

Board of Health
Public Health Program Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020
Regular Meeting

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call/video.

Committee members present via Zoom

John Joplin
Jared Mead
Dan Rankin
Linda Redmon

Committee members absent

Megan Dunn

Staff present

Shawn Frederick, Chris Spitters, Heather Thomas, Nicole Thomsen, Pam Aguilar, Ragina Gray, Katie Curtis, Tracey Kellogg, Linda Carl

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Program Policy Committee was called to order by committee chair Ms. Linda Redmon at 3:04 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

Roll Call

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

Arrivals/Departures

Mr. Mead joined audio at 3:10 p.m.

Approval of Agenda Contents and Order

It was moved by Mr. John Joplin and seconded by Mr. Dan Rankin to approve the agenda contents and order. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Rankin and seconded by Mr. Joplin to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 20, 2020. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent.

Briefings

Draft gift card policy (SR 20-075; N. Thomsen)

The new policy addresses gift cards purchased for Health District clients. There has been no indiscretion with gift cards, but minor tracking issues drove the development of the policy. The appropriate division will be responsible for tracking, and purchases of gift cards can only be made through the Health District's purchasing agent.

After discussion, the committee agreed to move this item forward to the other Board committees for further consideration.

It was moved by Mr. Rankin and seconded by Mr. Joplin to forward the draft gift card policy to the Administration and Executive Committees at their next meetings for review and potential action. The motion passed with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 absent.

2021 legislative agenda discussion (no staff report; H. Thomas; N. Thomsen)

Staff developed the draft legislative agenda by talking with stakeholders, looking at the Department of Health's agenda, and building on last year's approved agenda. COVID-19 will be a priority and has been included, as well as a related item: quarantine or isolation employment protection.

Staff recommends deleting the sharps item because those responsible for sponsoring the legislation will be taking a break to focus on other higher priorities.

The State Board of Health is pursuing permanent regulation for the 120-day emergency rule banning vitamin E acetate in vaping products. Staff is waiting for feedback regarding other vapor legislation that may move forward.

The adult mortality review looks at policies or ways to prevent future deaths. It began with opioids and overdoses, but suicide could be added as well. Staff are working with legislators in the House and Senate on a possible bill.

Kratom is not currently high as a policy standpoint; the Board's resolution still stands, which encourages the legislature and federal government to look at deaths and further policies. After committee discussion around opioids, the committee recommended adding the more general term "substance abuse" to the agenda under adult mortality review.

Ms. Redmon requested a more specific call-out for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing. Mr. Shawn Frederick added there could be value in calling out legislation designating funding sources for vaccinations. Ms. Redmon also recommended calling out education around vaccinations.

Ms. Redmon asked about preventable deaths under adult mortality review regarding race and ethnicity. Staff will research what's permissible in legislation.

Ms. Redmon asked about the ban on vaping flavors and if it's still being pursued. Ms. Nicole Thomsen noted there is still interest, including from the Washington Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Prevention Coalition to keep the ban and remove all flavors, regardless of purchasing age. Legislation, however, is still in question.

Ms. Redmon asked if housing as a public health concern should be called out. Dr. Spitters commented that public health is a customer for housing—like employment and education. Mr. Jared Mead noted that if legislators see consistent issues and trends, then the topic tends to stick more. Ms. Thomsen will craft a statement regarding supporting state efforts to increase access and prevent loss of housing for the next draft. Staff will also connect with County staff to look at consistent wording.

The updated draft legislative agenda will be brought back next month to this committee for further review.

Informational Items

Ms. Thomsen invited committee members to next week's PHAC meeting.

Mr. Frederick noted that testing sites have been closed due to unsafe weather conditions but will be opened as soon as possible.

Ms. Redmon and Mr. Rankin will talk about future list of committee high-priority topics. Staff recommends a joint meeting with this committee and the PHAC to discuss high-priority policies

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, October 15, at 3 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.