Thurston County Public Health and Social Services

Mission, Vision, Values and Goals

The Thurston County 2014-2018 Strategic Plan states that the County’s mission in health and social services is:

“To promote conditions that support the health and well-being of individuals and families.”

The following Mission, Vision, Values and Goals support this mission:

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services works under the authority of the Thurston County Board of Health and Commissioners, with guidance from Thurston Thrives and other public/private partnerships.

Our Mission:

To promote healthful social, economic, and environmental conditions for all residents.

Our Vision for a Healthy Thurston County Includes:

- Clean air and water.
- Minimal exposure to hazardous materials.
- An adequate supply of safe, accessible and nutritious food.
- Safe, clean transportation for all who bus, walk, bike, or drive.
- A physical environment that supports active recreation.
- Affordable, prevention-oriented medical care.
- Integrated medical and social interventions when needed.
- Protection from communicable diseases.
- Post-secondary education leading to higher education, job training and employment.
- Living wage jobs.
- Safe, affordable and desirable housing for all, including those most at-risk.
- A community environment that encourages citizen engagement, social connections, resilience and compassionate care.
- Protection from childhood abuse, neglect, and other trauma.
- Timely response to public health emergencies.
Our Values:

TEAMWORK: We value the knowledge, skills and expertise of our staff and community partners; we seek broad input into policy development and shaping high quality service delivery; we recognize that teamwork, flexibility and cooperation make our organization work effectively.

RESPECT: We respect the public, other organizations and fellow employees. We maintain confidentiality, give high quality service to all, respond appropriately, and share information and opinions constructively. We are non-judgmental toward the people we serve, and those we work with.

CONSUMER FOCUS: To improve effectiveness, Public Health and Social Services welcomes consumers’ perspectives in the planning, design, and operation of programs and policies.

DIVERSITY: We value diversity. We seek the perspectives of diverse groups that make up our community. Our workforce reflects the diversity of our community.

STEWARDSHIP: We expect responsible use of the resources entrusted to the department.

Our Goals:

- We are leaders in creating community conditions that promote human health in the physical environment (water, food, carriers of infectious disease, and land use) and social environment (healthy eating, active living, and behavioral health).
- We support improvements in child development/resilience, clinical care, education, income and housing.
- We support housing, community renewal and care of people most at risk including low income persons, the mentally ill, those addicted to substances, the developmentally disabled, and veterans.
- We integrate behavioral health services with medical care and support evidence-based strategies to meet basic needs for shelter, especially for hard-to-place individuals leaving institutional and inpatient settings.
- We support adaptable, socially-integrated work, recreational and living environments for those with developmental or behavioral disabilities that respond to client and family preferences.
- We prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and promote resilient children and youth. Prevention and treatment services are available for children locally, and are integrated into their daily lives.
- We implement state-mandated public health programs, infectious disease surveillance and control, and environmental health protection with available resources.
- We encourage private initiative to address health issues as a first option and operate programs to the extent that financial resources allow and no other entity is willing or able.
- We work to assure that fees and contracts cover the full cost of program operations.
- We use proven strategies that are the least restrictive of personal freedoms and autonomy. We inform first, then educate, motivate, encourage, and warn. Where we have legal authority, we prohibit and sanction as a last resort.
- We promote efficiencies through technology.
- We serve people where they live or in places that are easily accessible by public transportation, or use telehealth to serve rural areas.
- We monitor health conditions and alert the community to developing threats.