

REPORT FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Program Policy Committee Meeting

Regular meeting of October 11, 2019

Committee members present: Dan Rankin, Linda Redmon, Shirley Sutton, Jeff Vaughan

Committee members absent: Terry Ryan

Staff present: Shawn Frederick, Heather Thomas, Nicole Thomsen, Carrie Parker, Jennifer Reid, Linda Carl

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Motions passed at this meeting:

- Approved minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2019
- Moved to the full Board for discussion and action the Health District's intent to move forward with naloxone distribution and tracking in the county, tying this program to per capita funding from the cities, billing cities that participate but don't contribute per capita dollars, and investigating the ability to apply for a grant through the MAC Group and other entities

Briefings

Tap App – Formerly Refill Snohomish County

The Refill Snohomish County program spearheaded by County Councilmember Nate Nehring is now called Tap App to be consistent with King and Skagit Counties. This program encourages walking traffic to local businesses, promotes drinking water over sugary drinks, and increases use of reusable bottles. Eighty-five businesses in Snohomish County have signed up to participate; eventually we'll add parks and other options. The program is sponsored primarily by Zero Waste Washington. The Health District has no financial outlay. This item will go to the committees this month, and Mr. Rankin requested that it also go to the full Board.

Vaping in Snohomish County

The last CDC update showed that there have been 1,299 reported vaping-related illnesses nationwide and 26 deaths. There are seven reported cases, with one in Snohomish County (no deaths reported). Of the illnesses reported nationwide, 76% reported vaping, 58% reported using nicotine, and 45-50% reported using both. The cause is still unknown, and cases are likely to continue to increase. For youth, Juul is the device of choice. In a 2018 healthy youth survey in Washington State, 21% of 10th graders in the county reported vaping, although the definition of "vaping" for youth may not encompass use of the Juul, so this stat may be low. The State DOH passed a 120-day ban on the sale of flavored vape products; we may see a follow-up bill proposed soon. There is a vape tax in effect, and Tobacco 21 will go into effect January 2020.

Healthy Communities is working with Granite Falls and Lakewood High Schools on an alternative suspension model for students caught with a vape device. In this model, the student would take an educational class instead of being suspended and missing school. Healthy Communities staff is working on an online teaching portal, which could be an opportunity for more schools to provide this option to students.

Staff is working on creating images for social media and other ways to reach youth about the dangers of vaping. Ms. Heather Thomas is working with Congressman Rick Larsen's office to modernize language in the National State and Tobacco Control Program to add vaping, which would set a certain funding level each year to be disbursed through the CDC to DOH to LHJs.

The committee recommended this be presented to the full Board.

Health District 2020 legislative priorities

Traditionally the Health District has followed WSALPHO's legislative agenda. This year, however, we developed our own by talking with staff and looking at WSALPHO and DOH priorities. The draft list will go to the Executive Committee and to the full Board for approval prior to the start of the legislative session in January. Next year's legislative session is a short one (60 days). Once approved, we'll share our legislative agenda with cities, the County, and our state legislators.

Staff reviewed the draft priorities, which are: FPHS, adult mortality review, vapor products, sharps product stewardship, suicide as a notifiable condition, quarantined or isolation employment protections, and Title X. The committee requested that the items are grouped according to local, state, and federal conversations.

Public health foundation (SR 19-105)

The topic of a foundation was previously discussed at a budget ad hoc committee meeting and last month's PHAC meeting. The PHAC expressed support but wanted to ensure that funding from the County and cities continues.

The Program Policy committee expressed support of new funding sources and opportunities and directed this to go to the full Board. They noted that if the Board is supportive, then action would be needed to create a charter and a resolution to create a foundation board. This item is included in the draft 2020 budget as a future budget action. The other committees will be briefed later this month.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 9 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.