



BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of November 16, 2010

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. Commissioner Romero commented on the upcoming National Senior Bowling event being held in June 2011 in Texas and requested event information from Dr. Yu.

- a) Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Vice-Chair Wolfe moved to approve the agenda of November 16, 2010. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) Approval of Board of Health Minutes** - Vice-Chair Wolfe moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes of October 5, 2010. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES - none

3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD - none

4) CONSENT ITEMS – none

5) RESOLUTION H-4-2010 APPOINTING ALTERNATE 2011 THURSTON COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. Yu explained that since 2000, the Board of Health has formally appointed alternate Health Officers to serve should emergency situations arise when she, the primary Health Officer, is not available due to illness, vacation, etc. Resolution No. H-4-2010 retains Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, John Bausher, MD, and Steve Standaert, MD, MPH as alternate Health Officers for 2011. She further explained the appointment of an alternate local Health Officer is activated when contacted to act in the capacity of the Thurston County local Health Officer by the following individuals: the primary local Health Officer for Thurston County, the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, or the Chair of the Thurston County Board of Health. The Board is immediately notified in the event an Alternate Health Officer is appointed. Dr. Yu addressed the Board's question regarding alternate health officer services she provides to other counties stating she serves several other counties as requested primarily by telephone.

Vice-Chair Wolfe moved to approve Resolution H-4-2010 appointing Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, John Bausher, MD, and Steve Standaert, MD, MPH as alternate Thurston County Health Officers for 2011. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) GROUP B PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS PROGRAM UPDATE

Sara Brallier an Environmental Health Specialist II in the Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department, Environmental Health Division Drinking Water Program addressed the Board. She thanked fellow employees Phil Brinker, Kathy Patton, Debra Baker and Steve Petersen for their water system knowledge and expertise; and thanked Merie Cockrum with Resource Stewardship for her knowledge of the AMANDA tracking system used for the program. Ms. Brallier gave a presentation providing an overview and update of the Group B Water System Operating Permit Program governed by Article III. The Board asked for a description of Article III. Ms. Brallier explained that Article III is part of the Thurston County Sanitary Code Rules and Regulations of the Board of Health. Article III provides the requirements for Group B Water Systems which are small public water systems serving 3 to 14 connections. PHSS has had a drinking water program since the mid 1970's. The regulation and oversight of existing Group B systems in Thurston County had been funded by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) for the last several years. This funding ended June 30, 2009. At that time the Board established a Group B Public Water Supply Annual Permit and an associated fee enabling the Drinking Water Program to continue providing regulation and oversight services to existing small public water systems. These services include: informational resources such as website materials and a newsletter to help keep operators informed on how to operate a safe and reliable water system; technical and regulatory assistance to ensure system design continues to meet their needs; periodic sanitary surveys to determine if there are any water supply, water quality or management problems; assistance with developing preventative operations and maintenance programs; help with responding to emergencies when the water system becomes contaminated; and well siting consultation. In response to the Board's questions, Ms. Brallier stated there are approximately 600 Group B public water systems within Thurston County covered by this program and the annual permit per system is \$95.00. She also noted the DOH will in the near future no longer regulate Group B Water Systems. Regulation of these systems will become the responsibility of individual counties. More information will be provided to the Board when available. The Board thanked Ms. Brallier for the presentation.

7) ON-SITE SEWAGE (SEPTIC) SYSTEM PROGRAM UPDATE

Steve Petersen the Environmental Health Division Program Manager presented a general overview of the Environmental Health Division's On-Site Sewage Septic System (OSS) Program. The presentation provided information on the purpose of on-site systems, how the program protects public health, types and number of OSS systems in the county, and a summary of the financial assistance and the Time of Transfer (Sale Inspections) programs. Mr. Petersen addressed the Board's questions regarding public training opportunities, stating trainings have been reduced due to decreased funding. Training is expected to be eliminated sometime in 2011 unless additional grant funding can be obtained. The Board acknowledged the fact that drinking water and sanitary sewage disposal are assumed by the public to be safe and expressed their gratitude to staff in the Drinking Water and OSS programs for their hard.

8) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sherri McDonald noted that Public Health does protect drinking water and expressed concern that with decreased funding there will be decreased services and public training.

Ms. McDonald encouraged the public to participate in the Great American Smoke out on Thursday November 18th. She further encouraged all smokers to take this opportunity to create a plan to quit smoking and seek help if needed.

9) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Diana Yu noted she recently attended a Washington State Department of Health meeting where gonorrhea and its treatment were discussed. There has been an increase of gonorrhea in over a 6 county area with the exception of Pierce County. She noted a Sexually Transmitted Disease update is scheduled for the December Board of Health meeting.


Dr. Yu provided an update of recent positive Tuberculosis cases in the County. She will be working with the local infectious control network to improve detection and control of the spread of TB. The Board requested to be kept informed of new cases and practice improvements.

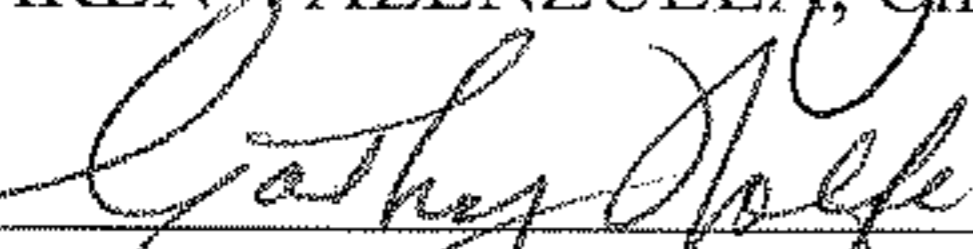
10) ADJOURNMENT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH

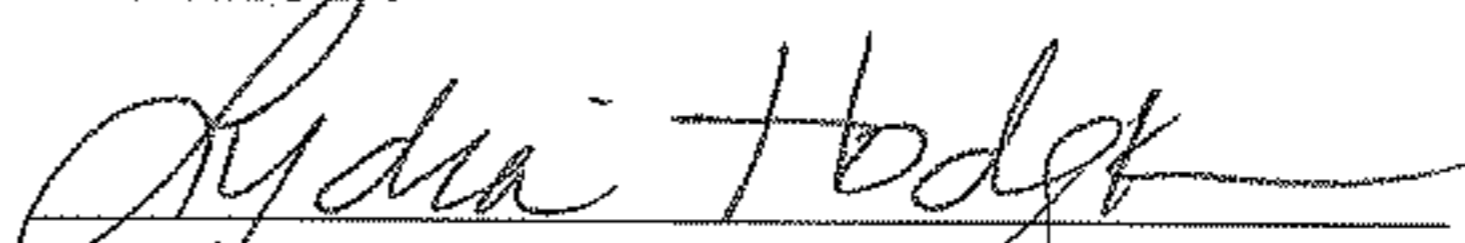
Thurston County, Washington


KAREN VALENZUELA, Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Vice-Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: December 7, 2010