

Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2021
Special Meeting

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call.

Committee members present

Scott Bader
Sam Low
Nate Nehring

Committee members absent

Christine Frizzell
John Joplin

Staff present

Chris Spitters, Shawn Frederick, Nicole Thomsen, Heather Thomas, Carrie Parker, Katie Curtis, Sara Centanni, Sarah de Jong, Nikki Thompson (legal counsel for the District)

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Administration Committee was called to order by Mr. Scott Bader at 9:31 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Sam Low and seconded by Mr. Nate Nehring to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of September 22, 2021. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Action

Approve Finance Manager's report for September 2021, and forward to the full Board as a written report (SR 21-118; S. Centanni)

Ms. Sara Centanni reported that the District is looking at a surplus of about \$3.1M right now, and our financials look strong heading into the last quarter of the year.

It was moved by Mr. Low and seconded by Mr. Nehring to approve Finance Manager's report for September 2021, and forward to the full Board as a written report. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Approve vouchers and Res. 21-24 authorizing Health District expenditures from October 16, 2021, to November 15, 2021, and forward to the full Board on consent (no staff report; S. Centanni)

It was moved by Mr. Low and seconded by Mr. Nehring to approve vouchers and Res. 21-24 authorizing Health District expenditures from October 16, 2021, to November 15, 2021, and forward to the full Board on consent. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Adopt Res. 21-25 approving the 2021 budget amendment #2, and forward to the full Board for action (SR 21-116; S. Centanni)

This amendment is needed due mainly to the FEMA revenue and expenditures the Health District is incurring due to COVID. It adds in about \$2.5M in FEMA revenue and expenditures as well as an additional \$400,000 for COVID temporary staff and supplies and increases the expenditures by \$3M. The revenues are increased by about \$2.5M so the surplus that was originally projected in the original budget amendment will drop by about \$500,000.

It was moved by Mr. Low and seconded by Mr. Nehring to adopt Res. 21-25 approving the 2021 budget amendment #2, and forward to the full Board for action. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Adopt Res. 21-26 approving the 2022 Health District budget, and forward to the full Board for action (SR 21-117; S. Frederick)

Mr. Shawn Frederick reviewed the highlights and assumptions of the proposed balanced budget.

It was moved by Mr. Nehring and seconded by Mr. Low to adopt Res. 21-26 approving the 2022 Health District budget, and forward to the full Board for action. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Approve Res. 21-23: Adopting PHAC bylaws and membership in compliance with RCW 70.46.140, and forward to the full Board on consent (SR 21114; N. Thomsen)

These changes to the bylaws are needed due to the requirements regarding the reformation of local boards of health in House Bill 1152. The Public Health Advisory Board (PHAC) created an ad hoc committee that has met four times to revise the bylaws. These revisions have also been reviewed by legal counsel and are in compliance with the requirements set forth by legislation.

It was moved by Mr. Low and seconded by Mr. Nehring to approve Res. 21-23: Adopting PHAC bylaws and membership in compliance with RCW 70.46.140, and forward to the full Board on consent. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Authorize the Administrative Officer to hire a temporary term-limited community health outreach worker for the refugee health outreach program, and forward to the full Board on consent (SR 21-107; K. Curtis)

The Washington State Department of Health has offered to provide local health jurisdictions up to \$100,000 to hire a temporary community health worker who would be doing outreach to the refugee and immigrant populations in Snohomish County to help encourage them to get vaccinated for COVID. This position would act as a kind of ambassador from public health into these communities to help remove barriers, such as assistance in signing up for appointments. The funding would run through the end of May 2023 so this would not be a permanent position within the Health District, but would complement our current vaccine work currently being performed in the community.

It was moved by Mr. Low and seconded by Mr. Nehring to authorize the Administrative Officer to hire a temporary term-limited community health outreach worker for the refugee health outreach program, and forward to the full Board on consent. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Authorize the Administrative Officer to execute amendment #24 to the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health, and forward to the full Board on consent (SR 21-107; K. Curtis)

This amendment includes many changes to the consolidated contract, including:

- Work added for the tobacco prevention program.
- COVID funding:
 - Removal of \$2.7M from the budget for the Box in the Virus.

