

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Public Health Advisory Council of Snohomish County

February 23, 2022 | 7:30-9:00 a.m. | Snohomish Health District | Zoom Meeting

Members present:

Jeff Clarke, Commissioner, Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District (Chair)
Jean Doerge, Community Member (Chair-Elect)
Lisa George, PRMCE
Robert Goetz, Everett Police Department
Patricia Love, City of Stanwood
Karri Matau, Community Foundation of Snohomish County
Shaughn Maxwell, South County Fire and Rescue
Naisha Williams, Community Member

Staff Present:

Shawn Frederick
Dr. Chris Spitters
Nicole Thomsen
Heather Thomas
Sarah de Jong

Members not present:

Jason Biermann, Snohomish County DEM **Kurt Hilt**, International Association of Fire Fighters 1828; **Korey MacKenzie**, Diamond Knot Alehouse;

Recording Secretary: Sarah de Jong, Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Mr. Jeff Clarke, who reported there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Lisa George and seconded by Ms. Jean Doerge to approve the minutes of January 26, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Clarke noted that no public comment was received.

Briefings and Discussion

PHAC Bylaws Implementation (N. Thomsen)

Ms. Nicole Thomsen reviewed the draft application for prospective council members. Council members discussed the following:

- Include behavioral health to the list in sections 2 and 7
- How the application would be used
- Remove questions regarding felony convictions from the list of questions as diverse and underrepresented populations are encouraged to apply
- First two questions may be sensitive to people and may discourage them from applying. Possibly add language that we are seeking to increase diversity and also move these questions further down the list
- Language regarding encouraging diversity should be made stronger
- Enhance the question regard why a prospective member wishes to join, to also include how the prospective members believe they will enhance the council by their membership

- Expansion of the format of the application to be inclusive to those with language and other types of access barriers

Ms. Thomsen will make the following revisions and bring back to the PHAC at a future meeting:

- Move questions 1 and 2 further down into the application
- Move question 7 to the top
- Revise question 8 to request the prospective members goals for joining the PHAC
- Explanation of why the PHAC is interested in the ethnicity of the applicant

The implementation process and how this document will be used is still being determined and requires Board of Health input regarding their participation in the process.

ABCs for healthy kids (H. Thomas)

Ms. Heather Thomas presented the ABCs campaign to Council 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.

2022 WA Legislative Update (N. Thomsen, H. Thomas)

Ms. Thomsen provided an update on the legislative session, which is now past week six. These updates included:

- House Bill 1074 is concerning overdose and suicide fatality and is analogous to work the Health District does with the child death reviews. The bill has made its way through behavioral health subcommittees and is now on the floor for the Senate. This bill contains one amendment to add death caused by withdrawals as well as a request to the State Department of Health to give a larger look at population health. Right now, the bill is waiting to be moved to the floor and is sitting in senate rules so we're hopeful it will be picked up and placed on the floor calendar for a vote.
- House Bill 1893 regarding EMTs is now in executive session.
- House Bill 1684 regarding fluoridation of drinking water is moving forward. The original bill required all water providers over a certain size to provide a plan and cost estimate for providing fluoridation to their water. This was later revised to not be required by water providers that already have a fluoridation method in place.
- OFM released its revised revenue projections last week. The larger categories were for COVID. \$40,000 is also earmarked for helping local health jurisdictions implement House Bill 1074.

Ms. Heather Thomas shared the following:

- Staff are monitoring on the federal level regarding spending bill discussions.
- Staff have also had conversations regarding 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.

Council members also discussed House Bill 1310 which passed in the 2021 legislative session and curtailed law enforcement's ability to respond to certain situations. A revision of the bill is going through well and explicitly states that law enforcement can and should help firefighters and paramedics in situations such as suicide, drug overdose, etc.

Administrative Officer Update

Mr. Shawn Frederick briefed the Council on the following:

- Recruitment for the Health Officer has been posted and has already received some local interest and potential candidates. The interview process typically has two to three panels and would include Board of Health, PHAC, and staff representation.
- As COVID case counts continue to fall, demand for testing and vaccinations is also going down rapidly. The Health District is beginning to focus on demobilization as it shifts away from an emergency response into more of regular communicable disease type work. In response to the Omicron surge, the Health District made a very significant purchase upwards of \$1M in test kits in an attempt to meet the testing demand. While not all test kits have been received, a significant portion of them have been and are being broken down into delivery packages based on requests from community groups. Masks have also been pushed out to various library systems in the county.

Health Officer's Report

Measles

Over the weekend, an infant that had symptoms of a rash and fever was taken to the emergency room and a measles diagnosis was confirmed. Health District staff responded rapidly and worked quickly to identify close contacts to the child and whether they are immune or should be given a measles vaccine. Neighboring local health jurisdictions are working on the child's hospital exposure and also potential exposure that happened at the airport. The CDC will work on exposures that happened on the plane and assign it to the various jurisdictions where those people live. There is an incubation period of 21 days to be on the lookout for any further transmission.

COVID

Total case reports are approaching to levels experienced below the peak of the Delta variant and are trending back down toward the baseline. New weekly hospital admissions are also declining. Overall, the number of people in the hospitals due to COVID were about half of total COVID hospitalizations during the Omicron wave. Long-term care facilities and school outbreak-related cases both show similar downward trends. Almost 80% of eligible Snohomish County residents are fully vaccinated. Of that number, almost half have gotten a booster.

The positive trends in cases have led to policy shifts at the state level regarding masking. On January 11, Dr. Spitters issued an updated order that rescinded the local masking order put in place in August. This was done to harmonize with the Secretary's order to create a sustainable and harmonized response. The statewide masking order that remains in effect in Snohomish County and throughout the state sunsets March 21. The order is for indoor settings and also includes schools but does not apply to healthcare, shelters, long-term care, corrections, or public transportation settings. The federal transportation mask order remains in effect and is currently set to expire March 18, which is ahead of the State's masking order. Masks will be continued to be recommended for many activities and settings, including schools, but will not be a requirement. Employers and employees will need to follow Labor and Industries (L&I) guidance. The goal for the L&I guidance is to harmonize with the Governor's health-oriented aspects of the order and to ensure that workers are protected if they choose to wear a mask, even if it's not required.

Information Items

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Clarke announced upcoming meetings.



Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.