

# **Snohomish Health District - Board of Health Special Meeting Agenda**

10/8/19  
2:00 – 3:00 PM

1. Review and provide input on the District's Vision, Mission and Draft Principles.
2. Review and provide input on the Strategic Public Health Goals (Current Programs and Future Focus) and Potential Service Strategies.
3. Conduct a Values Exercise for the organization.
4. Obtain direction on BOH involvement in the review and finalization of the Strategic Plan document.

# **Snohomish Health District**

## **Draft Vision Statement:**

Snohomish County will be the healthiest community in Washington State and its residents will aspire to lead still healthier lives. Snohomish Health District will play a critical role in improving the health of the community by preventing illness and injury through:

- Protecting the public's health,
- Leading on public health issues,
- Fostering and enhancing partnerships,
- Providing demonstrated value, and
- Education and communication.

## **Draft Mission Statement:**

To improve the health of individuals, families, and communities through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats.

## **Draft Principles:**

- A. Focus on the effective delivery of our core services, while maintaining flexibility** for policy-makers to be able to adapt to new threats, mandates and financial circumstances.
- B. Use evidence-based practices** in the design and delivery of public health services.
- C. Be good fiscal stewards**, fully understand the service strategies proposed, the cost and funding sources, and obtaining approval of all non-required programs before they are undertaken.
- D. Engage in meaningful connections across the organization**, support and respect each other in the implementation of the District's mission and vision.

# Introduction

The Snohomish Health District will spearhead overall public health strategy for Snohomish County so that all public health issues are acknowledged, addressed and resolved to the greatest extent possible, by taking the following three steps:

- 1) Ascertain which public health issues are the most important/critical to address;
- 2) Consider which agencies, organizations or groups might be best equipped to address the issues; and
- 3) Convene those interested parties/agencies/organizations/groups to develop consensus about the roles of the District and those parties in addressing the issues.

This Strategic Plan is step one in that spearheading process. The following Strategic Public Health Goals have been developed using step one of that process.

## Strategic Public Health Goals:

The District will address the following Strategic Public Health Goals (current programs in green, new/changed focus in blue):

- A. **Reduce the rate of communicable diseases and other notifiable conditions** – continue to focus on them as a priority (i.e., TB, STDs, HIV, vaccine preventable diseases, peri-natal Hep B, immunization education); increase attention to Hep C.
- B. **Prevent or reduce chronic diseases and injuries** – for injury prevention: continue current programs for school and child care facility safety, pool and spa injury prevention, food safety at facilities and events, and smoking in public places; increase attention to suicide prevention, opioid and drug use; and support other partners who are lead agencies with specific populations (i.e., seniors, etc.).
- C. **Provide high quality environmental health services** – continue mandated services/look for increased efficiencies (i.e., regulating on-site sewage treatment, solid waste facilities, drinking water wells); support planning and adaptation to address other environmental issues (i.e., water quality/sewage impacts, public health impacts of the built environment, etc.).
- D. **Improve maternal, child and family health outcomes** – continue current programs (i.e., children and youth with special health care needs, universal developmental screening, adverse childhood experiences, breastfeeding support, First Steps, blood lead program, Work First, physical activity promotion, healthy nutrition); increase focus on mental health, nutrition and access to healthy food, and children's oral health; and supporting other agencies' efforts (i.e., to promote nutrition, exercise and other healthy activities.)
- E. **Provide mandated vital records** – continue to provide birth and death certificates.

**- DISCUSSION DRAFT -**

F. **Address on-going, critical, public health issues**, such as:

- Opioids and illicit drug use
- Suicide prevention
- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Assessing health trends and planning responses
- Tobacco use/Vaping
- Marijuana use
- Homelessness (and related housing problems) working in the District's specific areas of its competency, while supporting other agencies and groups who are the recognized leads in this field.
- Mental/behavioral health (for the general population, vulnerable populations, locally incarcerated persons, etc.).

G. **Support increased access to medical, oral and mental health care services** – continue current programs (i.e., access to baby and child dentistry, refugee health screening, community partnerships); increase focus on linking the District with and participating in health care coalitions, with direct service providers, and providing access information to the District's service populations.

H. **Build a more sustainable organization** by supporting:

- Funding stability, predictability and sustainability
- Leadership and policy development capacity
- Workforce recruitment, retention, succession planning, training, capacity, staffing levels and a quality workplace
- Investing in emerging technology
- Awareness of the District's programs and services among the public, businesses and institutions
- Accountability for assignments and outcomes using agreed metrics and reporting timeframes
- Implementation of the *Division of Responsibilities* document

## Potential Service Strategies:

To address the previously listed Strategic Public Health Goals, a variety of Service Strategies may be used, including:

1. Lead on an issue(s) when the District is required to lead, is uniquely qualified, or desires to lead on an issue.
2. Partner with other agencies/organizations/groups on specific issues when the District should not be the lead but might play a supportive role; or when the District is not the appropriate agency to address the issue. Convene, catalyze, advocate and/or support potential partner agencies using a range of methods from informal collaborations, to contracting, to co-delivery of services, to formal partnerships, etc.
3. Use regulation and enforcement, in appropriate cases, to achieve public health goals.
4. Provide direct service to address an issue(s).
5. Use education/outreach/communication efforts to elicit behavior change related to a public health issue(s); provide hazards/threats warnings and alternatives/approaches to avoid/address the hazard(s)/threat(s); and provide information to help guide and direct members of the public to District services, as well as related services provided by other agencies, non-governmental organizations, affinity groups, medical/dental/mental health providers, etc.
6. Secure and allocate funding to support an effort(s) using District funds, seeking grants (WA Dept. of Health, other agencies, non-governmental organizations, etc.); and establishing a Public Health Foundation for funding.
7. Expand the application of technology (and data/information systems) in communications, general customer service, permit issuance, records requests, and to attain the highest efficiency in internal operations.
8. Undertake policy development which might include changes to the District's policies or Health Code, working to change other local policies or ordinances or state legislation.
9. Conduct assessments, investigate, track and monitor public health issues.