



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of June 2, 2008

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Oberquell called the meeting to order.

Attendance: Commissioners Oberquell, Macleod and Wolfe, Department Director Sherri McDonald, Health Officer Dr. Diana Yu, Environmental Health Division Director Art Starry and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

- a) **Approval of Agenda** –Commissioner Macleod moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Macleod moved to approve the Minutes of May 5, 2008 joint meeting with Mason County as submitted. Commissioner Wolfe 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

- a) **Family Planning Advisory Committee Reappointment** – Move to reappoint Jennifer Allen as a member of The Family Planning Advisory Committee for a second two (2) year term, from June 2008 – May 2010.
- b) **Contract with Institute for Environmental Health** - Move to authorize the Director of Public Health and Social Services to execute the contract between Thurston County Public Health and Social Services and the Institute for Environmental Health for the Deschutes River/Budd Inlet TMDL Project and to make minor amendments provided the changes are within the scope and budget of the grant contract.
- c) **Washington State Department of Health 2007–2011 Consolidated Contract #C14967 Amendment No. 9** - Move to approve and authorize Sherri McDonald, the Director of Public Health and Social Services to execute Amendment No.9 to the 2007-2011 Consolidated Contract No.C14967 with the State of Washington Department of Health in the amount of \$39,131 for a revised total maximum consideration of \$5,698,871.
- d) **Appointment of Administrative Hearing Officers** - Move to approve the resolution appointing administrative hearing officers for the Public Health and Social Services Department.

Commissioner Macleod moved to approve consent agenda items “a” thru “d”.
Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS IN THURSTON COUNTY

Deborah Ahern the Personal Health Division Director introduced Jeanie Knight the Senior Epidemiologist and Supervisor of the Investigation and Control of Disease (ICD) Team. Ms. Knight described the work done by the ICD Team and introduced Dolores Dorffeld a Community Health Nurse and Coordinator of the Communicable Disease/Tuberculosis (CD/TB) Program. Ms. Dorffeld introduced and acknowledged team members Jean Gowen an Advanced Practice Clinician, Phuong Nguyen a Public Health Program Assistant and Dr. Diana Yu. Ms. Dorffeld gave a presentation explaining effective TB control which merges elements of laboratory science, investigative work, public health, surveillance and clinical care. She provided information and statistics of TB cases in Thurston County between 1997 and 2007, described what TB control consists of, gave an example of a TB investigation and TB treatments. Ms. Dorffeld and Dr. Yu addressed the Board's questions regarding challenges and issues of treating TB. Dr. Yu acknowledged staff's hard work and dedication to TB investigation and control. The Board expressed their thanks to staff.

6) PARTNERS FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES ADVISORY BOARD 2007 UPDATE

Sherri McDonald explained the Partners for Children, Youth, and Family Advisory Board is a 25 member group appointed by the Thurston County Commissioners. Dan Cathers, Chair to the Advisory Board introduced Executive Board Members Cliff Moore and Pat Sonnestuhl. He also acknowledged Carrie Dye, Kirsten DiCicco and Marcee Stiltner. Mr. Cathers gave an overview of the Advisory Board's 2007 Annual Report and briefly described the 2008 Future Action Work Plans. Ms. Sonnestuhl addressed the Board's request that assistance to homeless children in Thurston County be considered in the 2008 work plans. Mr. Moore invited the Board to attend an Advisory Board meeting which meets the 1st Thursday of each month. He also gave a formal thank you to Emmie San Nicolas for her amazing support and hard work she provides to the Advisory Board. The Board acknowledged Ms. San Nicolas' support not only to the Partners for Children, Youth & Families Advisory Board, but also to the Home Visitation Advisory Group. The Board gave an additional thank you to all members of the Advisory Board. Commissioner Macleod moved to accept the Partners for Children, Youth & Families Advisory Board 2007 Annual Report and to approve distribution throughout the community. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7) PHSS STAFF RECEIVE EARTH DAY RECOGNITION

