

Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2022
Special Meeting

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call.

Committee members present

Megan Dunn
Anji Jorstad
Kyoko Matsumoto Wright
Stephanie Wright - Chair

Staff present

Shawn Frederick, Chris Spitters, Pam Aguilar, Katie Curtis, Ragina Gray, JC Myers, Carrie Parker, Nicole Thomsen, Sara Centanni, Sarah de Jong, Grant Weed (legal counsel)

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Wright at 12:01 p.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 Ms. Megan Dunn and seconded by Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto Wright to approve the minutes for the special meeting of November 23, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Action

Approve Finance Manager's Report for October 2021, and forward to the full Board as a written report (SR 22-002; S. Centanni)

Ms. Sara Centanni reported that the Health District is looking at a surplus of \$3.3M but that is expected to grow to \$7.8M as the COVID response evolves. FEMA billing is ramping up; staff already have February, March, and April non-labor submitted and is working on the rest of billings for 2021 for this month and next. The ending fund balance is about \$15M and could go higher depending on how FEMA comes in. Cash investments are healthy.

It was moved by Ms. Anji Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Matsumoto Wright to approve Finance Manager's Report for October 2021, and forward to the full Board as a written report. The motion passed unanimously.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, and forward to the full Board on consent (SR 21-122; K. Curtis)

This is the main contract with DOH and contains all the terms and conditions. Amendments regarding specific work to be performed will be in future amendments.

It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Matsumoto Wright to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, and forward to the full Board on consent. The motion passed unanimously.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for fleet maintenance services, and forward to the full Board for action (SR 21-113; S. Frederick)

Snohomish County has provided this service for the most of the past 30 years. It has been reviewed by legal counsel with some amendments that were accepted by Snohomish County. Typically the Health District spends around \$30-35k per year for these services and because of the overall term of the agreement, this triggers Board of Health approval.

It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Matsumoto Wright to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for fleet maintenance services, and forward to the full Board for action. The action passed unanimously.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Universal Language Service to provide translation and interpreter services. The one-year extension would be from Feb. 1, 2022, through Jan. 31, 2023, and forward to the full Board for action (SR 21-119; K. Curtis)

Universal Language Service has provided this service for the past two years. And have adequately met the needs of the District for translation and interpretation.

It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Matsumoto Wright to authorize the Administrative Officer to authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Universal Language Service to provide translation and interpreter services. The one-year extension would be from Feb. 1, 2022, through Jan. 31, 2023, and forward to the full Board for action. The motion passed unanimously.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest to provide translation and interpreter services. The one-year extension would be from Feb. 1, 2022, through Jan. 31, 2023, and forward to the full Board for action (SR 21-120; K. Curtis)

Ms. Katie Curtis shared that Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest has been wonderful to work with and staff would like to extend this contract for another year before going out to bid later on.

It was moved by Ms. Matsumoto Wright and seconded by Ms. Jorstad to authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest to provide translation and interpreter services. The one-year extension would be from Feb. 1, 2022, through Jan 31, 2023, and forward to the full Board for action. The motion passed unanimously.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign an agreement with Prabhu Lodging for isolation and quarantine services through March 31, 2022. (SR 21-125; K. Curtis)

The Health District has been utilizing a couple of rooms at the Travelodge in addition to using a facility in Whatcom County for COVID isolation and quarantine services. This contract increases the cost to \$68,400 per month and also increases the number of available rooms to around 28. This increase is needed due to a recent increase of need for these services.

It was moved by Ms. Matsumoto Wright and seconded by Ms. Dunn to authorize the Administrative Officer to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign an agreement with Prabhu Lodging for isolation and quarantine services through March 31, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the memorandum of understanding to extend the current contract with AFSCME one additional year through December 31, 2022, and forward to the full Board for action (SR 22-003; P. Aguilar)

The agreement with AFSCME expired at the end of 2020 and the other party agreement to an MOU to extend the current contract one additional year. The budgeted 2% COLA increase is included. Staff will be in negotiations with AFSCME most likely next year as the collective bargaining agreements with other unions are expiring.

It was moved by Ms. Dunn and seconded by Ms. Matsumoto Wright to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the memorandum of understanding to extend the current contract with AFSCME one additional year through December 31, 2022, and forward to the full Board for action. The motion passed unanimously.

Briefings

Notice of Narcan Award from the Department of Health (SR 21-121; C. Parker)

At the end of November, the Health District received notice from the Department of Health that we would be receiving up to 100 narcan kits from the Washington State Naloxone Distribution Program. These kits are valued at \$75 apiece and will be used for our community-based service groups that complete the narcan trainings provided by the Health District, in partnership with Snohomish County Human Services, as well as support our continued efforts to provide narcan to our county law enforcement.

Assuming responsibility for the Savvy Septic program (SR 21-124; R. Gray)

Ms. Ragina Gray provided an update on continued conversations regarding taking over the Savvy Septic program from the County. The plan is, moving forward, to hire a health educator in the land use program and to circle back at future meetings with this as an action item to move forward in the implementation process.

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

The Omicron strain has taken off, with serial doubling in cases the past couple of weeks and virtually all of the cases being Omicron. This translates into a case rate of 1,000 per 100,000 for the past two weeks, or in other words, 1 in 100 Snohomish County residents in the last two weeks became a reported case. As these are only the cases that test positive, the actual rate is estimated to be at least 3-4% of county residents having been infected in that time period. Infections appear to be distributed evenly amongst the different age groups. 12,000 of the roughly 80,000 total cases throughout the whole 24-month pandemic occurred in just the last month.

Test positivity percentages have increased since mid to late December with positivity rate now up in the 30-50% range throughout the healthcare system. The primary societal worry around this is our acute healthcare capacity.

Hospitalizations due to COVID have tripled since December 24. The proportion of cases that have been hospitalized is much lower than prior waves, which is consistent with what's been reported elsewhere, but the sheer number is so huge that it's pushing that small percentage to still create a health care system problem. Area hospitals, particularly Providence, which accounts for the majority of beds in the county, are reporting hospitalizations in the high 90s through 100s; yesterday there were 115 total cases in county hospitals. A key problem is there are about 100 people at Providence on long stays that don't need acute care but are unable to transition to a long-term care facility. This is a focal point of pain right now and all parties involved, including the State and area hospitals, are trying to look at how to offload those patients but the fundamental problem is a staffing shortage for long-term care facilities that have beds but are unable to take patients to fill them because they are understaffed. Some considerations to remedy this problem are for the National Guard to provide low-level non-clinical care but these are still in the idea stage and there is no clear path forward at this time.

Projections from the IHME anticipate that the need for beds would increase through the latter part of the month of January and peak in mid-February before starting to come down. IHME also predicts this peak to be somewhat lower than previous peaks. The State Department of Health anticipates a peak in new hospitalizations about a week from now and a peak in the hospital census in a couple weeks.

The fundamental problem is that Omicron is much more transmissible than prior strains. It has a short generation time of 2-3 days between serial cases. This also increases the average number of cases arising from a single infected individual to around 3. This results in an enormous number of cases that are expanding at a rapid velocity and goes beyond what the public health system can investigate and do contact tracing on.

The CDC issued modified isolation and quarantine recommendations that reflect the shorter duration of contagiousness of Omicron cases to what is called a "five and five," meaning for exposed individuals to quarantine for five days at home and then five days out in the community with a mask on. This should provide some relief to the healthcare system, which got a similar modified, mitigated set of isolation and quarantine guidance, but is also tied to a lot of testing, and unfortunately, testing supplies are currently difficult to obtain. This new guidance isn't applicable to congregate settings, such as schools, homeless

shelters, long-term-care facilities, and crowded workspaces (such as manufacturing) where the prior guidance will remain in effect.

The Health District is having conversations with DOH about partnering and getting their help to expand both testing and vaccination capacity in the county. Much of the investigation and contact tracing has been shifted to the DOH to perform as the Health District focuses on schools, childcare, long-term care and employment settings with large outbreaks.

Medical or procedure masks work better than cloth masks, and doubling up, with a procedure mask on first and a cloth mask on second, helps to tighten the areas that air escapes around the face. Other recommendations include better air ventilation, more social distancing, and less gatherings/traveling.

Information Items

Next Board of Health meeting date: Tuesday, January 18, 3 p.m.

Next committee meeting date: Thursday, January 27, 12 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.