

RESOLUTION NO. H-1-2018

A RESOLUTION declaring the opioid epidemic a public health crisis in Thurston County, and directing the Director of the Thurston Public Health and Social Services Department to convene a Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force that will create a response plan for approval by the Thurston County Board of Health.

WHEREAS, the Thurston County Board of Health under the authority of RCW 70.05.060 has supervision over all matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Washington State and Thurston County are currently experiencing an opioid epidemic leading to preventable deaths involving prescription opioids and heroin; and

WHEREAS, opioids prescribed and taken in the United States, Washington State, and Thurston County have led to a nationwide epidemic of opioid misuse, abuse, dependency, overdoses, and opioid related deaths; and

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic affects our communities, devastates families, and overwhelms our health care, social services, law enforcement, and judicial systems; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County ranks 15th of 39 counties in Washington State for the rate of opioid related hospitalizations and 29th of 39 counties for opioid related deaths in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, opioid use disorders are life threatening, chronic medical conditions that destroy lives; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase education about and improve access to medications that save lives by reversing overdoses and treatments that support recovery; and

WHEREAS, The Thurston County Board of Health seeks to address practices and conditions that cause a threat to the public's health and the safety and welfare of our community related to the opioid epidemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Health of Thurston County, State of Washington, does resolve:

Section 1. The opioid epidemic is declared a public health crisis in Thurston County.

Section 2. The Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services is directed to prioritize deploying available resources and seeking new resources and strategies to address the opioid epidemic by working together with others to form and convene a Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force to develop and implement a community-driven Response Plan. The Response Plan shall address the opioid epidemic and shall include implementation strategies. The proposed Response Plan shall be submitted to the Board of Health for approval. Once the Response Plan is approved, the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services will report to the Board of Health, on a biannual basis, the progress of implementing this plan.

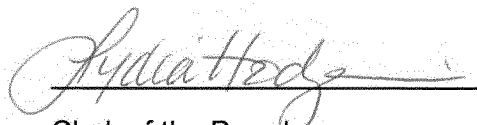
Section 3. The Response Plan shall include but not be limited to the following goals:

- Goal 1. Preventing opioid misuse, abuse and dependency by improving prescribing practices.
- Goal 2. Treating opioid abuse and dependence through expanded access to treatment.
- Goal 3. Preventing deaths from overdose by working to educate and expand the distribution of naloxone to individuals who use heroin and educating individuals about the signs of an overdose.
- Goal 4. Using existing data and enhancing data collection efforts to detect opioid and other illicit drug misuse/abuse and scientific evidence to inform the selection of strategies.
- Goal 5. Identifying and implementing innovative strategies that reduce the risk of overdose to individuals and diverse communities that are disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic and reduce stigma.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

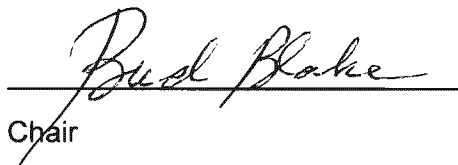
ADOPTED: June 14, 2018

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board

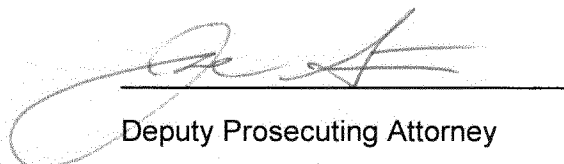
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington



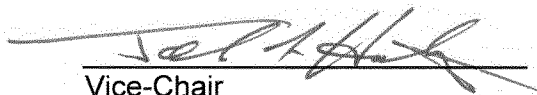
Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

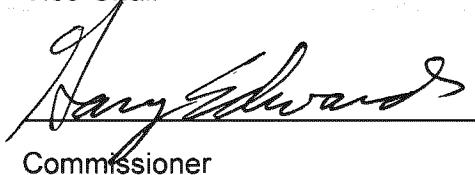
JON TUNHEIM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



Vice-Chair



Commisioner