- Almost the same amount as the above was added into the federal fiscal year 20 local health jurisdiction allocation, moving that up to \$11.9M.
- An additional 5,000 was added for COVID vaccine funding, bumping that total number up to \$2.8M
- Revisions of some of the date in the contract. Some of the dates in the contract is set to continue through 2023, and it's expected for more development of that in the new year.
- Removal of \$16,000 for viral hepatitis funding in the infectious disease section.
- Removal of \$15,000 for ADAP rebate funding, which is a bit of money received to help connect HIV-positive clients to care. This funding was moved down into the federal fiscal year 21 (FFY21) grant.
- Additional \$163,000 added for STD funding, primarily for syphilis case investigation. The Health District is currently hiring two disease investigators to help with the amount of surplus that has increased in the county.
- Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS):
 - \$1.2M for reinforcing capacity
 - \$30,000 to conduct a Community Health Assessment, or if that's completed to follow up with a Community Health Improvement Plan.
 - \$497,000 for communicable disease work
 - \$164,000 for hepatitis C work.
 - 1.1M for environmental health.
 - It's anticipated the funds for FPHS will remain the same for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

The total amount for this amendment adds \$2.9M for a total consideration of \$40M.

It was moved by Mr. Low and seconded by Mr. Nehring to authorize the Administrative Officer to execute amendment #24 to the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health, and forward to the full Board on consent. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Buenavista Service, Inc. to provide janitorial services at the Rucker Building from Jan 1. To Dec. 31, 2022, and forward to the full Board on consent (SR 21-112; S. Frederick)

In 2019, the Health District was previously contracted with another vendor for this service. That contract was set to cost between \$95,000-100,000 and so the Health District decided to solicit quotes to see if the service could be done for less. Buenavista submitted their proposal with a new cost of around \$53,000. When the WIC program was discontinued at the Health District, that amount dropped to around \$51,000 but some of that space is expected to be utilized in the next year and staff are expecting the amount paid for services to increase to around \$54,000. A new amendment will be created at that time to allow for the increase in service. Staff are requesting a second and final extension allowed by the contract for this service through the end of 2022.

It was moved by Mr. Low and seconded by Mr. Nehring to authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Buenavista Service, Inc. to provide janitorial services at the Rucker Building from Jan 1. To Dec. 31, 2022, and forward to the full Board on consent. The motion passed with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 absent (Frizzell, Joplin).

Briefings

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

Case Rates. Snohomish County appears to have plateaued with a weekly case rate slightly higher than the state average.

School-Aged Children. Through the end of October, the proportion of cases among school-aged children has gone up since school resumed after Labor Day. While there have been many clusters and outbreaks of cases in schools, there's still not a lot of transmission and school outbreaks were less in October-November than in September. The largest outbreak in any of the schools so far was one with 21 cases. The average number of cases in a school-related outbreak is five to six and 80% have 10 or

fewer cases. For school-aged children, cases are higher among the younger age group of 5-11 and this is likely due to the older age group (i.e., 12-17) having a vaccination rate of around 60%.

Pediatric vaccinations have begun rolling out for the 5-11 year old age range and that age group already has about 15% who have initiated vaccination in Snohomish County.

Hospitalizations. Snohomish County has a lower rate of hospitalizations per capita than either King or Pierce County. However, the proportion of COVID-hospitalized clients on ventilators is higher than both. This could be due to Providence, who cares for about 90% of hospitalized COVID cases in the county, discharging patients once a patient's oxygen levels is at a certain level, which is sooner than other counties. Providence also uses a home oxygen company to keep these discharged patients on home oxygen.

Case Investigations. At the peak, case investigators were able to contact about 80% of cases within two days. That is now at about 10 – 15% and almost half of those called completely evade case investigators. This results in 0.1 new quarantines for reported cases assigned to the system. These results are not specific to Snohomish County and are being experienced throughout the state. Due to the diminished results, the Health District is looking at relegating case investigation and contact notifications back to the State and then focusing those resources in other areas that may be more productive and yield greater results.

Vaccine Effectiveness. The effectiveness of the vaccine has declined with time. This is probably due to both the introduction of the Delta variant and the effectiveness of the initial vaccination diminishing with time. Booster doses were authorized and recommended by the federal government last week, making everyone 18 and up eligible for a booster dose if it's been six or more months since their last dose of either Moderna or Pfizer, or two months after the single Johnson & Johnson dose. The customer also doesn't need to stay with the same brand as the original series and can have any of the three vaccines as a booster dose. In Snohomish County, 85-90% of people who die from COVID are unvaccinated. Deaths that occur in those who are fully vaccinated typically are extremely old and/or have other underlying conditions. It's very rare to see a healthy middle- or young-aged adult who's fully vaccinated end up in the ICU or die from COVID.

Determine the date of the December Committee meeting

Committee members discussed potentially cancelling the December Committee meeting and will revisit the conversation at the next full Board meeting on December 14.

Information Items

Next Board of Health meeting date: Tuesday, December 14, 3 p.m.

Next committee meeting date: To be determined

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.