Update of Thurston Thrives Progress - April 2014

April 2014 is Public Health Month in Thurston County and is also the one year mark of Thurston Thrives, the Board of Health’s initiative to boost the health of everyone in our community. This is a summary of recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Thurston Thrives Core

Part of successful collective impact is building a backbone structure. This backbone:
- is the main organizing body for the effort;
- serves both scorekeeping and promotional functions.

The backbone for this initiative, which called the Thurston Thrives Core, requires some infrastructure (software, work space, and staffing) for tracking key measures across the action areas and communicating among action teams and with the public. Key stakeholders are being contacted about their interest in participating and contributing toward this Core and the continuation of Thurston Thrives in the action phase. The preliminary request info about supporting this Core can be found here.

The groups from the community (business, non-profit, philanthropic, and others) who are willing to contribute will have the opportunity do so in multiple ways:
- support the Core – the minimum $15,000 allows the organization to join a coordinating body, composed of the contributors at this level, which steers the overall Thurston Thrives effort.
- support action area(s), or combinations of teams into hubs from multiple action areas that have some close connections or shared strategies – various levels

Community Investment Partnership

This joint effort of the United Way of Thurston County and the local governments involved in the former Health & Human Services Council was formed to achieve greater alignment of two closely related resources in the community. The Community Investment Partnership RFP process that opened last month, recently concluded:
- strategy maps of Thurston Thrives action teams referenced by the RFP
- Over fifty applications received from across the county; > $1 million requested

The CIP is helping align a broad array of activities with both community priorities and health improvement objectives by encouraging consistency with Thurston Thrives. A review committee has been formed to examine the proposals.

Additional Alignment

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (TCPHSS) management has been directed to identify ways that the department’s various programs, projects and activities, across the three main divisions and its administration:
• **connect to and support the Thurston Thrives strategy maps,**
• can reshape contracts for services with various community service providers to more directly address Thurston Thrives strategies

Several TCPHSS programs are already identified in strategy maps; some areas of our work may need to be renewed or reformed.

Thurston Thrives strategy maps also have begun to guide the health department’s pursuit of new resources – for example, the Food and Economy strategies were the basis for a proposal TCPHSS submitted in March to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Mobilization for Health funding opportunity.

**Upcoming Community Events**

On **Wednesday April 30 from 3 pm to 6 pm**, the Community Resilience Action Team will host a community summit to develop the strategy for building greater community cohesion and connection. Engaging in key activities that are identified in the Thurston Thrives strategy maps is one of the ways that people can become more connected, thereby improving not only the health of the community but also the personal health of those people who volunteer.

On **Saturday May 3** Junior League of Olympia will host the second annual summit on **child and family resilience**, 9am-3:30pm at the Capital Event Center of Educational Service District 113 on Tyee Drive in Tumwater. This event is in support of, and to contribute toward, the Child & Youth Resilience strategies of Thurston Thrives and features a blend of multimedia presentations from parents and experts as well as group conversations about what works and where we should put our efforts.

Also on May 3, City of Lacey will host a community bicycle festival at Mountain View Elementary that provides traffic safety skill sessions and encourages bicycling to school just in time for Bicycle Commuter Contest month. Active transportation has recently been included in the national County Health Rankings project and such commute trip reduction and Safe Routes to School efforts are part of the Community Design and physical activity promotion efforts of Thurston Thrives.

**Bringing Thurston Thrives to Fruition**

The work of the Thurston Thrives action teams, the Board of Health and TCPHSS in support of this initiative will continue throughout 2014. Below is the tentative schedule of upcoming meetings of the Board of Health and Thurston Thrives Advisory Council:

- **June 10** – Environment Action Team presents; Preview of Remaining Work
- **July 8** – Community Resilience Action Team presents
- **August 12** – Clinical/Emergency Care Action Team presents
- **September 9** – Food Action Team reprise; Review all strategies & outcomes
- **TBD** -Retreat (likely early/mid November)
- Final meeting of the Thurston Thrives Advisory Council