

## **DRAFT Meeting Notes**

### **Public Health Advisory Council of Snohomish County**

April 27, 2022 | 7:30-9:00 a.m. | Snohomish Health District | Zoom Meeting

#### **Members present:**

**Jean Doerge**, Community Member (Chair-Elect)  
**Lisa George**, PRMCE  
**Robert Goetz**, Everett Police Department  
**Kurt Hilt**, International Association of Fire Fighters 1828;  
**Patricia Love**, City of Stanwood;  
**Karri Matau**, Community Foundation of Snohomish County;  
**Shaughn Maxwell**, South County Fire and Rescue  
**Stephanie Wright**, Board of Health, Ex Officio Member

#### **Staff Present:**

Shawn Frederick  
Dr. Chris Spitters  
Nicole Thomsen  
Sarah de Jong

#### **Members not present:**

**Jason Biermann**, Snohomish County DEM  
**Jeff Clarke**, Commissioner, Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District (Chair)  
**Korey MacKenzie**, Diamond Knot Alehouse  
**Naisha Williams**, Community Member

*Recording Secretary: Sarah de Jong, Executive Assistant*

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m. via Zoom video conference by Ms. Jean Doerge.

#### **Roll Call**

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

#### **Comings and Goings**

Mr. Kurt Hilt left at 7:46 a.m.  
Mr. Robert Goetz left at 7:59 a.m.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Doerge noted that no public comment was received.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Ms. Patricia Love and seconded by Ms. Lisa George to approve the minutes of February 23 and March 23, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Action**

##### *PHAC Application (N. Thomsen)*

As part of the bylaws, the PHAC needs to have an application process for new members to join and fill the vacant sectors. This draft application was brought previously to this committee in February, where it received much feedback. Revisions have been made to the application based on that feedback and is now being presented to the PHAC again for approval. Ms. Nicole Thomsen outlined the changes that were made to the document.

It was moved by Ms. George and seconded by Ms. Love to approve the PHAC application. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Briefings**

### *2022 PHAC Work Plan*

This initial draft was generated awhile ago with a lot of leadership and direction given by Ms. Love. The purpose for bringing the work plan forward today is to allow a chance to review and prepare for a more vigorous discussion at the PHAC meeting next month. Points of discussion today included:

- The new bylaws require PHAC participation in work such as community health assessments and the budget process.
- Most of these activities will take place from the middle to the end of the year, allowing a month or two to develop a plan on how that work will take place.
- More feedback will be requested from Board of Health members regarding current priorities and the role the PHAC should play in regard to different bodies of work.
- Participation with the community health assessment can be done a few different ways. Previously, the PHAC has been the entire workgroup and we've also had some members volunteer to participate in a work group/task force led by the District's epidemiology team.
- Conversations regarding involvement with the budget will be ongoing.
- Committee members with any input or feedback about preference for moving forward with these bodies of work are invited to share.
- There was a desire when creating the action plan to have specific deliverables to focus on month by month.
- As an advisory board, the PHAC should receive updates on the budget and may not necessarily need to be involved too deeply in the budgeting process. There is a legislative component of the PHAC being involved with the District budget by reviewing and making recommendations.

### *2022 Meeting Calendar*

PHAC members discussed scheduling meetings in alignment with the Board of Health meeting schedule. The Board of Health is tentatively planning on taking the month of August off. Committee members also discussed canceling the December PHAC meeting. This item will be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting to further discuss a directional decision.

### *Administrative Officer Report*

**Health Officer Recruitment.** Health Officer recruitment is still underway in terms of moving forward with candidates and negotiations of potential agreements but is expected to wrap up in the coming weeks.

**Budget Process.** The budget process hasn't begun yet and there is still plenty of time to determine what the appropriate touchpoint for the PHAC is. The budget process is complicated for a variety of reasons. Budgets are structured into a dozen or more individual funds that can be used for very specific activities and out of those activities, everything has to have some balance. The District is working towards its end of year close out which are due by the end of May to the State of Washington which will then begin our audit process of the 2021 budget.

**Staffing.** Staffing numbers have swelled over the past two years from a low point of 108 FTE to well over 200 FTE. The District is currently budgeted at a maximum of 230 FTE and that number is expected to drop by the end of June to a number closer to 135.

### *Health Officer's Report*

**Measles.** At the beginning of March there was an imported case of measles in a young child. Control measures were instituted and while there were some healthcare-related exposures, none led to a secondary infection. We are now two full incubation periods from that case with no secondary cases. Four suspected cases not related to the initial case were reported and all came back negative. This is good news not only because they were not positive for measles, but also because it shows that healthcare providers are alert and on the lookout for measles.

**Tuberculosis.** The Health District is part of an informal national network implementing a new six-month treatment regimen for TB that's just three drugs and well tolerated. The third patient in Snohomish County has just completed treatment with this new treatment.

**STD/HIV.** The STD program plays a big role in interrupting STD transmission by performing contact tracing and coordinating treatment for cases. There has generally been a decline in case counts during COVID but this is likely mostly due to reduced health care seeking and reduced exposure. Currently we are seeing an increase in syphilis cases while gonorrhea and chlamydia remain relatively stable.

**County Health Rankings.** Tomorrow it's expected that the State Health Department will do a press release announcing the County Health Rankings, which is a project that's funded by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which is the philanthropic wing of Johnson & Johnson. This report grades each county on four groups of upstream factors: physical environment, social and economic factors, clinical care, and health behaviors, as well as on outcomes: length of life and quality of life. Snohomish County ranked eight for upstream factors and fifth for outcomes in Washington State.

**COVID-19.** Recent reporting shows an upward turn in number of cases. About four to six weeks ago, cases were around 350 cases per week and have been increasing since then to the most recent report of 1,200 for the week ending last Saturday. This shows a quadrupling of weekly case counts over the past month. Preliminary reports from one of our key health care partners that does testing forecasts cases around 2,000 for this week which corresponds to a rate increase from 150 to greater than 200, which is a threshold for classifying the community level of COVID as medium. When looking at cases using a heat map, it shows that most cases are south county long the I-5 corridor. Wastewater surveillance has also seen an uptick in SARS-CoV-2 concentrations in the past few weeks and may be further indicative of a forthcoming surge in cases. Hospitalizations are also experiencing a similar trend, with almost 50 new hospitalizations last week, which is almost double the number of hospitalizations from the week prior.

The priority of the Health District remains to be preventing severe disease, death, and disability and also to protect the health care system. If cases continue their current trajectory and the county's risk category is reclassified as medium, that classification would signal heightened recommendations for nonpharmaceutical interventions, such as resuming masking and increased social distancing.

### **Information Items**

#### *Upcoming Meetings*

Ms. Doerge announced upcoming meetings and reminded those that have not yet taken the Open Public Meetings Act training to please do so.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.