



**Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
August 11, 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
Nate Nehring, County Councilmember
Dan Rankin, Mayor, Darrington
Linda Redmon, Councilmember, Snohomish
Stephanie Wright, County Councilmember – BOH Chair
Jeff Vaughan, Councilmember, Marysville

Members Absent

Jared Mead, County Councilmember

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3 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.

Approval of Agenda Contents and Order

It was moved by Ms. Anji Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Linda Redmon to approve the agenda contents and order. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 absent.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Christine Frizzell and seconded by Ms. Jorstad to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 14, 2020. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 absent.

Public Comment

Public comment was accepted in writing prior to the meeting. Two written comments were received:

1. Phillip O'Conner, executive editor of The Daily Herald, requested that the editorial that was published in The Herald on Friday, Aug. 7, be read aloud during the public comment portion. The editorial addressed the request to the Health District to continue through the end of the year the current data-sharing agreement regarding information on deaths in the county.
2. Mr. Craig Purfeerst requested the Board to continue to provide to the public data-sharing notices regarding death and dissolution.

Full written comments were read aloud by Administrative Officer Shawn Frederick into the public record.



Written Reports

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

- Finance Manager's report for May 2020
- Administration Committee draft minutes – July 22
- Executive Committee draft minutes – July 23

Consent

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

- Approve vouchers and Res. 20-20 authorizing July 2020 Health District expenditures (no staff report; T. Kellogg)
- Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign Amendment #15 to the Department of Health consolidated contract for 2018-2020
- Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the Snohomish County investment pool terms and conditions

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

Briefings

2019 Annual Financial Report filing (SR 20-058; T. Kellogg)

There was a slight variation in the deficit at the end of 2019 primarily due to the HVAC replacement and some adjustment to leave accruals and related expenditures due to the way we record it on a monthly basis and the way we have to report it annually. Ms. Tracey Kellogg reported that the audit started last Monday.

HRSA grant update (SR 20-065; H. Thomas)

The Board previously approved staff to apply for the second phase (implementation grant) for the Health Resources Services Administration, a subset of Health & Human Services at the federal level. Ms. Heather Thomas reported that we were awarded a \$1M grant over three years. This allows for two census tracts (Darrington and parts of Sky Valley). The award goes into effect Sept. 1.

Action

Adopt Res. 20-19 expressing support for the formation of a public benefit nonprofit charitable corporation/foundation for the purpose of assisting with funding and the provision of unmet public health needs (SR 20-063; H. Thomas)

The resolution includes a provision for \$50,000 for the Health District to provide in-kind support through 2021 for legal and other expected upfront expenses (not including in-kind staff time).

It was moved by Ms. Redmon and seconded by Mr. Dan Rankin to adopt Res. 20-19 expressing support for the formation of a public benefit nonprofit charitable corporation/foundation for the purpose of assisting with funding and the provision of unmet public health needs. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 absent.

Executive Session

The Snohomish Health District Board of Health convened into executive session for the purposes of collective bargaining matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) and potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Chair Wright stated that Executive session is expected to last up to 20 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 3:51 p.m. and is not expected to take action. The Board reconvened into regular session at 3:51 and did not take action.



Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Frederick reported that the equity team met recently to discuss the process of moving forward with a series of brown-bag discussions. On July 23, Mr. Frederick met with emergency management and public health representatives from Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties, along with the Northwest Healthcare Response Network and Admiral Bono regarding ongoing dialogue and coordinated conversations about our COVID response. They also discussed PPE distribution and supply-chain issues. On July 27, Mr. Frederick met with County Executive staff to present the 2021 budget request. The request includes \$1.6M for TB and CD control, plus \$600,000 for per capita contribution. The 2020 budget report is due Sept. 1 to the County's senior analyst, which outlines the 2020 budget performance and was part of the County's budget allocation. On July 31, Prevention Services Director Nancy Furness retired after 30 years with the Health District, and 42 years in nursing. On August 1, Katie Curtis assumed the acting director role in PS. Malhum Architects was selected for the Rucker Building remodel after the RFP process. The budget ad hoc committee will have its first meeting this Friday. Testing capacity for COVID has been expanded and a single site established at the Broadway location; the capacity is 500 tests per day, plus targeted population-based testing. Mr. Frederick has been working with staff and the County on agritourism and has met with local farmers regarding reasonable guidance for that industry. In response to Mr. Low's question related to The Herald's request for continued data sharing, Mr. Frederick stated that we have a legal interpretation based on the current WAC, as well as the WAC moving forward after Jan. 1; relevant data can still be obtained from the Department of Health.

Health Officer's Report

Dr. Chris Spitters reported on the TB control program and two recent patients with challenging treatments, both of whom have recovered. He then provided a COVID-19 update. The weekly report went to the Board this morning. Rates over time (two-week average) were increasing and topped off the final week of July; the rates declined slightly since then. Younger age groups are the predominant contributor to recent increasing numbers (whereas older groups were affected at greater rates in the first wave). Contributing factors for decreasing numbers could be increased contact tracing as well as successful messaging. Dr. Spitters reviewed mobility modeling, the reproductive rates in the state, and local testing numbers. Widespread asymptomatic testing was reduced, which may explain the decline in overall testing; however, the total number of positives is still similar. In response to Board member questions, Dr. Spitters noted that around 10% of the county's population has been tested, but he'll follow up with the Board with a specific number. The death rate has declined, and Dr. Spitters noted that older age groups (which contribute to a higher death rate) are being hospitalized less in this wave of infections. To move to phase 3, the Governor will have to reopen the application process. Unless rules are changed, we'll look at our data based on the previous application framework and metrics. He noted that face coverings provide low-level protection to the wearer but are mostly to protect others, and, along with the other suggestions (social distancing, etc.), are helpful in reducing transmission. It's possible the virus will be a seasonal occurrence, regardless of a vaccine. When we see a sustained decline we'll likely support in-person learning for schools, beginning with the lower grades first.

Information Items

Chair Wright announced upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Stephanie Wright, Chair

Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary