



**Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
December 14, 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
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

Members Absent

Anji Jorstad, Councilmember, Lake Stevens
Jeff Vaughan, Councilmember, Marysville
Stephanie Wright, County Councilmember – BOH Chair

Comings and Goings

Mr. John Joplin arrived at 3:09 p.m.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom conference call by Board Vice Chair Adrienne Fraley-Monillas.

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 Ms. Linda Redmon and seconded by Mr. Scott Bader to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 9. The motion passed with 11 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 4 absent (Joplin, Jorstad, Vaughan, Wright).

Public Comment

Vice Chair Fraley-Monillas reported no written comments were received.

Written Reports

Vice Chair Fraley-Monillas noted that the following reports can be found in the Board packet:

- a. Finance Manager's report for September 2021 (SR 21-118; S Centanni)
- b. Program Policy Committee draft minutes – Nov. 18
- c. Administration Committee draft minutes – Nov. 22
- d. Executive Committee draft minutes – Nov. 23

Consent

It was moved by Mr. Scott Bader and seconded by Ms. Redmon to approve the following items on consent:

- a. Adopt Res. 21-23: Adopting PHAC bylaws and membership in compliance with RCW 70.46.140
- b. Authorize the Administrative Officer to hire a temporary term-limited community health outreach worker for the refugee health outreach program
- c. Authorize the Administrative Officer to execute amendment #24 to the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health
- d. 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
- e. Approve vouchers and Res. 21-24 authorizing Health District expenditures from October 16, 2021, to November 15, 2021

The motion passed with 11 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 4 absent (Joplin, Jorstad, Vaughan, Wright).

Special Business

Briefing and Public Hearing on the Health District's 2022 proposed budget

Mr. Shawn Frederick reviewed the proposed balanced budget for 2022. It contains \$31.5M in both revenues and expenditures. It also includes 33.2 new FTEs and removes revenues from cities' per capita contributions, as the Health District will not be requesting those funds in 2022. The District will be receiving \$6.3M in Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) funding in the FY21-23 biennium. The proposed budget also includes \$85,000 for an executive leadership position for the Sound Foundation for Public Health, as well as \$25K for the Foundation's operating capital. The budget also carries forward funds for switches and servers that was originally approved in the 2021 budget.

Vice Chair Fraley-Monillas opened the public hearing for public comment. No public comments were received in writing by the published deadline, nor did any attendees volunteer to speak during the meeting. Vice Chair Fraley-Monillas closed the public hearing.

Action

Adopt Res. 21-25 approving the 2021 budget amendment #2 (SR 21-116; S. Centanni)

This second amendment to the 2021 budget is needed mainly due to all the COVID-related expenses that has increased expenditures by about \$2.5M. These expenses are reimbursable through FEMA and the Health District should be receiving back the amount that is spent.

It was moved by Mr. Redmon and seconded by Mr. Bader to adopt Res. 21-25 approving the 2021 budget amendment #2. The motion passed with 12 yes votes, 0 no votes, 3 absent (Jorstad, Vaughan, Wright).

Adopt Res. 21-26 approving the 2022 Health District budget (SR 21-117; S. Frederick)

It was moved by Mr. Bader and seconded by Ms. Christine Frizzell to adopt Res. 21-26 approving the 2022 Health District budget. The motion passed with 12 yes votes, 0 no votes, 3 absent (Jorstad, Vaughan, Wright).

Approve the amendments to the employee handbook, effective December 15, 2021 (SR 21-088; P. Aguilar)

The only change made to the handbook since it was previously reviewed by the Program Policy, Administration, and Executive Committee, is an update to the affordable care act language in section 5.1 to make it easier to read for Health District staff.

It was moved by Ms. Elisabeth Crawford and seconded by Mr. Dan Rankin to approve the amendments to the employee handbook, effective December 15, 2021. The motion passed with 12 yes votes, 0 no votes, 3 absent (Jorstad, Vaughan, Wright).

Briefings

Determine date of December Administration Committee meeting.

Administration Committee members present discussed the December meeting and decided to cancel it. The Committee will next meet again in January.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Shawn Frederick provided a brief overview of some of the accomplishments the Health District has made the past year and listed the interlocal agreements signed within the past month.

Health Officer's Report

COVID-19 Cases and Testing. Cases through December 11 show a bumpy downward trajectory which is coming down much more slowly than compared to previous waves. Test positivity around December 4 was around 6-8% and testing demand is relatively stable, with the Health District running roughly 2,000 – 2,500 tests per week. Major community partners are experiencing a similar positivity rate and their testing. The Everett Clinic's testing peaked at around 8,000 test per week earlier in this wave, is now down to about 6,000 per week.

Omicron. Omicron was originally detected in South Africa at the end of last month. The variant has drawn much attention because it has a large number of accumulated mutations in the spike protein. This number, which is around thirty, is about five times greater than what has been the cumulative number of mutations seen in the spike protein of the other variants. The Omicron strain is not a descendant of Delta and its closest relative appears to be a variant that was recorded mid-2020. One plausible theory for the emergence of this variant is the virus could have infected a severely immunosuppressed person that harbored the virus and remained chronically infected, allowing the virus to mutate. Another theory is that this mutation underwent a reverse zoonosis, or in other words was able to jump from an animal to a human. This latter theory would explain the long gap in time between its nearest-related variant and the emergence of the Omicron variant. The transmissibility rate appears very high and is able to spread about six times faster than the Delta variant. Speculation for this increase in transmissibility include the possibility of a higher viral load or mutations that allow it to bind better to human cells. One main concern is if this variant escapes immunity from prior infection, meaning prior infection is less protective against getting reinfected than it previously has been or if it escapes immunity derived from vaccination and we have less protection against infection. Early data does indicate that being fully vaccinated and getting a booster is a key factor in impeding the progress of Omicron. Snohomish County has 580,000 residents that have initiated vaccination, about 530,000 that have completed primary vaccination, and 150,000 have gotten a booster dose.

Preventative measures remain the same as the current interventions for other strains, such as masking in public indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces, limiting attendance at large gatherings, getting a booster shot, and putting more emphasis on indoor air quality, such as optimizing ventilation to get the air out of an indoor space where people are gathering. Some future considerations could include upgrading mask recommendations for people who are more at risk for negative health outcomes to include the wearing of medical procedure masks or N-95 masks.

Vaccination Benefits. Fully-vaccinated individuals have around five hospitalizations per one hundred thousand; whereas hospitalizations among the unvaccinated is about 20 per one hundred thousand, or about four times



higher than the vaccinated group. The death rate for unvaccinated county residents in the month of October is also around seven times higher than they're vaccinated counterparts.

Executive Session

Ms. Fraley-Monillas announced that the Snohomish Health District Board of Health will convene into executive session for the purposes of personnel matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performances of public employees and for collective bargaining matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a). Executive session is expected to last up to 15 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 4:26 p.m. and is expected to take action. Executive session was extended for 5 minutes. The Board reconvened at 4:31 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Bader and seconded by Ms. Crawford to authorize the Administrative Officer to execute a separation agreement with a District employee as discussed in executive session. The motion passed with 12 yes votes, 0 no votes, 3 absent (Jorstad, Vaughan, Wright).

It was moved by Ms. Redmon and seconded by Mr. Rankin to authorize the Administrative Officer to execute a memorandum of understanding with PROTEC as discussed in executive session. The motion passed with 12 yes votes, 0 no votes, 3 absent (Jorstad, Vaughan, Wright).

Information Items

Vice Chair Fraley-Monillas announced upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Stephanie Wright, Chair

Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary