



BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of February 3, 2009

1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Attendance: Chair Romero, Vice-Chair Wolfe, Chief Administrative Officer Don Krupp, Department Director Sherri McDonald, Health Officer Diana Yu, Environmental Health Division Director Art Starry and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

Commissioner Romero called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Wolfe led the Pledge of Allegiance

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Board of Health Minutes** – Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2009. 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**

- a) Family Planning Advisory Committee Letter of Appreciation – No Motion, request the Board sign a letter of appreciation to Louise Kaplan.

The Board agreed to sign the letter of appreciation to Louise Kaplan.

5) **2009 MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UPDATE**

Dr. Yu introduced Annie Merritt, an Education and Outreach Specialist and Jennifer Burns a Vista Volunteer, for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program. Annie Merritt introduced Marlene Bennett, M.A. a volunteer counselor for the MRC. Ms. Merritt gave a brief statement explaining the Washington Region 3 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was organized in 2003 and has a membership of about 130 individual volunteers, who are registered, licensed and credentialed, and trained to help expand public health capacity. She then gave a presentation which provided an update on the activities the MRC has participated in. Ms. Bennett addressed the Board providing her background as a mental health counselor, her history with the MRC and shared some of her experiences while working with

victims of emergency events in Thurston County. Ms. Merritt addressed the Board's questions regarding how the MRC is activated through the County's Emergency Operations Center. Dr. Yu explained an event in 2006 showed more mental health counselors were needed to provide psychological first aid. She noted the importance of all types of volunteers including veterinarians, counselors, doctors, nurses, etc. Dr. Yu explained that anyone is welcome to volunteer for the MRC, but they need to be registered prior to an event. To register volunteers can visit the Public Health & Social Services website at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/preparedness/mrc.html>.

6) EMERGING HEALTH ISSUES

Dr. Yu explained to the Board that as the County Health Officer she has numerous opportunities to deliver health messages to the public. She then gave a "21st Century Public Health" presentation to Board, which she has given a number of times adapting it to the interests of the audiences.

7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sherri McDonald presented a draft letter for the Board's signature regarding the medicine return bill, HB 1165 and SB 5279 to be addressed to all Thurston County Legislators. She will ensure the Board receives an electronic copy of the draft letter for review and will follow up with the Board.

Art Starry provided information and an update on the recent peanut product recall, noting there has been one confirmed case of salmonellosis and 2 suspected cases. He explained the Federal Government has requested help from State and County agencies. The Department is focusing on businesses that distribute donated food products and small retailers, both of which do not normally have the capability to monitor their inventory like larger retailers. Ms. McDonald commended staff for their ability to recognize their focus should be in this area. Mr. Starry noted the Department website at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health> contains a link to the FDA website where a list of foods included in the recall is updated frequently.

8) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Diana Yu provided additional information regarding the peanut product recall and described salmonellosis illness symptoms. In addition, she noted there was recently a small outbreak of gastrointestinal illness in a local nursing home. She explained this is a normal type of outbreak for this time of year. Dr. Yu also noted that there have been no reports of influenza since early December 2008.

9) ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Romero expressed her appreciation for the extremely informative meeting. Vice-Chair Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington

ATTEST:

SANDRA ROMERO, Chair

Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

CATHY WOLFE, Vice-Chair

Date: _____

VACANT, Commissioner