



The mission of the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department is to make a positive, significant and measurable difference in the environmental, physical and mental health, safety and well being of our community.

Our Role:

HEALTH IS EVERYONE'S RIGHT - We work so that poverty, mental illness, chemical dependency, physical and developmental disabilities, and environmental degradation do not bar members of our community from good health.

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION - We work to prevent public health and social problems and intervene early to address problems and risks. We favor practices directed at root causes of health inequities associated with poverty, mental illness, chemical dependency, physical or developmental disabilities, environmental degradation and other disadvantages.

COLLABORATION - We see the Department as an integral part of the greater Thurston County community. Part of our role is to convene resources - to seek cooperation with and input from other individuals, jurisdictions and organizations to assure the needs of the community for health, safety and well being are met.

LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE - Although in our day-to-day work we often respond to crises and emergencies, we strive for a long-term view. Our role includes the development of policies to strengthen the long-term health of our community. We recognize that it often requires a long period of attention or rehabilitation to change lives, encourage health and growth, and help individuals achieve their potential.

ASSESSMENT AND EPIDEMIOLOGY - We value sound data and reliable information on which to base decisions and choices. Our role includes 1) assessing community public health status, community needs and environmental conditions, 2) communicating this information to the public, care and treatment providers, and policymakers; and 3) responding to changing needs and gaps in services.

Our Values:

TEAMWORK - We value the knowledge, skills and expertise of all departmental employees; we seek input and contribution to policy development and the shaping of high quality service delivery; we value the strength of teamwork and the flexibility and cooperation necessary to make our organization work effectively.

RESPECT - We show respect for members of the public, individuals in other organizations and fellow employees. We maintain confidentiality, give high quality service to everyone, respond appropriately, and share information and opinions constructively. We strive for a non-judgmental outlook toward the people we serve, and those with whom we work. We use the least intrusive method possible to achieve public health – informing and advising wherever possible, directing and controlling only when necessary.

CONSUMER FOCUS - We believe public health and social services policies and programs are most effective when consumers have a say in their planning, design and operation.

DIVERSITY - We value diversity. We seek the perspectives of the many cultural and socio-economic groups that comprise our community. We strive to reflect the diversity of our community in our workforce.

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