



**Snohomish Health District  
Board of Health Minutes  
November 8, 2022**

The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Rucker Building and via Zoom conference call/video.

**Members Present via Zoom**

Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Councilmember, Lynnwood – BOH Chair (In Person)  
Elisabeth Crawford, Councilmember, Mukilteo (Virtual)  
Megan Dunn, County Councilmember (Virtual)  
Joseph Hund, Councilmember, Sultan (Virtual)  
Mark James, Councilmember, Marysville (Virtual)  
Anji Jorstad, Councilmember, Lake Stevens – Vice Chair (Virtual)  
Heather Logan, Councilmember, Arlington (Virtual)  
Sam Low, County Councilmember (Virtual)  
Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor, Mountlake Terrace (Virtual)  
Nate Nehring, County Councilmember (Virtual)  
Strom Peterson, County Councilmember (Virtual)  
Stephanie Vignal, Councilmember, Mill Creek (Virtual)  
Ben Zarlingo, Councilmember, Everett (Virtual)

**Members Absent**

Jared Mead, County Councilmember  
Neil Tibbott, Councilmember, Edmonds

**Comings and Goings**

Megan Dunn arrived at 3:03 pm  
Strom Peterson arrived at 3:17 pm

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was called to order using a hybrid setting at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Julieta Altamirano-Crosby.

**Roll Call**

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

**Approval of Agenda Contents and Order**

It was moved by Mr. Ben Zarlingo and seconded by Mr. Mark James to approve the agenda contents and order. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Ms. Heather Logan and seconded by Stephanie Vignal to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 11, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Dr. Altamirano-Crosby opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was received and Dr. Altamirano-Crosby closed public comment.

**Consent Agenda**

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



- a. Vouchers and Res. 22-29 authorizing Health District expenditures from September 16, 2022, to October 15, 2022
- b. 2023 Legislative Priorities
- c. Authorize the Administrative Officer to reimburse a staff member \$1,000 for tuition-related expenses for fall quarter 2022
- d. Authorize the Administrative Officer to purchase a Bruker X-Ray Florescent (XRF) machine for environmental health sampling
- e. Authorize the Administrative Officer to hire a temporary project manager for electronic health record implementation
- f. Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign the amendment to the contract with the Department of Social and Health Services for the Refugee and Health Screening program
- g. Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign amendment #8 to the consolidated contract with the Washington State Department of Health.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Special Business**

#### *Briefing and Public Hearing on the Health District's 2023 preliminary budget (SR 22-108; S. Frederick)*

Mr. Shawn Frederick began his briefing by sharing that the County Council recently passed a motion for a septic inventory and risk assessment project for the Health District in the amount of \$400,000 and as such the budget will require an amendment to the numbers shared in today's presentation. Highlights of the budget include:

- Medical, dental, and vision rates updated to Snohomish County rates
- PERS employer rates changed to 10.39% effective 9/1/22 (from 10.07%)
- Adding a total of 12.50 FTE (8.5 FTE in Prevention Services, 2.0 FTE in Environmental Health, and 2.0 FTE in Administration)
- Continuing into 2023 with 11.0 FTE added through Board approval or budget amendment 1 during 2022 (5.0 FTE in Prevention Services, 2.0 FTE in Environmental Health, and 4.0 FTE in Administration)
- Indirect rate of 10.5%

Chair Altamirano-Crosby opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. No public comments were received in writing by the published deadline, and no attendees volunteered to speak. Chair Altamirano-Crosby closed the public hearing.

#### *Briefing and Public Hearing on proposed Environmental Health fee schedule*

Ms. Ragina Gray provided an overview on the Environmental Health fee schedule, which includes an approximate 2% increase across the Board to match the 2022 cost of living adjustment. The majority of these increases range from \$5 to \$15.

Chair Altamirano-Crosby opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. No public comments were received in writing by the published deadline, and no attendees volunteered to speak. Chair Altamirano-Crosby closed the public hearing.



## **Action**

*Adopt Resolution 22-28 approving the proposed Environmental Health fee schedules as shown in Exhibit A (SR 22-106; R. Gray)*

Mr. Zarlingo congratulated Ms. Gray on the work in aligning the cost of operations with fees.

It was moved by Mr. Zarlingo and seconded by Mr. Joseph Hund to adopt Resolution 22-28 approving the proposed Environmental Health fee schedules as shown in Exhibit A. The motion passed unanimously.

*Authorize the Administrative Officer to fully execute an agreement with Patagonia Health for an electronic health record system (SR 22-102; K. Curtis)*

This item was previously brought through all three Committees. Since that time, the vendor returned with a few additional revisions to the agreement. Ms. Katie Curtis walked through the requested revisions.

It was moved by Ms. Logan and seconded by Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto Wright to authorize the Administrative Officer to fully execute an agreement with Patagonia Health for an electronic health record system. The motion passed unanimously.

