



**Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
March 9, 2021**

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call/video.

Members Present

Scott Bader, Councilmember, Everett
Elisabeth Crawford, Councilmember, Mukilteo
Megan Dunn, County Councilmember
Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Councilmember, Edmonds– BOH Vice Chair
Christine Frizzell, Councilmember, Lynnwood
John Joplin, Councilmember, Brier
Anji Jorstad, Councilmember, Lake Stevens
Sam Low, County Councilmember
Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor, Mountlake Terrace
Nate Nehring, County Councilmember
Dan Rankin, Mayor, Darrington
Linda Redmon, Councilmember, Snohomish
Jeff Vaughan, Councilmember, Marysville
Stephanie Wright, County Councilmember – BOH Chair

Members Absent

Jared Mead, County Councilmember

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3:01 p.m. via Zoom conference call by Board Chair Stephanie Wright.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Ms. Linda Carl who reported there was a quorum present.

Arrivals/Departures

Mr. Rankin arrived at 3:04 p.m. Ms. Matsumoto Wright departed at 4:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Adrienne Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Ms. Anji Jorstad to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 2021. The motion passed with 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent (Mead, Rankin).

Public Comment

Public comment was accepted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Shawn Frederick read into the record an email from Mr. Leonard Kelley, Secretary Treasurer, Snohomish County Labor Council, regarding PROTEC17 members and its labor contract, and an email from Ms. Gail Fraser complimenting the Therese Quinn and the Medical Reserve Team. There was no further written comment received, and Chair Wright closed public comment.

Written Reports

Chair Wright noted that the following written reports can be found in the Board packet:



- a. Finance Manager's report for December 2020
- b. Program Policy Committee draft minutes – Feb. 18
- c. Administration Committee draft minutes – Feb. 24
- d. Executive Committee draft minutes – Feb. 25

Consent

It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded Mr. Scott Bader by to approve the following items on consent:

- a. Approve vouchers and Res. 21-10 authorizing February 2021 Health District expenditures
- b. Authorize the Administrative Officer to execute Amendment #19 to the Consolidated Contract
- c. Authorize Environmental Health staff to submit proposal to Washington Department of Ecology for the Pollution Prevention Assistance Partnership funds

The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 absent (Mead).

Briefings

Rucker Building update and presentation by Mahlum Architects (no staff report; S. Frederick)

Mahlum Architects provided a visual presentation of their design process and potential designs for the Rucker Building remodel for Board feedback. Presenters included Principal PJ Bauser, Designer Kari Heus, and Project Architect Tim Meyers. Next steps include cost estimates and project projection to put data parameters around the process.

2021 legislative update (no staff report; N. Thomsen, H. Thomas)

Ms. Nicole Thomsen provided an update on bills related to public health. She explained details of the current version of HB 1152 (boards of health restructuring). HB 5149 has not been brought forward; it remains in the Ways & Means Committee. Other tax bills are on hold. HB 1258 (home kitchens) is currently on the floor for consideration. Ms. Heather Thomas reported that the Federal stimulus package is making its way through Congress. If it passes, it will go to the President this week. Funds are available until expended (as currently written) and not all COVID-related. About \$7.6B is designated for public health workforce.

Action

Approve electronic signature policy (POL 100.002) (SR 21-021; N. Thomsen)

This policy provides guidelines for the use of electronic signatures and remote notarizations and determines the scope of the District's use of the electronic signature platforms and video conferencing for recording notarization, or any replacement platforms. It is the first policy relating to electronic signatures for the District. It calls out AdobeSign as the minimum threshold, but this could be changed over time. Legal counsel Grant Weed noted that there's a limitation on the number of individuals allowed to route for signatures externally and who's authorized.

It was moved by Mr. Bader and seconded by Ms. Jorstad to approve electronic signature policy (POL 100.002). The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 absent (Mead).

Executive Session

The Snohomish Health District Board of Health convened into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). Executive session is expected to last up to 10 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 4:19 p.m. and is not expected to take action. The Board announced they will extend executive session 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, and 3 minutes. They reconvened at 4:49 p.m. and did not take action.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Frederick reported that the new vital records kiosks are now onsite but are waiting to be fully functional. Most of our desktop technology is changing to virtual platforms to allow staff teleworking options. The Rucker Building was painted in 2020, and now we're working with Mahlum on a conceptual design for Board feedback. We continue to work to update and develop policies to improve clarity and structure. The District's finances will soon be available to the public utilizing ClearGov. Performance measures work is ongoing. Mr. Frederick gave a brief update on the District's COVID-related responses in the community with our community partners, including vaccine rates and expanded efforts for marginalized customers. Community groups, community leaders, and senior centers can email semesf8@co.snohomish.wa.us or esf8.activation@snoco.org with questions. Individuals needing assistance in connecting to appointments at mass vaccination sites can call the call center at 425-339-5278, which is staffed 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Health Officer's Report

Dr. Chris Spitters reported that the two-week case rate is down 20% to 84 – the lowest since late September/early October. LTC cases, hospital admissions, deaths, test-positivity rate, and demand for testing are all down. Almost 250,000 doses of the vaccine have been allocated to the county. Through Feb. 27, about 160,000 doses have been administered. Virtually all first doses allocated to Snohomish County providers have been administered. School faculty and childcare staff have been added to Phase 1B1 for vaccination eligibility. Phase 1B2 will be launched soon. Dr. Spitters reviewed eligibility and expectation of timelines for vaccinations.

Variant B.1.1.7 accounts for virtually all cases in southeast England due to its increased transmissibility. Its increased severity is questionable. Less prevalent are B.1.351 first recognized in South Africa and likely more transmissible than our current strains. The P.1 variant is similar to B.1.351 and is dominant in Brazil.

In the Pacific Northwest, we have a low number of variants detected. In the state, about 2.5% of positive PCR tests have been forwarded for gene sequencing to look for variants. Dr. Spitters reviewed the Johnson & Johnson vaccine efficacy against the variants. By increased vaccinations and continued prevention measures, we can reduce the pool from which future variants can arise. It's likely in the future we'll have to update the vaccine and receive periodic boosters. He reviewed single-dose efficacy of all vaccines; however, the policy remains two doses (for those vaccinations requiring two).

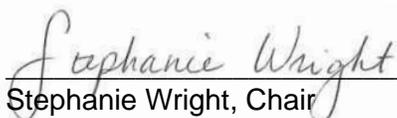
The isolation and quarantine health officer order was recently updated (HOO 21-006) to harmonize with current guidance. The CDC updated (and the state adopted) guidance on fully vaccinated individuals.

Information Items

Chair Wright announced upcoming meetings. Mr. Frederick announced that Sarah de Jong is the new Executive Assistant replacing Linda Carl after her retirement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.



Stephanie Wright, Chair



Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary