

Board of Health
Public Health Program Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2022
Regular Meeting

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call/video.

Committee members present via Zoom

Heather Logan (Chair)
Elisabeth Crawford (Vice Chair)
Julieta Altamirano-Crosby
Jared Mead
Ben Zarlingo

Staff present

Pam Aguilar, Heather Thomas, Nicole Thomsen, Katie Curtis, JR Myers, Carrie Parker, Sara Centanni, Sarah de Jong

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Program Policy Committee was called to order by Committee member Heather Logan at 3:32 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

Roll Call

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

Special Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Logan opened the floor for nominations for the chair of the Committee. Ms. Elisabeth Crawford nominated Heather Logan. There were no other nominations, and Ms. Logan becomes the Chair of the Program Policy Committee for 2022.

Ms. Logan opened the floor for nominations for the vice chair of the Committee. Mr. Ben Zarlingo nominated Elisabeth Crawford. There were no other nominations, and Ms. Crawford becomes the Chair of the Program Policy Committee for 2022.

Confirm 2022 meeting schedule

Committee members agreed that the current meeting date and time worked for their schedules, and agreed to move next month's meeting to move to Tuesday, March 15 at 3:30 p.m. to be able to receive a briefing from the Health Officer.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Crawford and seconded by Ms. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Logan noted that no public comment was received.

Action Items

Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign amendment #1 to the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health, and forward to the full Board on consent (SR 22-009; K. Curtis)

Ms. Katie Curtis briefed Committee members on the programs and funds included in this amendment. This amendment includes no decreases in funding.

It was moved by Mr. Zarlingo and seconded by Ms. Crawford to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign amendment #1 to the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health, and forward to the full board on consent. The motion passed unanimously.

Briefings

Washington Poison Center 24/7 after-hours call-answering services (SR 22-008; K. Curtis)

Committee members agreed to move this item from action to briefing because the amount to be spent doesn't meet the threshold for Board approval.

Ms. Katie Curtis briefed Committee members that the Washington Poison Center won the bid for this service and the Health District would be entering into an agreement with them. Washington Poison Center has provided this service to the Health District for the past several years and has provided exceptional service.

Policy POL 120-003 concerning telecommuting (SR 22-010; P. Aguilar)

Ms. Pam Aguilar highlighted the changes made since the last time this policy was brought through Committees as a briefing. This will be a permanent policy that will replace the emergency telecommuting policy set in place in 2020 in response to the COVID pandemic. This item will go through all three Committees this month as a briefing and then next month for action, before going to full Board at the April Board of Health meeting for final approval.

Policy POL 130.002 concerning purchasing (SR 22-011; N. Thomsen, S. Centanni)

This policy was originally approved in 2020. Since that time, a request was made to amend the policy based on some audit findings from the previous years. Ms. Nicole Thomsen walked through the changes made to the policy since its last approval.

Legislative update (no staff report; N. Thomsen)

Ms. Thomsen provided an update on the legislative session, which is now halfway through week six. These updates include:

- House Bill 1074 has passed out of executive committee with one amendment that authorizes adult fatality review boards for overdose and suicide, includes withdrawal from substances, and requests that the State Department of Health to perform a statewide look at data. This will stay in Senate rules to hopefully to be pulled for a floor vote in the Senate. If this version passes, it will then need to go back to the House for concurrence since there has been a striker and amendment on it.
- Senate Bill 5909 regarding legislative oversight has passed the Senate. There was a lot of testimony weighing whether this would be a helpful bill or not and in the end the Senate did pass it primarily on partisan lines. This bill would allow, when the legislature is not in session, for the four corners (majority and minority leaders of both chambers) to come together and if all agree, can rescind the Governor's executive orders.
- OFM revised its projects for the rest of the year and are now looking at a surplus of close to \$5 billion for the next two years. The capital budgets from both house and chambers will be released probably tomorrow, and the operating budget is expected out sometime next week.

Funds that are expected include COVID response funds and a maintenance or possible increase of foundational public health service dollars.

Ms. Heather Thomas also shared that we are waiting to see what will be decided with the Senate and House budgets regarding childcare provisions and potential funding strategies for how to help childcare providers when children are in isolation or quarantine so parents don't have to pay that bill.

ABCs for healthy kids (SR 22-012; H. Thomas)

Ms. Thomas presented the ABCs campaign to Committee members. This campaign runs through the end of 2022 and every two weeks a new letter will be unveiled with a message that corresponds with it. Articles and activities regarding that topic will be shared on a consistent basis and will also coordinate with different events in the community, when possible. The materials are printed in multiple languages.

Informational Items

Ms. Logan announced the upcoming meetings, noting that the next Program Policy Committee meeting would be at a special date and time of Tuesday, March 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

Full Board of Health: Tuesday, March 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Program Policy Committee: Tuesday, March 15, at 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.