*Authorize the Administrative Officer to sign agreements with Lamar Transit and National CineMedia for public health awareness and vaccine advertising (SR 22-104; N. Thomsen)*

These two agreements were brought to the October Board Committees as part of an advertising package with two other vendors. As staff continually review processes, it was decided to remove two of those agreements from requesting Board approval to ensure the procurement process aligns with District policy.

It was moved by Mr. Zarlingo and seconded by Ms. Logan to authorize the Administrative Officer to sign agreements with Lamar Transit and National CineMedia for public health awareness and vaccine advertising. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Executive Session**

The Snohomish Health District Board of Health recessed and convened into Executive Session for the purposes of collective bargaining matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.141(4)(b) and personnel matter pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate qualifications of an applicant for public employment. Executive Session is expected to last up to 10 minutes. Unless extended to a later time, the Board will reconvene into regular session at 3:55 pm and is not expected to take action. Executive session was extended an additional 5 minutes, 5 minutes, 2 minutes, 2 minutes, and 3 minutes, and the Board reconvened into regular session at 4:12 pm.

## **Briefings**

### *Public Health Integration*

Mr. Josh Dugan with the Snohomish County Executive's Office provided an update on the integration process. All milestones are currently being met with the short schedule as the only identified risk. The majority of work remaining is at the task level. The Communications team has been doing a great job the past several weeks focusing on brand management, employee support, and multi-channel communications. Tasks are being separated by priority – things that need to be completed by the end of this year and things that can be done after the first of the year. Labor negotiations are ongoing and scheduled to be complete by the end of the month. Onboarding and health benefits enrollment is currently open. The finalists for the health director position met with District staff earlier this afternoon and final interviews are wrapping up this week.

Ms. Anji Jorstad asked what functionality the current Board will have after January 1 and when there will be a new Board in place. Mr. Dugan shared that Ms. Stephanie Wright with the County's Executive staff, is in the process of going through and soliciting applications for the new Board of Health to have it constituted as closely to January 1 as possible. The current Board will continue as an entity until formally dissolved.



### **Administrative Officer's Report**

Mr. Shawn Frederick shared the following updates:

- One interlocal agreement was signed with the City of Everett for naloxone distribution to their police and fire departments.
- Staff are researching the possibility and logistics of putting together an opportunity to host some flu clinics, as there's an expectation that this year's flu season is going to be worse than what was experienced the past couple of years.
- Mr. Frederick has accepted a position as the chief administrative officer for a private nonprofit.

### **Health Officer's Report**

**Respiratory illness and flu.** Public health experts are expecting a resurgence in number of cases of flu and COVID in the near future. There is ongoing large increases in RSV circulation. There are also some new variants of COVID on the horizon that are particularly concerning. Clinical testing reports show an exponential rise with very high positivity rates for flu testing across the country. The District is also currently working on standing up flu vaccination clinics. RSV cases have also increased, causing stress on the pediatric health care partners. The District posted a health alert earlier today regarding these increases in flu and RSV.

**Opioid Epidemic.** Opioid overdose cases have recently begun increasing. The Health District is part of a multi-agency coordination group and continues to focus on educational efforts as well as having agreements in place with external partners to distribute naloxone. Within the past seven to ten days, there was a cluster of overdose deaths within the county that has now seemed to have tapered off. This caused concern that there could have been an adulterant in the fentanyl. Other public health departments have issued publications about this issue.

**COVID-19.** Metrics remain similar to the last time this item was briefed to the Board at its October meeting and the county currently remains in the "low" community level risk level. There are a few variants that have been expanding rapidly across the country. Of concern with this variant is the potential to evade some of the treatments currently used. There are also continued issues with bivalent vaccine uptake. Reports from Europe and the UK showed a 3-4 week sharp increase in all metrics mid-September to mid-October. As we typically lag about one to two months behind, we are expecting to see an increase in cases within the next two to three weeks.

**Monkeypox.** The State is up to 627 cases but for the past two weeks the county has remained stable at 35 current cases. The District is working to improve vaccine availability and recently doubled the number of vaccines administered over the last couple of months, although vaccine administration for monkeypox is still lower than ideal.

### **Written Reports**

Dr. Altamirano-Crosby noted that the following reports can be found in the Board packet:

- a. Finance Manager's report for August 2022 (SR 22-107; T. Bengtson)
- b. Program Policy Committee draft minutes – Oct. 20
- c. Administration Committee draft minutes – Oct. 26
- d. Executive Committee draft minutes – Oct. 27
- e. Public Health Advisory Council draft minutes – Oct. 26

### **Information Items**

Ms. Sarah de Jong noted the upcoming meetings.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



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Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, PHD  
Chair, Board of Health

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Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer / Secretary