



**Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
May 12, 2020**

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
Christine Frizzell, Councilmember, Lynnwood
John Joplin, Councilmember, Brier
Anji Jorstad, Councilmember, Lake Stevens
Sam Low, County Councilmember
Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor, Mountlake Terrace – BOH Vice Chair
Jared Mead, County Councilmember
Nate Nehring, County Councilmember
Dan Rankin, Mayor, Darrington
Linda Redmon, Councilmember, Snohomish
Stephanie Wright, County Councilmember – BOH Chair
Jeff Vaughan, Councilmember, Marysville

Members Absent

None

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3:02 p.m. via Zoom conference call by Chair Stephanie Wright.

Roll Call

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

Arrivals/Departures

Scott Bader arrived at 3:04 p.m.; Linda Redmon arrived at 3:06 p.m.

Approval of Agenda Contents and Order

It was moved by Ms. Adrienne Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Mr. Dan Rankin to approve the agenda contents and order. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Ms. Christine Frizzell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 14. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Public comment was accepted in writing prior to the meeting. Chair Wright reported no written comments were received.



Written Reports

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

Consent

It was moved by Ms. Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Mr. Dan Rankin to approve the following items on consent:

- a. Approve vouchers and Res. 20-11 authorizing April 2020 Health District expenditures
- b. Adopt Res. 20-12 approving the waiver of a late fee for all water recreation facilities that open to the public after May 31, 2020

The motion passed unanimously.

Briefings

COVID-19 update (no staff report)

Mr. Shawn Frederick reported we're at 2,999 cases of COVID-10; 120 have died. Of those cases, 68.3% are recovered, based on new definitions that requires a longer time beyond onset of symptom than used previously. (Initial recovery beyond onset of symptoms was 14 days; it is now 28 days.) There appears to be a slight uptick in COVID patients in local hospitals. Posts on social media appear to be aggressive toward public health staff, including case investigators. This information has been shared with authorities and other local health jurisdictions. In response, Mr. Frederick is looking into extending the time our security staff is in the Rucker Building, and limiting the hours staff are allowed in the building.

Sea Mar / WIC transition (SR 20-034)

Ms. Nancy Furness reported that transition will occur July 1. Sea Mar has requested to rent space in the Rucker Building for three to six months. Inventory of state-purchased equipment was submitted to DOH; equipment will be transferred to Sea Mar. A list of Health District staff interested in continuing WIC employment has been provided to Sea Mar.

Performance evaluation tool (SR 20-038)

Ms. Pam Aguilar shared the final forms with the Board. Some staff evaluations have been delayed due to the COVID response. She continues to work on getting the process automated through NeoGov.

Emergency telecommuting policy (SR 20-039)

This policy was created in March using the County's policy template in response to COVID. Ms. Aguilar reported about half of Health District staff are telecommuting. In a recent staff survey, staff generally reported they enjoy telecommuting. Mr. Frederick added that tied to telecommuting is how big of a footprint we need within the Rucker Building and how much space we can lease out. We also need to look at policy control and performance measures before bring a permanent telecommuting policy forward.

Public Health Foundation Ad Hoc Committee (no staff report)

Ms. Heather Thomas reported that the committee has met twice and is scheduled to meet again this Thursday. Legal counsel has researched and prepared documents. The committee has worked through some key threshold decisions for recommendations to the executive committee and the Board. The committee agreed that the foundation's purpose will be to support priorities identified in the community health assessments and community health improvement plans.



Executive Session

Chair Wright announced that the Snohomish Health District Board of Health will convene into executive session for the purpose of potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Executive session is expected to last up to 5 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 3:34 p.m. and is not expected to take action.

The Board announced one extension and reconvened into regular session at 3:46 p.m. No action was taken.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Frederick reported that the Health District has a significant presence at DEM including staff rotation as the ECC manager, ESF8 (emergency support functions in public health and healthcare), and PPE resourcing. We're working to develop a consistent practice to improve coordination and communication within our agency and across other agencies. We're also working locally to increase testing capacity; appx. 2,000 tests per week are being conducted in the county, which includes our healthcare partners. This is on the low end for containment efforts; models suggest that number be 6,000 to 10,000 per week. We've requested funding through several resources to increase our capacity. To increase our testing across the county, we're doing some limited testing utilizing the new Abbott ID Now device, and we continue to test in long-term care facilities using conventional nasal swabs. Point-of-care testing devices provide results quickly, but volume of tests are limited (about four per hour). Along with increasing testing capacity and to remove some of the mitigation measures in order to reopen the county, we need to do more contact tracing. Staff in various departments and volunteers have been trained to do case investigations. More volunteers are expected to be trained for case investigation and contact tracing in order to move away from mitigation and to containment. The governor would like 1,500 case investigators in the state, including National Guard troops that are available through June.

Mr. Frederick met with our listing agent and the Lynnwood property owner and discussed a replacement tenant after WIC transitions out of the Health District. The building appears to be close to lease-ready.

Since March we've had two IT system failures, which impacted our electronic health record and our databases that support as-built records. In both cases, Snohomish County IT created workarounds. We're waiting for replacement switches, servers, and memory devices to do a rebuild of the system.

The Rucker Building task force met last week and discussed RFQ to look at design of the building. One consideration is Sea Mar potentially renting WIC space. The RFQ is ready and will go out as soon as a few administrative items are worked out, including how to effectively conduct walk-throughs. We're in the early stages of developing the RFQ for pressure washing and painting the building. We're in the process of replacing the wheelchair lift and are just waiting for the arrival of the device. We also need to conduct surplus property removal to prepare the building for lease. We may ask the Board for a revision of our surplus property policy in order to dispose of items sooner. We plan to stage the building for virtual showing.

Health Officer's Report

Dr. Chris Spitters provided a high-level update regarding COVID-19 and provided a PPT presentation to the Board. He reported there was a steady rise of cases that peaked in late March. He reviewed disease reproductive data as well as traffic data from March through now. Reproductive rate relates to three factors: number of contacts, transmission rate, and duration. Preventative measures (such as social distancing, face coverings, etc.) address those three factors. In summary, he noted that the decline of cases has plateaued, hospitalizations are slowly increasing, traffic/movement is increasing, and key tools are within people's control (continue social distancing and personal hygiene, use cloth face coverings, and remain home as much as possible). Our community will likely be affected by this for several years; in the meantime we want to balance prevention and transmission with human activity needs (economic, education, etc.). It likely involves controlling



multiple factors over time, including rapid testing. It's possible there may be additional rounds of social distancing requirements in the future.

Information Items

Chair Wright announced upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Stephanie Wright, Chair

Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary