



**Snohomish Health District  
Board of Health Minutes  
February 11, 2020**

The meeting was held at Snohomish Health District, 3020 Rucker Ave., first floor Auditorium.

**Members Present**

Scott Bader, Councilmember, Everett  
Elisabeth Crawford, Councilmember, Mukilteo  
Megan Dunn, County Councilmember  
Christine Frizzell, Councilmember, Lynnwood  
John Joplin, Councilmember, Brier  
Anji Jorstad, Councilmember, Lake Stevens  
Sam Low, County Councilmember (via phone)  
Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor, Mountlake Terrace – BOH Vice Chair (via phone)  
Dan Rankin, Mayor, Darrington  
Linda Redmon, Councilmember, Snohomish  
Stephanie Wright, County Councilmember – BOH Chair  
Jeff Vaughan, Councilmember, Marysville

**Members Absent**

Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Councilmember, Edmonds  
Nate Nehring, County Councilmember

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Stephanie Wright in the auditorium of the Snohomish Health District Rucker Building.

**Roll Call**

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

**Arrivals/Departures**

Scott Bader and Dan Rankin arrived at 3:05 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda Contents and Order**

This item was omitted.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Linda Redmon asked for clarification from Dr. Spitters regarding his Interim Health Officer's report and if "EMS" was supposed to say "DEM." Dr. Spitters stated his comments at last month's meeting were related to emergency medical services transporting patients. Mr. Shawn Frederick added that DEM's level of involvement regarding the coronavirus response increased after last month's Board meeting, including making their space available for our call center and participating in regular meetings.

It was moved by Ms. Linda Redmon and seconded by Mr. Dan Rankin to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.



### **Special Business**

#### *Swearing in of new Board members*

New Board member Christine Frizzell was sworn in by legal counsel Grant Weed.

### **Public Comment**

There were no volunteers to speak during public comment. Public comment was closed.

### **Division Update**

Jennifer Reid, Healthy Community Specialist, gave an update regarding Tobacco 21 and vaping. Ms. Reid's primary role is youth tobacco prevention; she works with school districts and parents regarding tobacco and vaping prevention. She's working on a pilot program with two school districts (Granite Falls and Lakewood) to provide an online class for students who vape at school in lieu of being suspended. She hopes that next year it will be offered at more school districts. She also works with Environmental Health, apartment complexes, and cities regarding smoking in public places. A new Washington law requires that sales of tobacco products are now limited to those 21 and over; Ms. Reid provides awareness outreach through social media.

### **Briefings**

#### *Legislative update (no staff report)*

Ms. Heather Thomas stated that Snohomish County is working with King County and the Washington State Department of Health to request reimbursement from the state for expenses related to the coronavirus that aren't covered under public health emergency preparedness dollars. Clark County set the precedence last year when they put in a request to be reimbursed for expenses related to the measles outbreak. Staff is working closely with Rep. Robinson and Rep. Cody on the request, which will go to the legislature on Friday.

Bills in front of the legislature include a surplus bill in the appropriations committee. An amendment brought forward by Rep. Stokesbary adds a tax on for-profit insurance carriers, not just nonprofit carriers. Rep. Robinson also added an amendment for nonprofit carriers that go above 600%. It's estimated that this bill, if passed, could bring in \$80M/year to statewide foundational public health services and to individuals who don't qualify under federal healthcare plans. The bill passed out of appropriations.

Ms. Nicole Thomsen highlighted several other bills that align with our approved legislative priorities, including bills to restructure the vape tax, a ban on vape flavors, an opioid impact account, and authorizing residential home kitchens.

#### *Health Officer salary range (SR 20-007)*

This item was removed from the agenda.

### **Action**

#### **Approve vouchers and Res. 20-03 authorizing January 2020 Health District expenditures (no staff report)**

It was moved by Mr. Scott Bader and seconded by Mr. John Joplin to approve vouchers and Res. 20-03 authorizing January 2020 Health District expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the medical services consultant agreement with Dr. Christopher Spitters to continue his role as the Interim Health Officer (SR 20-008)**

It was moved by Ms. Redmon and seconded by Mr. Bader to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the medical services consultant agreement with Dr. Christopher Spitters to continue his role as the Interim Health Officer. The motion passed unanimously.



### **Administrative Officer's Report**

Mr. Frederick stated that staff has logged over 1,000 hours to the coronavirus response so far. There's a high level of media interest, and we were recently featured in The New York Times. We continue to capture staff hours and cost involved in the response – not only for the purpose of reimbursement but also for reporting requirements based on our division of responsibilities.

Earlier this week Nancy Furness attended a meeting with the Department of Health and potential new providers of WIC services in our community. At the meeting they reviewed the application and process. DOH will make their final decision by April 1.

Mr. Frederick reached out to the property manager at the Lynnwood building and is waiting for a response. Next we'll begin discussing how to market that space for a replacement tenant. Our lease is about \$250,000/year with 1% increases through 2023.

A week ago Mr. Frederick met with County Councilmember Ryan and legal counsel Grant Weed to discuss the leasing agreement. A new leasing agreement was drafted; Mr. Frederick is reviewing it with the intent to provide it to our leasing agent by the end of the week. The leasing agent will help us identify potential tenants for the Rucker Building. A different process will be used when we begin looking for tenants for the Lynnwood building.

The Rucker Building Task Force met last week and directed staff to begin the process of developing an RFQ to identify a general contractor for the design of the Rucker Building, primarily the first floor. The intent is to move the majority of staff to the first floor and lease the second and third floors. Mr. Frederick plans to move forward as quickly as possible.

Mr. Frederick met with three of the five new Board members so far. Discussions have included how to present data and information to the Board to ensure communication is effective. If any Board members would like to meet with Mr. Frederick, please let him know; he's also available via phone or email. He thanked those Board members and staff who attended legislative day in Olympia last week, and he thanked those involved in the coronavirus response.

### **Interim Health Officer's Report**

Dr. Chris Spitters provided an update on the coronavirus situation. It's been four weeks since the individual who was the first U.S. case of the virus reentered the country and returned to Snohomish County. That person is now in recovery and doing well. Nationally, there are 11 others who have been diagnosed with the virus. To date Dr. Spitters is aware of only one case of the virus transmitted from an infected individual to their spouse. California has six total cases.

Related to the Snohomish County patient in recovery, we've identified about 60 contacts in the healthcare setting (clinicians and people in the waiting room) and the infected individual's workplace in King and Snohomish Counties. The appropriate health jurisdictions followed through the 14-day incubation period with those contacts. All Snohomish County individuals are now through the 14 days. During that time, three developed an illness and were tested for the coronavirus; all three were negative. There have been no secondary transmissions from these individuals. The CDC did an enhanced investigation in which they tested all the individual's identified contacts; to date there are no positive results. In other situations when the CDC did an enhanced investigation, they found individuals who were asymptomatic who tested positive. We continue to monitor about 10 healthcare providers who came into contact with the individual; Providence has the lead on that monitoring.

About 5,000 returning travelers come to the U.S. from China per day at this point; the numbers will presumably decrease over time. Thus far, since the enhanced screening upon return at SeaTac was implemented, about 200-250 people statewide have been identified by the system as medium risk – those individuals who aren't sick and don't have a fever but who are coming from mainland China. High risk is someone coming from the epicenter in Wuhan, China, or who has had close contact with someone from that region. Thirty-five people have been identified as high risk. High-risk individuals are asked to self-quarantine at home and told they will



be contacted by their local health department. The job of our epidemiology and Prevention Services staff is to educate, monitor, and communicate with them through the 14-day incubation period. They're told to check their temperature twice daily and keep a log. Should they develop symptoms of the coronavirus, they'll be isolated and tested. If the numbers go up, we'll work with DOH on triaging the situation and getting help.

Healthcare providers who do the testing must be appropriately trained in the process and wear protective gear. Initially those being tested for the virus previously went to Providence; we now have access to a home assessment team provided by Harborview in collaboration with King County. This likely isn't sustainable in the event this continues, so we're looking at expanding testing options.

Containment with no secondary transmission is the goal. But as the CDC has noted, the containment efforts may or may not prove to be successful in perpetually interrupting the establishment of sustained transmission of the virus in the U.S. Many resources will continue to be invested for containment, which buys time for health departments and healthcare systems to gear up and respond in the event this becomes a large-scale issue should sustained transmission be established. We're working with the Everett Clinic, which is working on a contingency plan for their walk-in clinic network in the event cases increase. Additionally, we're looking at our state and federal partners for technical guidance, and we're at the table with our local partners to help navigate the situation.

In response to a question from Ms. Redmon, Dr. Spitters stated that we're currently tracking 36 individuals. Ms. Redmon asked about a case where an individual initially tested negative then tested positive and were asymptomatic. Dr. Spitters was unable to respond to that particular case. He's unaware if the CDC has done two rounds of testing elsewhere.

Ms. Redmon asked about teen cessation options regarding nicotine-replacement therapy shown in the flyer Ms. Reid provided. Ms. Redmon said she's unfamiliar with teens getting prescriptions for nicotine replacement. Dr. Spitters said he's only provided it in the past to adults, but he doesn't see a problem if the clinician deems it appropriate for their patient.

### **Executive Session**

Chair Wright stated that the Snohomish Health District Board of Health will convene into executive session for the purposes of pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and personnel matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). Executive session is expected to last up to 30 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 4:37 p.m. and may or may not take action.

The Board extended executive session for 10 minutes. They reconvened at 4:47 p.m. and took no action.

### **Information Items**

Chair Wright reviewed upcoming meetings.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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Stephanie Wright, Chair

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Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary