



**Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
September 13, 2022**

The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Rucker Building and via Zoom conference call/video.

Members Present via Zoom

Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Councilmember, Lynnwood – BOH Chair (Virtual)
Elisabeth Crawford, Councilmember, Mukilteo (Virtual)
Megan Dunn, County Councilmember (Virtual)
Joseph Hund, Councilmember, Sultan (Virtual)
Mark James, Councilmember, Marysville (Virtual)
Anji Jorstad, Councilmember, Lake Stevens – Vice Chair
Heather Logan, Councilmember, Arlington (Virtual)
Sam Low, County Councilmember (Virtual)
Nate Nehring, County Councilmember
Neil Tibbott, Councilmember, Edmonds (Virtual)
Stephanie Vignal, Councilmember, Mill Creek (Virtual)

Members Absent

Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor, Mountlake Terrace
Jared Mead, County Councilmember
Ben Zarlingo, Councilmember, Everett

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order using a hybrid setting at 3:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Anji Jorstad.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Ms. Sarah de Jong who reported there was a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda Contents and Order

It was moved by Ms. Heather Logan and seconded by Mr. Neil Tibbott to approve the agenda contents and order. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Business

Oath of Office

City of Sultan Councilmember Joseph Hund was sworn in as a Board member by legal counsel Nikki Thompson.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Logan and seconded by Ms. Stephanie Vignal to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Megan Dunn and seconded by Ms. Logan to approve the minutes of the special retreat meeting of August 25-26, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Jorstad opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was received and Ms. Jorstad closed public comment.

Action

Vouchers and Res. 22-22 authorizing Health District expenditures from July 16, 2022, to August 15, 2022 (no staff report; T. Kellogg)

It was moved by Ms. Vignal and seconded by Ms. Dunn to approve vouchers and Res. 22-22 authorizing Health District expenditures from July 16, 2022, to August 15, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Res. 22-21 recognizing and honoring National Hispanic Heritage Month (SR 22-083; S. Frederick)

Mr. Shawn Frederick read aloud the resolution in English. Ms. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby then read the resolution in Spanish.

It was moved by Ms. Altamirano-Crosby and seconded by Ms. Stephanie Vignal to approve Res. 22-21 recognizing and honoring National Hispanic Heritage Month. The motion passed unanimously.

Thompson, Guildner, and Associates legal counsel amendment (SR 22-078; S. Frederick)

Mr. Frederick shared that the current agreement with the District's legal counsel expires today. Due to the pending merge, staff are requesting extending the agreement through the dissolution of the Health District. Once a date is known for the dissolution, an amendment can be drafted that would state the actual date of termination.

It was moved by Mr. Tibbott and seconded by Ms. Heather Logan to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the amendment with Thompson, Guildner, and Associates. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Resolution 22-23, establishing every Thursday at 12 p.m. at the main offices of Snohomish Health District located at 3020 Rucker Avenue, Everett, Washington, and via virtual meeting platform, as the set day, time, and location of its regular Executive Committee meeting (SR 22-085; S. Frederick)

At its July Board meeting, the Board of Health approved adopting a resolution that suspended the division of responsibilities and delegated decision making authority to the Executive Committee specific to matters related to the County withdrawal. The purpose of this Resolution 22-23 would allow the Executive Committee to meet more frequently and ensure timely action is taken when required.

It was moved by Ms. Vignal and seconded by Ms. Logan to approve Resolution 22-23, establishing every Thursday at 12 p.m. at the main offices of Snohomish Health District located at 3020 Rucker Avenue, Everett, Washington, and via virtual meeting platform, as the set day, time, and location of its regular Executive Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to apply for the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) grant: Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the local level (SR 22-076; P. Sampaga-Khim)

The Health District currently has an Overdose to Action grant through the CDC that focuses on data collection through area hospitals and mitigation non-fatal overdoses. This grant would allow the District to expand this surveillance data to include current law enforcement agency partners and other public safety partners in the community. It would also allow increased outreach to target communities that are disproportionately affected by opioid use and overdose.

It was moved by Ms. Logan and seconded by Ms. Vignal to authorize the Administrative Officer to apply for the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) grant: Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the local level. The motion passed unanimously.

Briefings

Stipends for community members to participate in the Community Health Assessment (SR 22-086; K. Curtis)

The Health District has received funds through Foundation Public Health that are earmarked for the Community Health Assessment (CHA). To help encourage public participation, the District is able to offer stipends to community members for this work.

