

REPORT FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Executive Committee Meeting

Regular meeting of March 26, 2020

Committee members attending: Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Anji Jorstad, Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Nate Nehring, Stephanie Wright

Committee members absent: None

Staff present: Shawn Frederick, Heather Thomas, Nancy Furness, Ragina Gray, Heather Thomas, Pam Aguilar, Tracey Kellogg, Grant Weed (legal counsel), Linda Carl

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order via conference call by Chair Stephanie Wright at 11:31 a.m. Chair Wright reminded everyone that this is a public meeting and there may be members of the public or media on the line.

Motions passed at this meeting:

- Approved minutes for the regular meeting of Feb. 27, 2020
- Adopted Res. 20-09 approving the Snohomish Health District to serve as its own custodian of funds, and forwarded to the full Board for action
- Authorized the Administrative Officer to approve filling two budgeted positions for full-time public health nurses in the maternal-child health program, and forwarded to the full Board on consent
- Authorized the Administrative Officer to approve filling a budgeted, vacant position for a 1.0 FTE environmental health specialist in the food safety program, and forwarded to the full Board on consent
- Suspended until the end of the declaration of emergency the requirement that the Board approves filling budgeted vacancies

Briefings

Food permit and refunds [added at the beginning of the meeting]

Mr. Shawn Frederick received a letter from the Washington Hospitality Association requesting a financial relief for food establishments by waiving permitting fees. Local food establishments generally pay their fees in December. However, fees for some temporary establishments—such as local fairs and events—are collected during the year. During the COVID-19 outbreak, however, these temporary events are being canceled. Mr. Frederick reported that so far we've collected just under \$2.2M in fees (about 1/7th of the total budget). A 50% refund would be just over \$1M; a two-month refund would be about \$362K; a one-month refund would be about \$181K. He did not have numbers for what the average cost is per establishment. He noted that a \$1M loss would be significant, but offered to look into if all or a portion would be recoverable or reimbursable. Ms. Fraley-Monillas expressed concern that waiving fees might be a financial hardship to the Health District. Chair Wright expressed her understanding of the request but is not sure the stimulus will cover this loss. The committee gave Mr. Frederick direction to work with EH and finance staff regarding current permitting status and see if there is an opportunity for economic backfill or reimbursement.

Executive Committee review of Administrative Officer's hours, March 2-15 (no staff report)

The committee reviewed Mr. Frederick's time entry, as was requested at the Board's special meeting on March 18.

COVID-19 update (no staff report)

Mr. Frederick reported that we recently entered in a unified command with DEM. The hope was that we would no longer need our own operations center; however, our center will once again go live with Mr. Bruce Straughn as the operations manager. We'll continue to focus on case investigations and the drive-through test site. Key staff, along with Rep. June Robinson, are working at the emergency coordination center (ECC). As of this morning, Snohomish County has 816 confirmed/probable cases, 18 deceased, 418 recovered (51%), and 288 with unknown status (not yet assessed).

We had anticipated that DOH would take over all case investigations to free our staff to focus on long-term-care facilities and cluster investigations. However, DOH can't meet the need, so we're going to take back case investigation. To manage it, our disease investigators and staff in healthy communities will do case investigation. Dr. Spitters is in contact with local colleges to see if qualified students could work as volunteers or temps.

Several medical facilities have started closing. Mr. Frederick will reach out to see if we can partner and potentially use their employees so they aren't laid off. The call center was previously suspended and callers were referred to 211; but the call center will be reestablished. As of yesterday, the drive-through site tested 540 people. The site is in conjunction with several community partners. Mr. Frederick was contact by Mayor Durkin's office regarding a Seattle drive-through site. Currently only Snohomish and Pierce Counties have drive-through testing sites, although Pierce County may opt out. This week we received 2,000 tests, King County received 4,000, and Pierce County received about 1,200-1,400. We would like to expand testing throughout Snohomish County and partner with the five-county region to facilitate their own or partner sites. We completed 195 drive-through tests yesterday.

Next meeting date: Thursday, April 23, 11:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.