

Board of Health  
**Public Health Program Policy Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2021**  
**Regular Meeting**

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call/video.

**Committee members present via Zoom**

Megan Dunn  
Jared Mead  
Dan Rankin  
Linda Redmon

**Committee members absent**

John Joplin

**Staff present**

Shawn Frederick, Chris Spitters, Heather Thomas, Nicole Thomsen, Pam Aguilar, Ragina Gray, Katie Curtis, Bruce Straughn, Chris Stringer, Linda Carl

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**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Program Policy Committee was called to order by committee chair Ms. Linda Redmon at 3:03 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**

Ms. Dunn departed at 4 p.m.; Mr. Rankin arrived at 4:09 p.m.

**Special Business**

All items under special business were deferred to the February meeting, after the 2021 committee assignments are finalized.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Ms. Megan Dunn and seconded by Mr. Jared Mead to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2020. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent (Joplin, Rankin).

**Briefings**

*State food code update and reciprocity changes (SR 21-011; R. Gray, B. Straughn)*

Staff reviewed the primary changes in the state food code that took effect on Jan. 15. Additional changes will go into effect by March 2022. The updates have been added to the Health District's website. Changes now in effect include: no permit required for lemonade stands operated by someone under 18 and fewer than 30 days per year; allowing dogs into breweries/taprooms that don't serve food; and changing the definition of service animal to include only those intended for physical disabilities.

The reciprocity review fee for food trucks permitted in other counties is currently \$195; however, legal counsel has reviewed the fee and determined it's inconsistent with the law. Staff has stopped charging

the reciprocity review fee for now. It will be considered in the next fee schedule review unless legal counsel recommends it be rescinded sooner.

*Water quality testing service (SR 21-012; R. Gray, B. Straughn)*

Previously we contracted with Edge Analytical for water sample testing. Since we entered into that agreement, more drop-off sites have been established, making it easier for the public to obtain testing at a cheaper cost. Our program has been steadily declining, and the related database is aging. If we continue this program, we'll need to purchase a new database. There is no contract currently in place with Edge Analytical, and staff only needs Board approval to discontinue the program. Staff will occasionally require some sample testing, so an agreement will need to be put in place.

The committee was in agreement to discontinue the program.

*2021 policy work plan (SR 21-013; N. Thomsen)*

Last year the Board approved the foundational framework for a policy system. Staff brought forward a proposed work plan with high-priority policies identified based on recent audit results and previously noted Board recommendations. Staff reviewed policies likely to be brought to the Board of Health this year, along with a tentative monthly schedule for when specific policies will be discussed. The work plan could change to adjust to emerging issues, staff capacity, and/or other unexpected items.

The committee recommends about three policies to review per meeting; additional policies could be reviewed if they're small or closely paired. Ms. Redmon recommended prioritizing those related to compliance and cost-recovery. Ms. Nicole Thomsen will continue development of a work plan.

*Review committee work plan (no staff report; S. Frederick)*

Staff reviewed comments received from the Public Health Advisory Council on the committee's work plan. Comments were related to climate change, technology, knowledge gaps, funding sources, and food availability. Ms. Redmon noted that legislative priorities at the state level are climate change, COVID-19, equity, and economic recovery. She would like to see a focus on the points in the Board's equity resolution and to explicitly call out inclusivity and equity. Ms. Thomsen noted that the PHAC and the Community Equity Advisory Board are available to include in the work plan process. The committee is agreeable to a two- to five-year work plan in conjunction with our strategic planning and long-range budgeting, as well as developing a management tool.

*Health Officer update (no staff report; C. Spitters)*

Dr. Chris Spitters reported that we continue to see sustained increases, but we appear to have reached a crest. He's optimistic about vaccine sites reaching a goal of 20K to 30K/week and three-quarters of the population vaccinated in about six months. The vaccine supply and capacity of the system to meet demand in scheduling is at a bottleneck. Things should smooth out in the next few weeks. Currently we haven't received an update on the vaccine supply status.

## **Informational Items**

The hearing on HB1152 regarding public health districts is scheduled on Monday. Staff will look for Board feedback on the bill. It's unclear what the issue is that the bill is trying to address, although it might be an attempt to remove politics from public health. However, we would lose local-issue focus, and health officers would become state employees.

Ms. Redmon reviewed the upcoming meetings.

## **Next Meeting Date**

Thursday, February 18, at 3 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.