Department Director hiring process

Mr. Frederick introduced Ms. Lacey Harper from the County Executive's Office. Ms. Harper briefed the Board on the County's process for hiring a public health department director. That position will be an equivalent role to the Health District's administrator. The process of hiring a director is clearly laid out in the Snohomish County Charter and that process will be followed. County staff will be seeking approving from the County Council to hire a temporary project manager position that will transition into the Health Department Director on January 1. The County plans on working and consulting with Board of Health and Public Health Advisory Council members through this process.

Executive Session

The Snohomish Health District Board of Health recessed and convened into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing with legal counsel the legal risk of a potential action pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii) and pending litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Executive Session is expected to last up to 20 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 4:03 p.m. and is not expected to take action. The Board of Health extended Executive Session 10 minutes and 5 minutes, and reconvened into regular session at 4:18 p.m. and did not take action.

Health Officer's Report

COVID-19. Dr. James Lewis shared that the county is currently in the low COVID-19 category with 78 new cases per 100,000 population over a seven-day period. New COVID-19 hospital admissions have also seen a decline and are currently down to 5.5 per 100,000 population over a seven day period. The percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients for a seven-day average is down to 8%. However, it's important to note that hospitals test for COVID upon admittance, whether COVID contributed to their hospitalization or not, and so this metric is likely inflated.

The CDC has updated their guidance that deemphasizes quarantine and mask wearing for the general public. The new bivalent vaccine has been approved and recommended for those 12 years old and up. This vaccine replaces the monovalent for boosters and will likely be an annual booster moving forward. As this vaccine is new, it's in high demand and will be in short supply until production meets demand. HHS has also created a website that allows you to search for vaccine locations by zip code and sort by vaccine type.

Monkeypox. There are more than 488 monkeypox cases in Washington State. The hospitalization rate remains low and the overall severity appears to be low. 96% of cases are male and 46% are Hispanic. Mitigation efforts employed include prioritizing vaccine for people who have been exposed and also for those that have not been exposed but are considered at a high risk of exposure.

Fall Flu Season. Public health professionals are expecting a greater than normal increase in respiratory illnesses this fall, which would add pressure to the already stressed healthcare system. Area hospitals are aware of this and working to mitigate potential negative outcomes.

Childhood Vaccinations. Vaccination rates for children has dropped over the course of the pandemic. Current rates for vaccination against polio were at 75.9% in December 2021, about a 9% drop since June 2019. Looking at full vaccination coverage for children ages four to six years old is around 58%. This low vaccination rate puts the county at risk for an outbreak.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Frederick shared the following updates:



- A memorandum of understanding has been signed with Housing Authority of Snohomish County for the District's child lead prevention program. This is the first of many agreements that will be signed for this work.
- The District was a recipient to an award given by Congresswoman Suzan Del Bene that provides \$250,000 for telehealth and electronic health records. Congresswoman Del Bene will be planning to visit the Health District later this year to present the award in person.
- A contractor has been selected and will soon begin work to fix the sinkholes in the parking lots.
- Dave Gossett, the consultant hired by the Health District to help with the County public health integration, has been very helpful in keeping tasks organized.
- The budget ad hoc committee met for the second time this year earlier today. Today's presentation laid out the plan for the remainder of the year. The committee will go through each division's budgets one at a time and by the middle of October we plan to bring forward the preliminary budget through all committees.
- The District has acquired five Chevrolet Traverses and are expecting four Ford Escapes. These are all gas vehicles as there are currently no options for electric or hybrid vehicles available.
- Mr. Frederick will be out of the office beginning Thursday, September 15 and will return Monday, October 3.

Information Items

Ms. Sarah de Jong shared the upcoming meetings.

Written Reports

Ms. Jorstad noted that the following reports can be found in the Board packet:

- a. Finance Manager's Report for May 2022 (SR 22-070; T. Kellogg)
- b. Program Policy Committee draft minutes – July 21
- c. Executive Committee draft minutes – July 22
- d. Administration Committee draft minutes – July 27
- e. Executive Committee draft minutes – July 28
- f. Executive Committee draft minutes – August 9
- g. Executive Committee draft minutes – August 31
- h. Public Health Advisory Council special meeting draft minutes – July 27

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.



Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, PHD
Chair, Board of Health



Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary