



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 July 12, 2011

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order.

- a) Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Commissioner Valenzuela moved to approve the agenda of July 12, 2011. Chair Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried. Chair Wolfe noted agenda item number 5 has been added to the agenda within the last 24 hours.
- b) Approval of Board of Health Minutes** - Commissioner Valenzuela moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes of June 14, 2011. Chair Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice Chair Romero joined the meeting at this time.

- 2) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES** - none
- 3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD** - none
- 4) HEALTHY FOOD IN RETAIL STORES – FARM-TO-MARKET**

Sherri McDonald introduced Lesley Wigen the Department's Public Health Nutritionist and the lead in the Thurston County Healthy Food in Retail Stores project. Ms. McDonald described the project as a getting better access to healthy foods in a wide variety of places across the community. Chair Wolfe noted that although Agro Tourism and Farm to Market foods are two distinctly different projects the Board thought it was a good tie in to add Agro Tourism to the agenda. Ms. Wigen gave a background of the project stating in March 2011 the Department received funding for this project from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) through the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) program. Thurston County is one of several counties in WA to receive this funding. The overall purpose of the CPPW program is to create policies and healthy environments in the community that will slow the increase of adult obesity, reduce rates of crime and improve the quality of life. The program includes two tasks: 1) Safe Route to School Project and 2) increasing nutrition access with the Healthy Retail Stores project being presented today. Ms. Wigen provided a background of the Thurston County Healthy Retail Stores project which involves

increasing access to healthier foods at two local convenience stores located in Thurston County low-income neighborhoods. As a project requirement an advisory committee was established. Members include Robert Coit the Thurston County Food Bank Executive Director, Zena Edwards from WSU Extension, representatives from Sea Mar WIC and Community Action Council WIC and Department Staff. Ms. Wigen explained the process used to select stores interested in selling fresh produce. Dr. Yu described the challenges in finding stores to participate in the program. The two local stores participating in the project are Harry's Market at 1613 College Street in Lacey and Lucky 7 Food Store at 1026 4th Avenue East in Olympia. Currently the two stores do not stock fresh produce, other than occasional bananas, potatoes and limes. They have both tried to sell fresh produce in the past, but it would over-ripen before it was sold and thus would be discarded. One of the stores, Lucky 7 Food Store, agreed to allow farmers to sell produce in the store. In April 2011 the Board of Health mailed letters to 25 local farmers to see if any of them would be interested in selling their produce at a local convenience store. As a result Left Foot Organics of Olympia and Rising River Farm of Rochester have both agreed to partner with the Department and Lucky 7 Food Store in a farm-to-market project. On July 11, 2011 Left Foot Organics will start selling fresh produce inside the store. Later in the week the Thurston County Food Bank will pick up any unsold produce. On July 13, 2011 Rising River Farm will have a one-day-a-week farm stand in the Lucky 7 Food Store parking lot on Wednesdays from 3 pm – 6 pm. Although Garden Raised Bounty cannot supply any produce they will be promoting and marketing the project. The next steps by the end of the year: develop a sustainability plan, complete a post evaluation as written into the grant and submit a final report to DOH. Ms. Wigen acknowledged contributors to the project: Zena Edwards, Amy Ellings a technical assistant from DOH and Ann Vandeman the Left Foot Organics Executive Director. At Commissioner Valenzuela's request Ms. Wigen provided additional information regarding criteria used to determine store participants. She also explained that store owners are not purchasing the produce; they are just providing space for farmers to sell their produce. Ann Vandeman addressed the Board thanking them for the opportunity to market and connect with the community. Ms. Vandeman presented and shared examples of produce being sold at the store. Commissioner Valenzuela thanked her for responding to the Board's letter to farmers and for her presence throughout the county promoting their organic produce. Ms. Vandeman noted there will be a kid's day at the Tumwater Farmer's market on July 13th. At Chair Wolfe's request Ms. Vandeman then gave a background of Left Foot Organics explaining it is a non-profit organic farm in operation for the last 10 years that grows seasonal vegetables and flowers for sale in local markets and distribution to local food banks and meals programs. The farm integrates people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and at-risk rural youth by providing basic job skills, paid employment and an integrated work environment. Left Food Organics also provides a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program where people buy a subscription/share of the farm's produce for the season. Each week you receive a box containing freshly harvested produce which is a selection of the crops ready for harvest that week. Chair Wolfe noted she has in the past participated in the CSA program with a neighbor. Ms. Vandeman noted there will be an open house at the farm on July 22nd at 6:00 pm. Left Food Organics is located at 1112 Case Road SW in Tumwater. She also noted on the evening of October 14th the Food Summit will be happening down town and then moving to the fair grounds on the morning of October 15th. On the evening of the 15th is the Fun Farm Formal a dinner and auction event at the South Puget Sound Community College Student Union building for which tickets are on sale now. The Board thanked everyone for the interesting presentation and produce samples.

5) AGRO TOURISM UPDATE

Chair Wolfe introduced and expressed her pride in the Agro Tourism project of which Commissioner Romero has taken the lead on and has been working on for the last year. Agro Tourism is a project looking for ways to bring more sustainable food to the community. Commissioner Romero explained that community members in urban areas do not want to lose farms to housing developments, but farmers have a hard time making a profit so how can we look at our rural areas in a way that says profits and still allow for rural life styles that farmers enjoy. The Stake holders group which consists of Thurston Regional Planning Council, Economic Development Council, Mayors of Rainier, Tenino, local farmers and many others, discussed ideas that would kick start rural Thurston County. Agro Tourism was decided on because our county has so much to offer, a unique way of life, foods we produce, beautiful roads that could attract tourism and national attention. The Group brought George Sharp of the Visitor Convention Bureau into the Stakeholders Group. Commissioner Romero explained the challenges of making our rural areas places that will attract tourists from all over the world, but still protect them. She gave examples of barriers, such as if and how many restaurants, country inns, small guest houses, etc. should be allowed without over burdening our existing infrastructure. Commissioner Romero stated group still has work to do, but is getting close to creating the final product which will be an ordinance describing details. She expressed her enthusiasm for this project working toward a greater quality of life for Thurston County.

6) PRIEST POINT PARK SEDIMENT SAMPLING

Art Starry introduced Patrick Soderberg and Gerald Tousley of the Hazardous Waste Program and gave a description/ background of the Priest Point Park Sediment sampling project. Priest Point Park is located along the East Bay of Budd Inlet in southern Puget Sound. The park is operated by the City of Olympia and has public beach access. This beach is within the closure area for a sewage treatment plant outfall and is listed by Department of Health (DOH) Office of Shellfish and Water Protection as unsafe for recreational shellfish harvesting. The Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) have posted advisory signs at Priest Point Park beach warning against fish and shellfish consumption, swimming, and wading in the area. Mr. Soderberg gave additional background and explained the sampling procedure completed by himself and Mark Koster also of the Hazardous Waste Program. Mr. Soderberg stated DOH has released their Letter Health Consultation for Priest Point Park Beach Sediment in June 10 of this year. (A copy of report was provided to Board) The consultation report concludes, "Based on the dioxins data from Priest Point Park beach, risks associated with accidentally eating, touching, or inhaling sediment during recreation or beach cleanup would not be expected to harm people's health." A copy of the report was provide to the Board and can also be viewed at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/pubs/priestpoint0611.pdf>. Examples of the posted warning signs were provided also. Commissioner Valenzuela requested additional sampling information, which Mr. Soderberg provided. The Board thanked staff for the informative presentation

7) THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY GRANT: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PANEL PAPER

Sherri McDonald provided information and conclusions of the Health & Human Services Panel Paper. Ms. McDonald explained that in late 2010, Thurston Regional Planning Council, representing a consortium of 29 partners, received a grant to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (Plan). The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant was made available through a new Federal partnership of the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). The overall project goal was to articulate a community-defined sustainable future, along with the actions and responsibilities to achieve it. The work will be completed in phases: 1) During 2011 panels were to develop baseline information for the community; 2) in 2012 a series of meetings will be held to gain a data-based understanding of the implications of current growth patterns, and develop a range of growth alternatives ; and 3) in 2013 residents and stakeholders will review a preferred growth alternative, the Regional Vision and Plan for Sustainable Development, a Regional Housing Plan, a Regional Economic Strategy, Implementation Steps, and a List of Projects of Regional Priority. In completion of phase 1 of the project, the Health and Human Services Panel has met four times to articulate issues related to health and human services in Thurston County. First to understand expectations and examine baseline data, assumptions, and expectations; second to consider a wide range of aspects of health and human services and discuss what is working, the challenges and opportunities within the health and human services sectors of our community; third to review overall work, and finally to produce final report. Ms. McDonald provided outcomes of the panel discussions. A copy of the draft report was provided to the Board for their information and discussion. Ms. McDonald noted the final report will be ready in approximately 2 weeks, but if there are any questions prior to then please contact her. Chair Wolfe commended and thanked Sherri for facilitating this group and being the first of all of the “panels” to complete their work. The work of this committee will also be reflected in the revisions of the Health and Human Services Com Plan. Chair Wolfe stated that another presentation of this information may be requested by the Board.

8) DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Sherri McDonald discussed:

- First opportunity of the Federal Health Reform - the Department is working with Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and other four counties in our region to apply for a \$432,284 Community Transformation Grant. This application will be submitted on our behalf by DOH to the Center for Disease and Control (CDC). DOH has broken the state into five regions being referred to as hubs. Thurston County’s hub has a combined population of 480,000. The grant application is to be submitted this week with awards being announced in late August or first part of September. It is a very competitive process for which many government and non-profit organizations working in chronic disease prevention are eligible for. Our regions intended uses for the funds include: tobacco prevention, tobacco reduction, tobacco free campuses in governments and colleges, healthy eating in schools, promoting community design standards to make streets safer, active living in local schools, and clinical preventive services.

- Ms. McDonald presented the results of the Department's Standards for Public Health in Washington State 2011 Performance Review Report. The review is completed every three years. She noted several Department "Strengths" listed in the report: health assessment activities; timely investigations and reporting of notifiable diseases; implementation of a system to receive and provide health alerts and appropriate response on a 24/7 basis; strong community collaboration regarding chronic disease prevention; and the collaborative promotion of strategies to improve access to health care services. Ms. McDonald provided additional explanation of the strength: "The commissioners' engagement of the agency and the county in performance measurement as evidenced by the process of developing the County budget" meaning the Board expects the department to report to them on performance measures in the county budget. Ms. McDonald reviewed some areas of improvement in the review: Strengthen documentation of reports to the Board of Health to include more detail – strengthening meeting minutes; implement a Quality Improvement Plan – Department does have a quality improvement process but have not completed a plan to date; and develop a community health improvement plan (CHIP) – which will come out of the work between the Health Panel, the Comp Plan Chapter will complete a CHIP to be worked on over the next several years. A copy of the review was provided to the Board. The Board noted details provided in the Board of Health minutes have improved.
- Thurston County as the local health department has been invited to join the First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Campaign. Lesley Wigen has researched the project which includes addressing: Giving parents and care givers the tools to make healthy choices in early childhood; improving nutrition in schools; increasing physical activities in schools; and making healthy food available and affordable. Additional The Board gave direction for the Department to join the campaign.

9) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Yu stated last month (June 2010) she attended a National Tuberculosis (TB) Control Association meeting in Georgia where she presented a poster titled "Cultural Consideration in Tuberculosis Contact Investigation". The poster came out of work completed in a 2010 TB outbreak investigation for an extended family in Thurston County. Dr. Yu's attendance at this meeting was funded with a DOH grant. The Department's TB control investigation team has been invited to do a similar presentation at a joint conference on health in October in Vancouver WA.


Dr. Yu also reminded the Board about the Senior Games happening this week. Commissioner Valenzuela noted the Board has invited Jack Kiley to attend the next county commissioner's meeting to be recognized and speak about Senior Games. Dr. Yu noted that watching the games is fun also.

Chair Wolfe acknowledged John Dodge in the audience stating The Olympian newspaper has been very supportive of the Senior Games.

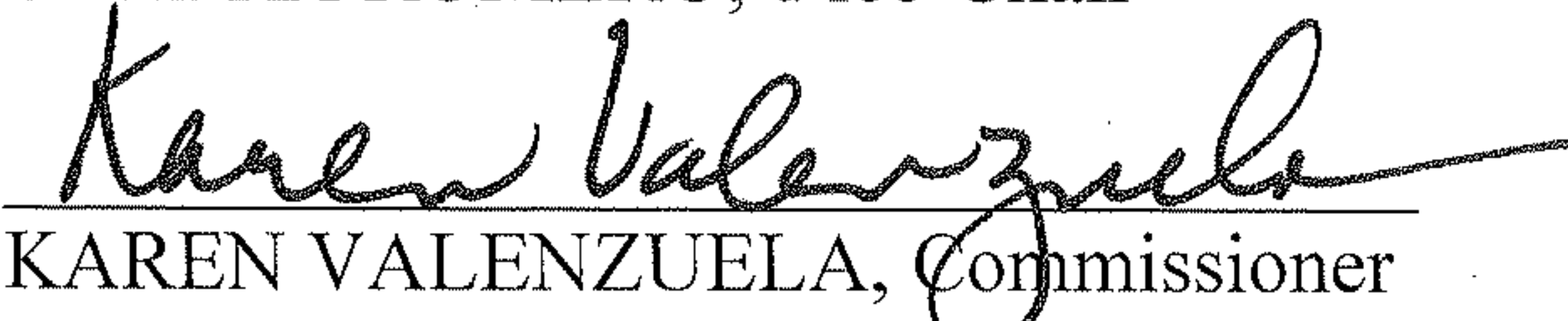
10) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned.

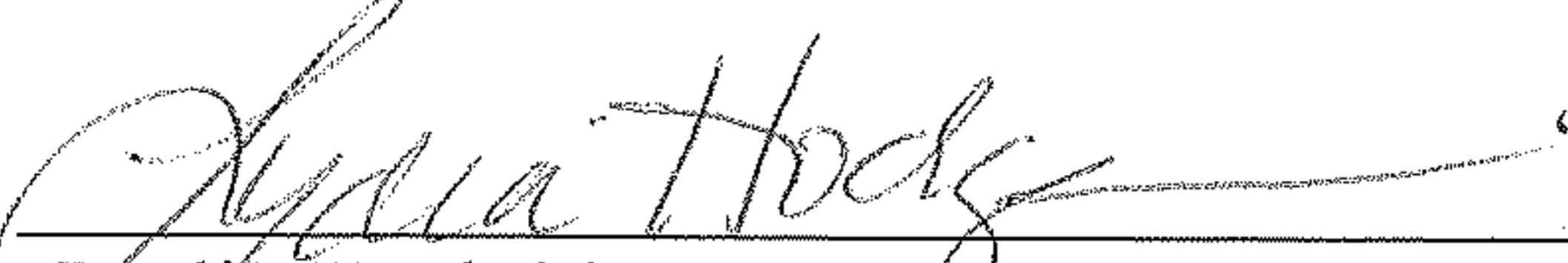
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


CATHY WOLFE, Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Vice-Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: September 13, 2011