Sherri McDonald explained that in recognition of Earth Day 2008, the Department of Ecology (DOE) recognized businesses, trade associations, local governments, nongovernmental organizations and individuals that have worked to reduce mercury levels in Washington State as part of the state's Mercury Chemical Action Plan. Art Starry explained that Thurston County Public Health and Social Services received a Quicksilver Partner Certificate, and staff members Gerald Tousley, Rachel Laderman and Mark Koster received individual letters of recognition. Mr. Starry noted that staff have been involved in many programs over the years to remove mercury from the waste stream and reduce

mercury contamination to the environment. He noted that several other staff members, in addition to those recognized by DOE, have been involved in these efforts. Neither the staff members recognized by DOE nor the additional staff members mentioned by Mr. Starry were in attendance. The Board asked that all staff members be recognized in person at a future Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

8) WAIVE PURCHASING POLICY, SECTION 13 COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE CONTRACT WITH TOWEILL RICE TAYLOR LLC

Art Starry stated amendments to Article I of the Thurston County Sanitary Code go into effect June 2, 2008. As Article I is implemented, the Thurston County Board of Health ask that hearings associated with appeals and waivers be heard by an independent third party rather than Public Health and Social Service managers. To implement the Board's request he asked that the Board contract with Toweill Rice Taylor LLC to provide administrative hearing services for Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. Toweill Rice Taylor LLC has substantial experience providing hearing examiner and administrative hearing services throughout the Puget Sound region, including Thurston County, where they substitute for the current hearing examiner on occasion. Thurston County staff that is familiar with it is impressed by the quality of the work of Toweill Rice Taylor LLC. Contracting with a third party hearing examiner will provide the added benefit of relieving managers of hearing officer responsibilities, freeing them to have direct involvement in cases brought to hearing as needed and to do other work with the available time. Hearing officer services are unique and there are few firms available that have both the legal and practical experience to provide them. Because of quality of work of Toweill Rice Taylor and the scarcity of qualified firms that provide hearing officer services Mr. Starry asked that the Board waive the competitive solicitation requirements of the Thurston County Purchasing Policy. Discussion ensued regarding process and costs associated with contracting for these services. The Board requested a Board Briefing be scheduled where additional discussion and information can be provided. Mr. Starry will work on scheduling the Board Briefing.

9) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sherri McDonald stated she recently met with other members of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) to discuss Public Health Financing. WSALPHO is working very closely with the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC). Ms. McDonald submitted to the Board a copy of a memo from WSALPHO to WSAC in response to their questions

regarding suggestions to change state law that would allow greater flexibility and procedures to simply Public Health work, and services that may be performed at the state level instead of the local level. WSALPHO also prepared an Issue Topic on Sustainable Public Health Funding which she will provide to the Board when finalized.

Ms. McDonald presented a letter she received from Pacific Coast Shellfish Grower's Association expressing their concerns regarding a potential water quality downgrade of Henderson Inlet. She noted that Art Starry will be drafting a response to their questions. The Board requested the Department contact the Washington State Department of Health to verify the information the Association references in their letter.

Sherri McDonald noted that Art Starry has been working with staff to ensure appropriate and similar interpretation of issues around land-use policies. Mr. Starry provided a copy of Thurston County Permitting System Policies & Procedures Number ONST.08.POL.839, the Review of Technical Justification and Preliminary Designs for Subdivisions approved May 22, 2008. The policy defines how preliminary designs and/or technical justification for subdivisions are reviewed, in turn providing guidelines for staff. Mr. Starry addressed the Board's questions, concerns and provided clarification of the policy and its intent. He also noted staff is working closely with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) on this issue for which they will be providing guidelines on the state level.

10) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Yu provided an update on recent E. Coli cases. She and staff are working closely with DOH and will provide additional information to the Board as it becomes available.

11) 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