Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
January 18, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call/video.

Members Present
Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Councilmember, Lynnwood
Elisabeth Crawford, Councilmember, Mukilteo
Megan Dunn, County Councilmember
Mark James, Councilmember, Marysville
Anji Jorstad, Councilmember, Lake Stevens
Heather Logan, Councilmember, Arlington
Sam Low, County Councilmember
Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor, Mountlake Terrace
Jared Mead, County Councilmember
Nate Nehring, County Councilmember
Linda Redmon, Councilmember, Snohomish
Stephanie Vignal, Councilmember, Mill Creek
Stephanie Wright, County Councilmember – BOH Chair
Ben Zarlingo, Councilmember, Everett

Comings and Goings
Mr. Sam Low arrived at 3:08 p.m.

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3:03 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.

Special Business

Swearing in of new Board members:
New Board members Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Mark James, Heather Logan, Stephanie Vignal, and Ben Zarlingo were sworn in by legal counsel Grant Weed.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair:
Chair Wright opened the floor for nominations for the chair of the Board. Mr. Nate Nehring nominated Stephanie Wright. There were no other nominations, and Ms. Wright becomes the Chair of the Board for 2022.

Chair Wright opened the floor for nominations for the vice chair of the Board. Ms. Megan Dunn nominated Anji Jorstad. There were no other nominations, and Ms. Jorstad becomes the Vice Chair of the Board for 2022.

Committee assignments:
Chair Wright requested all Board members email the Clerk of the Board, Sarah de Jong, with preference of committee assignments.

Approval of Minutes
It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Megan Dunn to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2021. The motion passed with 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 abstention (Zarlingo), and 0 absent.

Public Comment
Chair Wright reported one public comment was received. Mr. Shawn Frederick read the public comment into record regarding an opposition to mandated COVID vaccination for Washington residents.

Written Reports
Chair Wright noted that the following reports can be found in the Board packet:

a. Finance Manager's report for October 2021 (SR 22-002; S Centanni)
b. Program Policy Committee draft minutes – Dec. 16
c. Executive Committee draft minutes – Jan. 6
d. Executive Committee draft minutes – Jan. 7

Action

Approve vouchers and Res. 22-01 authorizing Health District expenditures from November 16, 2021, to December 15, 2021 (no staff report; S. Centanni)

Ms. Sara Centanni provided a general summary of what is included in the vouchers, which includes expenses for temporary workers, regular health care costs, supplies, and both COVID-related and general Health District expenses.

It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby to approve vouchers and Res. 22-01 authorizing Health District expenditures from November 16, 2021, to December 15, 2021. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

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 (SR 21-122; K. Curtis)

This is the master contract with the Department of Health and establishes the terms and conditions required. It has been reviewed by SHD legal counsel, who found no concerns with the agreement as written. Future amendments will include the statements of work that the Health District must perform.

It was moved by Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto-Wright and seconded by Ms. Linda Redmon 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. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for fleet maintenance services (SR 21-113; S. Frederick)
This agreement is a continuation of ongoing business between the Health District and the County the past thirty years. Typically, the Health District spends approximately $30-35k per year in vehicle maintenance. In a single year, this would not normally be a contract that would be flagged for Board approval because of the

annual amount. However, because it's a five-year contract, the total expected contract amount warrants the need to be considered and approved by the Board before moving forward.
It was moved by Ms. Elisabeth Crawford and seconded by Mr. Mark James to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for fleet maintenance services. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

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. 3, 2023 (SR 21-119; K. Curtis)
The Health district submitted a formal request for proposal previously for this service. Universal Language Service (ULS) was one of the vendors selected at that time. Staff are requesting to extend that contract for an additional year before undergoing the formal bid process again, as ULS has adequately met the needs of the District.
It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Redmon to authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Universal Language Service to provide translation and interpreter services. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

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 (SR 21-120; K. Curtis)
This is the second company chosen from the formal request for proposal. The Health District wanted to ensure that it would have a provider that could adequately meet the language needs of Snohomish County, which is why it ended up with two vendors, each of them had a language that the other one at that time didn't carry. Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest has been a great partner for the Health District and staff would like to request extending the contract one additional year.
It was moved by Ms. Redmon and seconded by Ms. Stephanie Vignal to authorize the Administrative Officer to extend an existing agreement with Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest to provide translation and interpreter services. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the memorandum of understanding to extend the current contract with AFSCME one additional year through December 31, 2022 (SR 22-003; P. Aguilar)
AFSCME represents the Health District's administrative support staff. It is one of five collective bargaining unit agreements (CBA) in place at the District. AFSCME requested to extend the current contract through 2022. In alignment with the other CBAs, the extension includes a 2% COLA, which was already included in the approved 2022 budget.
It was moved by Ms. Crawford and seconded by Ms. Jorstad 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. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

Reappointment of four Public Health Advisory Council members through June 30, 2024 (SR 22-001; N. Thomsen)

Ms. Nicole Thomsen gave a brief overview of the history of the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) and also shared that last year the legislature passed a bill that requires some restructuring of the PHAC. The PHAC is able to maintain a three-year staggered appointment cycle and there are four PHAC members that would need to be approved for appointment on the PHAC through the end of June 2024.

It was moved by Ms. Heather Logan and seconded by Ms. Crawford to reappoint four previously appointed Public Health Advisory Council members through June 2024. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

Executive Session

Ms. Wright announced that due to time constraints, staff are requesting to amend the agenda to make the executive session item 8 and the Administrative Officer's Report item 9, and the Health Officer's Report item 10.

It was moved by Mr. Nate Nehring and seconded by Mr. Sam Low to amend the agenda as noted. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 absent.

Ms. Wright announced that the Snohomish Health District Board of Health will convene into executive session for the purposes of potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Executive Session is expected to last up to 10 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 3:54 p.m and is not expected to take any action. The Board reconvened at 3:54 p.m.

Briefings

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Shawn Frederick provided a brief overview of some of the work the Health District has done the past few weeks and listed the interlocal agreements signed within the past month.

January 15 marked the two-year anniversary of patient number one returning to the United States and January 20 will be the two-year anniversary of continuous emergency operations at the Health District, which is the longest emergency activation period in the history of the Health District. There are more COVID-confirmed hospitalizations right now in Snohomish County than any other time in the entire pandemic. Regarding PCR-related testing - The Health District continues to operate its existing testing sites at Ash Way and Longfellow. Ash way currently fills approximately 456 appointments per day and Longfellow is around 325. Between those two sites, the Health District is able to offer testing seven days per week. We're also looking at outside resources coming in to provide an increase in availability. One of those is a testing site in partnership with DOH and FEMA. This site should be running as early as this week and will have up to 1,000 tests per day with a plan to operate during workdays, Monday through Friday. The Health District's primary role with this site would be communication, messaging, and any ancillary support that may be needed.

There is also high demand for rapid non-PCR testing. The Health District recently submitted an order for 400,000 rapid tests at the Health District and this was matched by a similar order for 150,000 submitted by Snohomish County. These kits are expected approximately in about three to four weeks.

Prioritization focuses on the county's long-term care facilities, schools, and communities of color to ensure we have equitable distribution and that the products are dispersed as broadly as possible. There are also efforts to do the same in terms of PPE and masks of various types coming into the county. We will be working in close partnership with DEM to make sure we have a well-coordinated distribution plan for all these materials going out into the community. One of the biggest challenges we've seen continually for several months has been staffing. It's incredibly challenging to retain staff to keep these large mass-testing and vaccine sites operating on a regular basis. The Health District is looking forward to moving some of those resources into additional mobile clinics in 2022 with an ultimate goal of getting to five mobile clinics per week with a focus on community equity.

In July 2021, the Health District took over isolation and quarantine services for Snohomish County. Since August, we've housed 94 people in I&Q sites. This has evolved in the Health District renting out an entire hotel location with 28 total rooms. This site has had 34 guests in the past two weeks for these services. One of the benefits of working in collaboration with the county is it allowed for the migration of people who were otherwise isolated or quarantined in congregant settings that would otherwise be cold weather shelters, to be relocated to that I&Q facility, thereby allowing the cold weather shelter to remain open during cold days.

Health Officer's Report

COVID cases for last week ending on January 15 are at about 12,000. This is down compared to the 13,000 cases experienced the previous week but the number is still so high that it dwarfs all prior peaks throughout the entire pandemic. The number of current cases translates into a case rate of 3,000 per 100,000 Snohomish County residents. This means in the last two weeks, 3% of Snohomish County residents became reported cases. This doesn't account for people that were asymptomatic or those that were unable to secure testing appointments, making the probable percent of the population affected more likely around 10-12%. Snohomish Health District and other community-based healthcare providers are seeing a rapid rise in positivity rates from 5-10%, up to 30% almost overnight as this new variant moves through the county. Currently, school-aged children and adolescents are the main group predominantly affected. While omicron cases are generally less severe, the sheer number of cases has created additional stress on the healthcare system and hospital capacity. Compounding the problem is that the hospitals also have about 120 people who are placement problems, meaning they don't really need acute hospital care but aren't suitable for homecare either. Typically, these patients would transition to a type of long-term care facility but many of them are experiencing outbreaks and so these patients are still in the hospital. Reporting from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation shows that COVID infection has peaked in Washington and forecasts that cases will begin to fall. However, hospitalizations traditionally trends a week or two behind illness and so hospitalizations are expected to get worse in the next couple of weeks.

The main priority for public health is to protect the acute care system and so helping hospitals to resolve these placement problems is a top priority and the Health District continues to advocate with the state for measures to facilitate that work.

The National Guard has deployed about a dozen non-clinical personnel to Providence to help in the emergency department with non-clinical work.

Until cases begin to drop, demand will continue to exceed supply and so we are encouraging the community to utilize healthcare and testing judiciously, meaning to not go to the emergency room if you don't have an emergency or to just seek a COVID test. Likewise, those that are young and healthy that are not immunosuppressed and have no close contacts are encouraged to skip testing and stay home for the next five to ten days. This is a temporary emergency measure and won't be relied on indefinitely but for the time being it's important to be realistic about what expectations can be achieved. Those that have COVID should also contact their close contacts as there are too many cases for contact investigators to reach them all right now.

Information Items

Chair Wright announced upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

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Stephanie Wright, Chair

Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary

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