



**Snohomish Health District
Board of Health Minutes
May 10, 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
Joe Neigel, Councilmember, Sultan
Neil Tibbott, Councilmember, Edmonds
Stephanie Vignal, Councilmember, Mill Creek
Stephanie Wright, County Councilmember – BOH Chair
Ben Zarlingo, Councilmember, Everett

Members Absent

None

Comings and Goings

Sam Low arrived at 3:05 p.m.
Jared Mead arrived at 3:12 p.m.
Neil Tibbott arrived at 3:25 p.m.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 3:01 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.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Ben Zarlingo and seconded by Ms. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2022, the special meeting of April 12, 2022, and the special meeting of April 21, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Public comment was accepted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Shawn Frederick read aloud a comment submitted via email on May 7, 2022, regarding compliance with legislative changes to the Open Public Meetings Act and in favor of a mask mandate.

Consent



It was moved by Ms. Anji Jorstad and seconded by Ms. Stephanie Vignal to approve the following items on consent:

- a. Approve vouchers and Res. 22-13 authorizing Health District expenditures from March 16, 2022, to April 15, 2022
- b. Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the amendment with Snohomish County extending the CLFR invoice period through December 31, 2022
- c. Authorize the Administrative Officer to add and hire two health educator positions for the Prevention Services Division
- d. Authorize the Administrative Officer to add and hire an infection preventionist position for the Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response program
- e. Authorize the Administrative Officer to add and hire a disease intervention specialist position for the Prevention Services Division
- f. Authorize the Administrative Officer to add and hire a program specialist II position for the Prevention Services Division
- g. Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign amendment #3 to the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health

The motion passed unanimously.

Action

Naloxone purchase for use in Snohomish County (SR22-021; P. Sampaga-Khim)

The Health District had previously used per capita funds provided by the cities in the county for the purchase of naloxone to share with law enforcement. In 2022, the District has moved away from requesting per capita funds and so are requesting Board approval to purchase these kits to continue distributing to law enforcement and others in the county who would benefit from having it on hand. The impact on the District's budget is minimal. The kits will be offered to cities in Snohomish County regardless of past per capita contribution amounts and also to other community providers.

It was moved by Ms. Jorstad and seconded by Mr. Ben Zarlingo to authorize the Administrative Officer to purchase naloxone for use in Snohomish County. The motion passed unanimously.

Agreement with Darrington School District to support HRSA-related work by funding a behavioral health specialist term-limited position (SR 22-032; P. Sampaga-Khim)

The Health District was awarded a grant from HRSA that allows us to do some of the opioid work in the Darrington/Sky Valley area. One of the pieces of that work is to partner with the Darrington School District to hire a behavioral health specialist through the end of August 2023. Staff are requesting permission to enter into an agreement with the Darrington School District to this purpose.

It was moved by Mr. Zarlingo and seconded by Ms. Altamirano-Crosby to authorize the Administrative Officer to enter into an agreement with Darrington School District to support HRSA-related work by funding a behavioral health specialist term-limited position. The motion passed unanimously.

Application for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Surveillance of Blood grant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (SR 22-037; K. Curtis)

The Health District was awarded a federal grant in 2021 from the Centers for Disease Control that focuses on childhood high blood lead levels. While it's a five year grant, the District needs to reapply every year. This grant would fund the agency another \$300,000 starting October 1, 2022, and would go for another year. This is a continuation of work already being performed and would not require the hiring of any additional staff.

It was moved by Mr. Zarlingo and seconded by Ms. Jorstad to authorize the Administrative Officer to reapply for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Surveillance of Blood grant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The motion passed unanimously.

Proclamation recognizing and honoring the nurses of Snohomish County (SR 22-036; S. Frederick)

Mr. Shawn Frederick read the proclamation. Board members expressed their appreciation for nurses in Snohomish County and discussed expanding to have proclamations further into the year that recognize other healthcare workers, such as respiratory therapists and lab technicians.

It was moved by Ms. Heather Logan and seconded by Mr. Ben Zarlingo to approve the proclamation recognizing and honoring the nurses of Snohomish County. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

The Snohomish Health District Board of Health will recess and convene into Executive Session for the purposes of potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and pending litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Executive Session is expected to last up to 15 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 3:50 p.m. and is not expected to take action. The Board of Health extended Executive Session 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 5 minutes, and 5 minutes, and reconvened into regular session at 4:30 p.m. and did not take action.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Frederick introduced Mr. Tony Colinas, recently hired as an Assistant Director for the Environmental Health division. There have been no new interlocal agreements to report on since the last Board of Health meeting.

Health Officer's Report

COVID. Cases climbed back up in the weeks following the lessening of non-pharmaceutical interventions and now seem to be flattening. The current case rate is at 220 per 100,000 per week which puts Snohomish County in the medium risk category. New hospitalizations have remained around 45-50 per week for the past few weeks. The hospital admission rate is about five per 100,000 per week. Hospital occupancy by COVID status is remaining stable around 30-35 with only one or two ventilators. The total percentage of hospital beds in the county occupied by COVID patients is about 4-5%. These indicators place the county in the medium risk category. In response to this new and higher risk level, last week Dr. Spitters signaled a recommendation, not to be confused with a requirement or mandate, for the public to resume non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as masking. Both manufacturers of the COVID vaccines are undergoing clinical trials of their vaccines that are tailored to reflect the MRNA sequence of the omicron variant. Studies so far have shown that people that are fully vaccinated and have received one booster with the vaccine that was made from the original strain have great protection not only against hospitalization and death but also against infection. The Institute for Disease Modeling has been researching home testing and it's believed that only about 15-20% of actual COVID infections are being reported through a surveillance system and are counted as case reports.

Avian Influenza. This influenza type H5N1 that transmits between birds and is highly pathogenic mostly affects waterfowl in the wild that in turn has infected poultry farms. It was first detected in Southeast Asia about 20 years ago and has since spread around the Eurasian continent but until recently did not have much impact



in the Americas. Since detection in the United States, it's had a big impact on the agricultural economics and resulted in the need to cull tens of millions of birds. The virus doesn't spread easily to humans and typically will spread only when a person either lives near or works closely with birds. Over the past decade or so, there have been about 800 human cases detected with around a 50% mortality rate. The U.S. had only one confirmed case this year – a person in Colorado involved in culling operations that had mild symptoms; no secondary cases resulted.

There are many different strains of influenza. Influenza A, H3, H2, and H1 are the strains that have been circulating over the last several decades and are what the vaccines are tailormade protect against. The avian (H5N1) influenza surface proteins generally lack the ability to infect human cells, cause illness, and be transmitted between humans. The concern is the possibility of a mixing of an animal influenza virus with a human influenza virus that results in a new virus that can enter human cells, cause human illness, and be transmitted between humans.

The role of public health in this is to monitor people exposed to avian flu in birds, respond to detection of any human cases, isolate those infected, and perform contact tracing and case investigation to control the spread and protect the public.

Information Items

Chair Wright announced upcoming meetings.

Written Reports

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

- a. Finance Manager's Report for February 2022 (SR 22-030; S. Centanni)
- b. Program Policy Committee draft minutes – Apr 21
- c. Administration Committee draft minutes – Apr 27
- d. Executive Committee draft minutes – Apr 28
- e. Public Health Advisory Council draft minutes – Apr 27

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Stephanie Wright, Chair

Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary