



**Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
April 13, 2021**

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

Members Absent

None

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3:01 p.m. via Zoom conference call by Board Chair Stephanie Wright.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Ms. Sarah de Jong who reported there was a quorum present.

Arrivals/Departures

Changes to Agenda

Chair Wright announced two requested changes to the agenda:

1. Removal of Action Item: Community Equity Advisory Board bylaws
2. Addition of Action Item: Proclamation

It was moved by Ms. Adrienne Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Ms. Anji Jorstad to approve the removal of Action Item 8e with the additional proclamation put in its place. The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Scott Bader and seconded by Ms. Christine Frizzell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 9, 2021. The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.



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 following written reports can be found in the Board packet:

- a. Finance Manager's report for December 2020 (updated)
- b. Finance Manager's report for January 2021
- c. Program Policy Committee draft minutes – Mar. 18
- d. Administration Committee draft minutes – Mar. 24
- e. Executive Committee draft minutes – Apr. 1

Consent

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

- a. Approve vouchers and Res. 21-11 authorizing March 2021 Health District expenditures
- b. Confirm the appointment of Kara Briggs to fill an unexpired term on the Public Health Advisory Council through June 2021

The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.

Briefings

2021 legislative update (no staff report; N. Thomsen, H. Thomas)

Ms. Nicole Thomsen provided an update on bills related to public health. She explained details of the current version of HB 1152 (boards of health restructuring), which has undergone more restructuring and has now moved to a conference committee. HB 1258 (home kitchens) did not make it out of the senate and is now considered "dead." There are multiple proposals being reviewed for SB 5149 (foundational funding for public health).

Action

Approve the reciprocal agreement with the Sound Foundation for Public Health (SR 21-032)

The Sound Foundation for Public Health Board has officially received nonprofit corporation status within the state of Washington. The reciprocal agreement has gone through committee meetings for the second time with no additional issues identified with these reviews. New internal program codes would be created to track foundation work being performed by staff.

It was moved by Ms. Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Ms. Elisabeth Crawford to approve the reciprocal agreement with the Sound Foundation for Public Health. The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to submit a FY22 Appropriations Community Project Funding proposal to Congresswoman DelBene (SR 21-043)

Ms. Heather Thomas gave a brief overview of this funding opportunity. Because there is a tight deadline for submitting the proposal, this item was unable to go through committees.

It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Linda Redmon to authorize the Administrative Officer to submit a FY22 Appropriations Community Project Funding proposal to Congresswoman DelBene). The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.



Approve the agreement and memorandum of understanding between Snohomish Health District and Washington State Nurses Association, effective when fully executed, through December 31, 2022 (SR 21-034)

Ms. Pamela Aguilar briefly highlighted some items of note in the staff report. Ms. Aguilar also clarified the reclassification of the two current registered nurses in the refugee health program as public health nurses would allow those RNs to perform surge capacity for the TB program and would not mean a reclassification of these RN positions in the future.

It was moved by Mr. Bader and seconded by Ms. Fraley-Monillas to approve the agreement and memorandum of understanding between Snohomish Health District and Washington State Nurses Association, effective when fully executed, through December 31, 2022. The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to execute the data-sharing agreement with the Department of Health for access to vital record information through February 28, 2026 (SR 21-035)

With new laws regarding access to the state vital record database now in effect, the Health District must enter into a data-sharing agreement with the state Department of Health before we are able to enter into any subsequent agreements with other entities for the sharing of vital records data.

It was moved by Mr. Sam Low and seconded by Ms. Jorstad to authorize the Administrative Officer to execute the data-sharing agreement with the Department of Health for access to vital record information through February 28, 2026. The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.

Authorize the Board of Health Chairperson to sign the proclamation thanking Linda Carl for her public service

Mr. Shawn Frederick read the proclamation thanking Ms. Linda Carl for her years of public service. Ms. Stephanie Wright and Ms. Fraley-Monillas both expressed their appreciation for her professionalism, resourcefulness, and support.

It was moved by Ms. Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Ms. Elisabeth Crawford to approve the proclamation thanking Linda Carl for her public service. The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Frederick shared that the budget ad hoc committee would be forming soon and encouraged Board members who have not previously participated in it to reach out to Chair Wright to begin working on the Health District's budgetary needs.

One of the HVAC units that support the third floor has failed and will need to be replaced. The units that support the third floor were installed in 2007 and generally have a ten-year lifespan. Within the past few years, work was performed on the HVAC units that primarily support the first and second floor. Some of the units that failed previously had been in place for thirty years. The replacement work will take into consideration recommendations from PUD and the vendor to ensure eco-sustainability is taken into account during the process.

In March, vandalism of the Rucker Building resulted in a broken window at the front door. This led to a closer look at the security cameras, which were not functioning properly at the time. As a result, the alarm system and cameras will be updated to provide better security and surveillance.

As part of spring maintenance, the hedges will be trimmed in the coming weeks. This is important to help discourage loitering or stashing of items on Health District property.

The Rucker Building task force met last week. Mr. Frederick will meet later this month with the Mahlum architects to ensure the work continues to move forward.



The listing agent for the South County building was able to perform a walkthrough yesterday that appears to be in favor of leasing out the space. The Health District's current lease runs through June 2023.

Health Officer's Report

Dr. Chris Spitters reported that COVID-19 case counts were over 700 per week for the past two weeks, and continue to trend upward for the third straight week; demand for testing and positivity rates are also increasing. The hospitalization rate, which plummeted after coming out of the second wave, now appears to be leveling off or possibly beginning to increase. The total number of people in the hospital at a moment in time (i.e., hospital census) for COVID has doubled over the past two to three weeks, from 15 to 33; however, the proportion of people on ventilators has remained steady at around 10%. It's also been reported that the average age group for hospitalizations has lowered, as younger adults are leading the way in infection rates.

As cases increase, there is also an expansion in the proportion of cases accounted for by the new variants. Variant B.1.429 is now the most prevalent strain and accounts for about a quarter to a third of total cases.

B.1.1.7, while being more transmissible than the original strain, also appears to be slightly more likely to result in fatality. While these variants don't appear to substantially affect immunity, the higher infection rate leaves a lower margin for error with preventive measures.

To remain in phase three, the case rate must remain under 200/100,000 over 14 days and hospital admissions for COVID must be below 5/100,000 over 7 days. Although we currently meet those requirements, if left unmitigated, we will regress back to metrics similar to those seen during the third wave. There is also the possibility of falling back into phase two if the statewide percentage of available hospital beds falls below 90% or if we feel the situation in the county is out of order.

Over 400,000 doses have now been administered to Snohomish County residents, with around 20% who have completed their vaccination schedule. About 50,000 doses are being administered per week, and at this pace, all adults in the county could be vaccinated within three to five months.

A pause has been placed on the use of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine while the FDA and CDA review the safety data in respect to six episodes of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, which is a blood clot in the large veins that drains fluid from the brain and is fatal in about 5-10% of cases. All six people who have had events in relation to the Johnson and Johnson vaccine were women ages 18-53, which is a high-risk group that is prone to clotting for a variety of reasons, such as pregnancy, medications, medical conditions, etc. Tomorrow, the FDA and ACIP will investigate and render an opinion on this and the implications for use of the vaccine. In the meantime, all Johnson and Johnson vaccines scheduled to be administered in Snohomish County have been put on hold, the majority of which were allocated to one of the mass-vaccination sites or equity-oriented outreach work. The affected mass vaccination site is temporarily closed and mRNA vaccines are being used for the equity outreach work.

Executive Session

The Snohomish Health District Board of Health convened into executive session for the purposes of discussion of wages for a class of employees pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and collective bargaining matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4). Executive session is expected to last up to 10 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 4:18 p.m. and is expected to take action. The Board announced they will extend executive session 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes. They reconvened at 4:38 p.m. and took the following action:

It was moved by Ms. Fraley-Monillas and seconded by Ms. Jorstad to authorize a 2% salary increase for the non-represented employees and a one-time \$500 payment as discussed in executive session. The motion passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 absent.



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

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