

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Public Health Advisory Council of Snohomish County

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

Members present:

Jason Biermann, Snohomish County DEM
Jeff Clarke, Commissioner, Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District (Chair)
Jean Doerge, Community Member (Chair-Elect)
Lisa George, PRMCE
Robert Goetz, Everett Police Department

Staff Present:

Shawn Frederick
Dr. Chris Spitters
Nicole Thomsen
Sarah de Jong

Members not present:

Kurt Hilt, International Association of Fire Fighters 1828; **Patricia Love**, City of Stanwood;
Korey MacKenzie, Diamond Knot Alehouse; **Karri Matau**, Community Foundation of Snohomish County;
Shaughn Maxwell, South County Fire and Rescue; **Naisha Williams**, Community Member

Recording Secretary: Sarah de Jong, Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Ms. Sarah de Jong, who reported there was not a quorum present.

Comings and Goings

Ms. Lisa George arrived at 7:38 a.m.
Mr. Jason Biermann arrived at 7:39 a.m.
Mr. Robert Goetz arrived at 7:52 a.m.

Revisions to the Agenda

Because a quorum was not present, the following items were removed from the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes
- PHAC Application

Public Comment

Mr. Clarke noted that no public comment was received.

Briefings

2022 WA Legislative Session (N. Thomsen)

Ms. Nicole Thomsen updated the Council on the wrap up of the legislative session. Items discussed included:

- House Bill 1074 passed both the House and Senate. It has yet to be signed by the Governor. This bill allows public health organizations to perform adult fatality reviews for suicides, overdoses, and deaths from withdrawals. The legislation set aside \$40,000 for the State Department of Health to

augment staff to provide technical assistance to local health jurisdictions that would like to take on this optional body of work.

- House Bill 1893, regarding allowing emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to provide vaccination and testing services, also passed.
- A bill also passed that allows a study for the use of aerial imaging technology to be included for special purpose districts.
- While public health didn't have as large a part in this legislative session as past sessions, there was a large sum of money that was released to local health and public health systems statewide.
- The Health District received an award of \$250,000 from Suzanne Del Bene's office to apply toward an electronic medical record management system.

Administrative Officer Report (S. Frederick)

Mr. Shawn Frederick reported that COVID activities for the Health District are continuing to wrap up. This Friday will be the last day of operating vaccination and testing at the Longfellow site. These activities have already stopped at the Ash Way and Boom City sites. Staff are working through warehousing issues to either repurpose COVID supplies or donate them to other organizations that can use them. Planning is also underway to have a plan to resume to in-person meetings by June.

The FDA and CDC will be meeting in April to discuss the potential for additional boosters.

There is interest in rental space for the Rucker Building and the Lynnwood office. Staff are working on getting caught up on deferred maintenance.

Foundational Public Health Services funds continues to be a large body of work. There is a deadline of June 30 to utilize the funds received. If funds are not utilized by that date, they will have to be sent back.

Staff are working through the budget amendment, which includes a surplus primarily made up of funds allocated to the COVID response.

Heather Thomas, the former Public & Government Affairs Manager, has accepted a job as the City Administrator for the City of Snohomish. Nicole Thomsen has stepped into that role as the Interim Public & Government Affairs Manager for the District.

Health Officer's Report (C. Spitters)

Dr. Chris Spitters presented slides that showed COVID data trends moving in the right direction. Vaccination trends have flattened.

The need for future periodic boosters is uncertain at this time. There is evidence that three doses appear to provide a high level of protection against severe disease and death due to COVID. The CDC and FDA will meet in April to discuss this.

The CDC has released a framework for classifying the COVID community level. This framework takes the number of cases per 100,000 population and matches it against new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population or the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID patients to come up with a low, medium, or high rating. Based on this model, Snohomish County currently classifies as a low risk. Moving forward, if the level were to be reclassified as a medium or high risk would signal to the community to resume wearing masks and utilize other non-pharmaceutical interventions. There is currently no language coming from the CDC or the State about mandates. Although we hope that the surges will be small enough and there will be enough voluntary cooperation to not have to resort to mandates, we do reserve the right to issue mandates if necessary.

As we continue moving forward, the Health District will:

- Continue to monitor the situation in partnership with the State and neighboring counties to control any institutional or congregate setting outbreaks that occur.
- Keep people educated, provide guidance, and, if necessary, directives
- Develop a contingency plan in the event there are any future surges that exceed the capacity of the healthcare system to provide essential COVID control clinical services like testing and vaccination.

BA2, which is a sub-variant of the Omicron strain, has caused a surge in other countries and some experts think it's reasonable to anticipate that there will be a BA2 surge here as well. This variant is not associated with escape from immunity or more severe disease. It's likely if there is a surge due to this variant, it will come on within the next month or two and will probably not have a substantial impact on acute care capacity the community. Of more concern is the potential of some type of surge this next fall and winter that could possibly impact the healthcare system capacity, especially if doubled up with a surge in flu cases.

Yesterday, the State and the Health District released some initial data from the Healthy Youth Survey, which is done periodically every couple of years and provides information about self-reported health status and health behaviors related to adolescents in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The survey shows that more problematic behaviors, such as antisocial behavior, fighting, drug use, and drinking are down about 50% but reports of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation are up around 10-20%. Note: percentages reported here are relative, not absolute). Reporting on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which is a measurement of experiences related to neglect, abuse, substance abuse, or mental illness in the child's environment, showed almost 50% of kids have at least one and about 15-20% have four or more. A higher score is highly correlated with long-term chronic disease and other future physical or mental health problems.

As the situation in Ukraine continues to develop, there's an expectation that the county may begin to see some Ukrainian refugees trickle in within the next three to six months. Ukrainians are already the number one refugee population in recent years in the county, making up at least 50% of the total number of refugees so the structure for receiving more is already set up to accommodate and work with them.

Information Items

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Clarke announced upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 a.m.