



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of September 10, 2007

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Oberquell called the meeting to order.

Attendance: Chairman Oberquell, Commissioners Macleod, Department Director Sherri McDonald and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

- a) **Approval of Agenda** - Commissioner Macleod moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Oberquell seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Macleod moved to approve the Minutes of August 6, 2007 as submitted. Commissioner Oberquell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES - none

3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

David Lindseth a Mental Health Counselor and Sarah Scheel a registered nurse with Behavioral Health Resources (BHR) addressed the Board. Mr. Lindseth and Ms. Scheel requested the Board's support that the additional funding from the legislature go towards wage increases and benefits for mental health care workers not bonuses as BHR is proposing. Jason Beauchene, a representative from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) addressed the Board also requesting the Board's support. Mr. Beauchene noted the high turnover of mental health care workers, which is directly related to poor wages, has a direct impact on client care. Commissioner Oberquell referenced a letter to Mr. John Masterson, CEO of BHR signed by Representative Hunt and Representative Williams stating their intent was that the funding be used for pay increases not for bonuses. Discussion ensued around impacts of wage increases versus bonuses for mental health care workers. Sherri McDonald stated she would address this issue under the Director's Report.

4) CONSENT ITEMS

- a) **Partners for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Board Member Appointments** - Move to reappoint Ruth Gutierrez for a 2nd term as a member to the Partners for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Board for an additional 3-year term from September 2007 to August 2010.
- b) **Contract with Washington State Department of General Administration** - Move to authorize the director of Public Health and Social Services to approve and sign Interagency Agreement Contract No: GA-Thurston Co. 06 between Thurston County and the Department of General Administration and to approve future amendments to the contract limited to minor

changes in the scope of work and budgetary changes not to exceed the total contract amount of \$6,810.

Motion: Commissioner Macleod moved to approve consent items “a” and “b”. Chairman Oberquell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) WASHINGTON STATE SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, REFERRAL AND TREATMENT (WASBIRT)

Sherri McDonald explained why the Washington State Screening, Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment (WASBIRT) Program has been so innovative and important for Thurston County and our State. Erik Landaas, a Program Specialist with the Chemical Dependency Program, presented the WASBIRT Preliminary Results report and provided a brief overview of the WASBIRT Project. He also acknowledged Sherri McDonald and Donna Bosworth the Chemical Dependency Program Manager who were instrumental in bringing WASBIRT to Thurston County. Mr. Landaas introduced Mr. Stephen O’Neil the WASBIRT Project Director for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services’ Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA). Mr. O’Neil and Mr. Landaas explained the project provides brief interventions, brief therapy and in some cases chemical dependency treatment to emergency department patients who screen positive for substance use disorders. Hospitals in six counties, which include Thurston County’s Providence St. Peter Hospital, are participating in the project. Discussion ensued regarding the screening process, impact on other emergency room services and the six month client follow-up.

6) INFLUENZA (FLU) – PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON

Sherri McDonald provided a brief explanation of the update and introduced Jean Gowen, an Advanced Practice Clinician with the Department’s Investigation of Control of Disease Program. Ms. Gowen explained the influenza season, normally beginning in January, is approaching. The Department plans to offer the employees of Thurston County influenza vaccinations again this year. She explained the Thurston County employees who have face-to-face contact with the public have an occupational risk of getting influenza and in addition spreading influenza to County residents they interact with. Ms. Gowen noted this year there is an adequate supply of vaccine and the County has already received half of the vaccine ordered. She stated the Department plans to offer vaccinations to employees the week of November 26th through December 5th, which is the Centers for Disease Control’s designated Vaccination Week. Ms. Gowen requested the Board’s approval to survey employees to gather information to assist in development of a plan to identify ways to increase influenza immunization rates for Thurston County employees by educating and providing a number of options for people wishing to be vaccinated. In addition, they are working on how to recoup cost from staff that have insurance to cover cost of the vaccine. Commissioner Oberquell requested that, at the November 26, 2007 at the televised Board of County Commissioners’ meeting, Ms. McDonald vaccinate her, Commissioner Wolfe, Commissioner Macleod and Mr. Don Krupp. Mr. Krupp agreed to schedule this as a timed item on the agenda.

7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sherri McDonald explained the Department is taking steps to ensure we are passing along the requirements that the County has from the Mental Health Division contract to our subcontractors, including Behavioral Health Resources' subcontract. The subcontract language will be reviewed with the County Prosecuting Attorney to make sure we have the appropriate language. In addition, we will re-examine the Legislative intent with the Legislator's Attorney. Ms. McDonald stated as a Regional Support Network we are obligated to submit a plan to the Mental Health Division by October 15, 2007 showing how the money will be obligated. The Department plans to submit the plan early and to make sure the Mental Health Division understands the County's intent. Ms. McDonald stated she will keep the Board up to date.

Ms. McDonald discussed the County's participation in the National Association of County Officials (NACO) Prescription Drug Card Program. The Department reviewed the program when it first came out, including having our Prosecuting Attorney's office review the required contract. Ms. McDonald stated it was determined at that time the County's liability was too high and that the public could get lower prescription drug prices in the community without using this card. Ms. McDonald noted she will take another look at the program if the Board desires, but in her opinion at this time the community retail stores still offer lower prices.

8) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

In Dr. Yu's absence, Sherri McDonald provided a follow-up from the August 6, 2007 Board of Health meeting regarding the total number of HIV tests administered in the Family Planning Clinic versus how many of those tested positive in Thurston County in 2006 and 2007. She stated in 2006 the Family Planning administered about 50 HIV tests per month of which zero tested positive; in the first seven months of 2007 about 72 tests per month were administered of which 6 tested positives. The Family Planning Clinic tests approximately one quarter of clients seen.

Ms. McDonald stated to date there has been no West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in Thurston County. The Department wants to continue to educate the public to stay away from mosquitoes if possible and to take preventative measures to decrease mosquito breeding. Discussion ensued around potential breeding grounds for the mosquito known to carry WNV and preventative measures that can be taken to reduce mosquito breeding.

Ms. McDonald informed the Board she and Art Starry, Director of the Environmental Health Division, have been requested to attend the Port Commissioner meeting tonight on September 10th to discuss warning signage that is to be posted in the contaminated area of lower Budd Inlet. Commissioner Oberquell noted the new signage is not a warning of new contamination in lower Budd Inlet but are new signs that are universally understandable.

9) ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington

ATTEST:

DIANE OBERQUELL, Chairman

Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

ROBERT N. MACLEOD, Member

Date: _____

CATHY WOLFE, Member