



# BOARD OF HEALTH

## Minutes of April 7, 2009

### 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Attendance: Chair Romero, Vice-Chair Wolfe, Commissioner Valenzuela, County Manager Don Krupp, Department Director Sherri McDonald, , Environmental Health Division Director Art Starry and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

Commissioner Romero called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Commissioner Valenzuela moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Board of Health Minutes** – Commissioner Valenzuela moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2009. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- c) **Public Health Week Proclamation** - Commissioner Valenzuela read a “Proclamation” proclaiming the week of April 6 - 12, 2009 as Public Health Week. Sherri McDonald commented on the Proclamation message stating it is bitter sweet. Ms. McDonald provided a sobering overview of public health funding cuts that have already taken place and the devastating impacts of proposed funding cuts at local and state levels if passed by the House and Senate. The Board questioned the possibility of transitioning Family Planning services, one program proposed to be eliminated, to another agency similar to the transition of WIC services to Sea Mar. Ms. McDonald described the differences in the two program services and the challenges associated with finding a provider for Family Planning services. **Commissioner Valenzuela moved to adopt the Public Health Proclamation. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### 2) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES - none

### 3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Charles Loosen, the HIV Prevention Program Manager, for the United Community Aids Network (UCAN) addressed the Board providing UCAN’s perspective and concerns regarding potential cuts to Family Planning Program services provided through the Thurston County Public Health & Social Services. Mr. Loosen expressed his appreciation of the Board’s position and requested it at all possible to maintain the programs essential vital services. Mr. Loosen also questioned if the County has considered accepting private insurance for services. (This question was addressed by Sherri McDonald during the Director’s Report.) The Board expressed their appreciation of Mr. Loosen’s comments and invited him to attend and provide testimony at the Public Hearing on Monday, April 13, 2009

**4) FINANCIAL ASSURANCE FOR SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

Steve Petersen, Environmental Health Program Manager, provided background stating the Board of Health conducted a hearing in February 2007 to take testimony to determine if a property was suitable for on-site sewage (septic) systems. The developer was Walt Cox and the property is located at the intersection of Schinke and 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The Board heard testimony and carefully considered the evidence and determined the property met the requirements for the placement of sewage systems. The Board's decision included one condition that required the developer to provide a twenty-four month term financial surety for the performance of each of the five new septic systems for Large Lot Subdivision 2004-104925, Tax Parcel #09360003000, effective from the date of occupancy. The plat has been approved and the building and septic system permits have been issued. Mr. Petersen requested the Board approve an agreement for Assurance of Septic System operation which sets the foundation for meeting the condition the Board placed in the hearing decision. He provided additional clarification for the Board. **Commissioner Valenzuela moved to approve and execute the Agreement for Assurance of Septic System Operation for Large Lot 2004-104925 with Walt Cox. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**5) ONSITE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Debra Baker provided a history and overview of the Onsite Financial Assistance Program. Ms. Baker addressed the Board's questions stating the funding for this program is locked in through the year 2012. The Board noted their appreciation for this program.

**6) SENATE BILL 5930 PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY UPDATE**

Deborah Ahern, the Personal Health Division Program Manager, gave a brief summary of the Public Health Funding Senate Bill 5930 which is aimed to reduce the statewide burden of vaccine-preventable disease and prevent the spread of communicable diseases threatening the health of our communities. Ms. Ahern introduced Jeanie Knight a Senior Epidemiologist and Supervisor of the Investigation and Control of Disease (ICD) Program and introduced Dolores Dorffeld and Christy Gustafson both Community Health Nurses with the ICD Team. Ms. Knight gave a presentation explaining the required local performance measures by the legislation and an activity update. Sherri McDonald and Ms. Knight answered the Board's questions and provided information regarding the future of 5930 funding.

**7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Sherri McDonald provided a brief description, history and update of the Syringe Exchange Program. She also provided the status of the program moving into the fixed site at 407 Adams Street in downtown Olympia. Ms. McDonald stated the fixed site will enhance people's ability to obtain services and that it will be good for clients and staff alike.

Ms. McDonald addressed Mr. Charles Loosen's question regarding the County accepting private insurance for Family Planning Program services. She stated this option has been explored but was determined to not be cost effective.

**8) ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ATTEST:**

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SANDRA ROMERO, Chair

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Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

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CATHY WOLFE, Vice-Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner