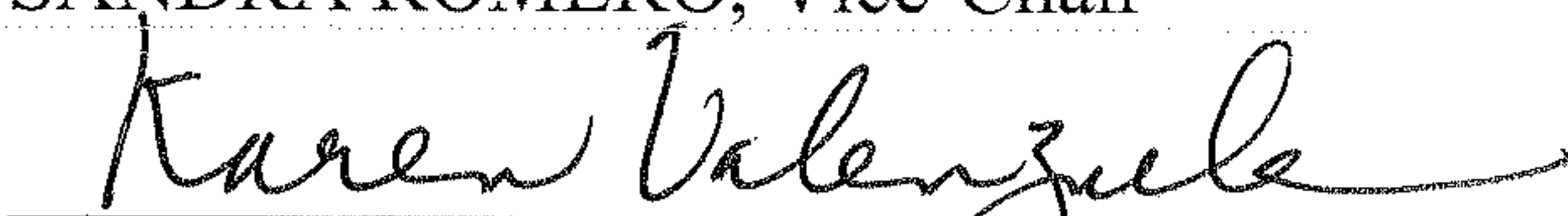
**8) ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wolfe adjourned the meeting.

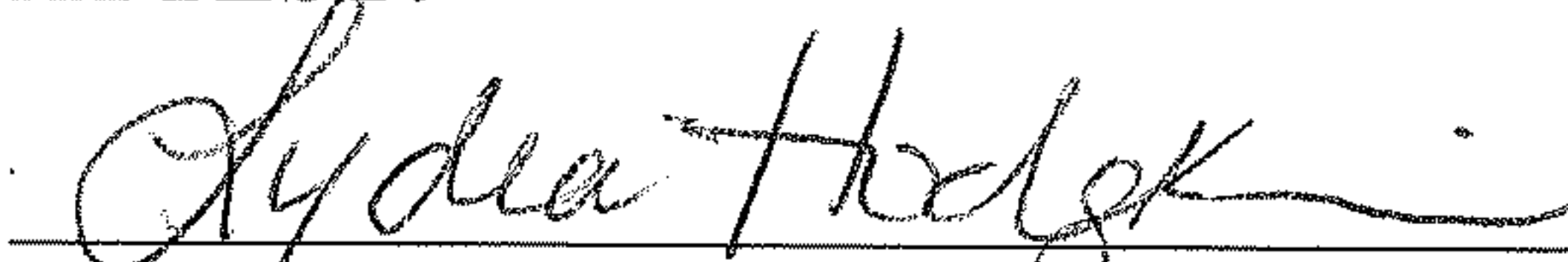
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Thurston County, Washington**

  
CATHY WOLFE, Chair

  
SANDRA ROMERO, Vice-Chair

  
KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: June 14, 2011