



# BOARD OF HEALTH

## Minutes of December 7, 2010

### 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

**Excused Absence:** County Manager Don Krupp

Commissioner Valenzuela called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the agenda of December 7, 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 November 16, 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) HEALTH AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Chris Hawkins, the Chronic Disease Prevention Section Supervisor, gave a presentation on how public health is affected by the environments where we work, play and do other activities of daily life. Built environment is a key factor in nutrition, physical activity and other health behaviors. Built environment includes land use, parks, transportation and urban development; it is shaped by county plans and policies in these areas. He explained the Department's Chronic Disease Prevention section is now combined with Environmental Health Division's Education & Outreach Section. This merge integrates efforts and continued emphasis on environment, policy and systems changes to promote a healthy community. Mr. Hawkins addressed Commissioner Romero's comment regarding schools providing safer accessibility for students to walk to school stating Roosevelt Elementary worked with the Department to make improvements increasing school safety and accessibility. Several opportunities to shape the design of the built environment are scheduled to occur over the next year – development of a Public Health & Human Services Chapter of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan, revision and updating of the TC Comprehensive Plan, and any amendments to current functional codes and plans in the areas of development, parks, transportation, etc. The Board

expressed an interest in working closer with staff regarding Thurston County's built environment. Mr. Hawkins also presented the Board with a report addressing the health effects from the built environment in Thurston County; local data on Thurston County nutrition, physical activity, etc.; and examples of built environment policy options for Board consideration. Ms. McDonald noted at the January Board of Health meeting staff will be presenting for the Board's review information and policy options to support a smoke free campus. The Board thanked Mr. Hawkins for the informative presentation.

Commissioner Wolfe was excused from the meeting at 4:10 pm.

6) **EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES UPDATE**

Dr. Yu addressed the Board introducing Monica Lyons the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)/HIV Coordinator and Jeanie Knight the Infectious Control of Disease Team Supervisor and acknowledged team members Peggy Grenier and Robyn Mills. She then gave a presentation providing information, statistics and challenges for treating Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, the most commonly reported STDs. Dr. Yu explained licensed physicians are required to report notifiable conditions, including certain STDs to local public health departments. Once received, local health staff assures that partners or contacts at risk for infections are contacted and treated appropriately and in a timely manner. For 4 years Thurston County has participated in a CDC funded "Expedited Partner Therapy" (EPT) project to reach and treat, which includes free medication, sex partners of infected patients without prior physical examination. This 5 year funding is expected to end in 2011. Sherri McDonald noted although services can be obtained elsewhere the loss of the Department's Family Planning Clinic last year has left an impact on access to STD treatment. Dr. Yu's presentation also highlighted the effect of the EPT project on the Thurston County STD rates and outcomes. Dr. Yu addressed Chair Valenzuela's question regarding Thurston County's lower gonorrhea rates as compared to Washington State's rates explaining the State rates include larger cities. Dr. Yu addressed Commissioner Romero's question regarding antibiotics that Gonorrhea is now resistant to and what still works.

7) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Sherri McDonald stated she is keeping an eye on the proposed state budget cuts noting that although funding for a program may be eliminated or drastically reduced the State law or contracted requirement to provide services may not go away.

8) **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Chair Valenzuela asked the status of this year's flu season. Jeanie Knight addressed the question stating no positive influenza cases have been reported. Dr. Yu stated that influenza is out there and encouraged everyone to get a flu shot. She also discussed a triple strength vaccine marketed for the elderly, but she does not know of any scientific backup that verifies its effectiveness. Commissioner Romero questioned if the upcoming holiday season increases

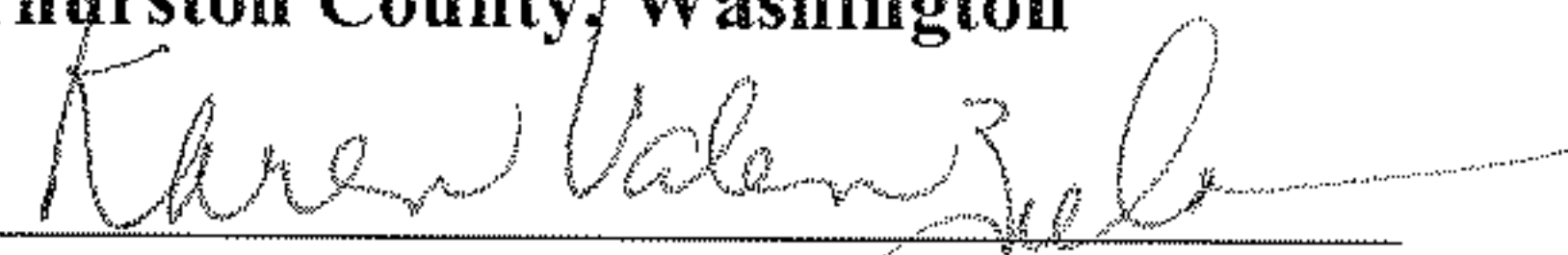
the presence of flu. Ms. Knight stated this was not normally the case and that flu season usually peaks the end of February. Dr. Yu noted the best way to avoid flu or illness is to wash your hands, cover your cough, stay at home if you're sick and increase safe food handling practices during the holidays.

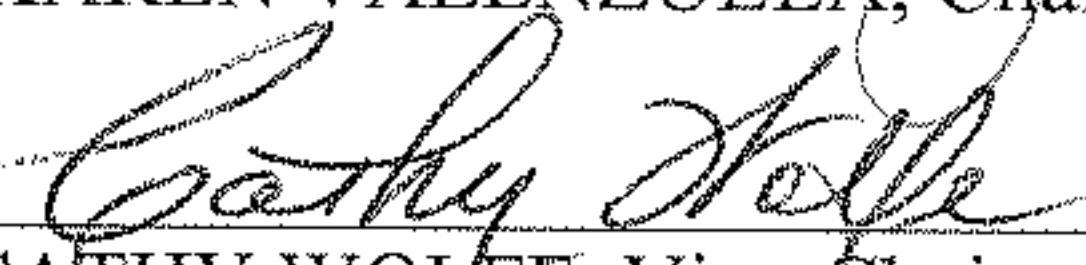
Dr. Yu stated she is working with the Department of Health on a recent Tuberculosis outbreak.

9) **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Valenzuela adjourned the meeting.

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

  
KAREN VALENZUELA, Chair

  
CATHY WOLFE, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: January 4, 2011