

REPORT FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health Advisory Council Meeting

Regular meeting of November 27, 2019

Committee members present:

Jason Biermann, Snoh. County DEM
Amy Beth Cook, Lake Stevens School District
Jeff Clarke, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
Lisa George, PRMCE
Robert Goetz, Snoh. Regional Drug Task Force
Brent Hackney, Brent Hackney Designs
Patricia Love, City of Stanwood
Korey MacKenzie, Diamond Knot Alehouse (Vice Chair)
Tové Skaftun, Community Health Centers
Sid Roberts, The Roberts Group (Chair)

Guest: Linda Redmon, Board of Health

Staff present: Dr. Chris Spitters, Shawn Frederick, Heather Thomas, Nicole Thomsen, Linda Carl

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 a.m.

Motions passed at this meeting:

- Approved minutes of the regular meeting of Sept. 25, 2019.

Briefings

Preliminary Health District Budget

Mr. Shawn Frederick gave a presentation on the preliminary budget to the PHAC that was provided to the Board on Nov. 27.

Discussion and Input

BOH Request: Recommendations on Climate Change

The Program Policy Committee asked the PHAC to take a deeper dive into the issue of climate change and to provide options and recommendations to the Board. Ms. Linda Redmon explained some of the potential issues our population could face when temperatures rise, such as dehydration, low air quality, food insecurity, water concerns, and vector-borne diseases. The PHAC had a robust discussion, including what's already happening in the county to address this issue, if the Health District has the capacity to take on more work, and what's the Board's intent—link to existing work, new work, partnerships, mitigation vs. adaption? The PHAC requested a more detailed briefing at their January meeting, and then will request members to join an ad hoc to dig in further. In the meantime, more information will be gathered by staff about efforts around the county.

Health Officer Report

Vaping-related Lung Illness

Dr. Chris Spitters reported that there have been 2,300 lung-injury cases associated with vaping in 49 states. There have been almost 50 deaths in 25 states, 19 cases with no deaths in Washington, and four

cases with no deaths in Snohomish County. The cases are two to one male to female and generally involve THC-containing products. The cause is still being investigated; however, it's looking more like the fats or oils that are used as a solvent could be the cause, such as vitamin E.

Pre-XDR TB Case

Dr. Spitters reported that currently we have about 20 active TB cases, which normally take six to eight months to treat. We also have one case that's the most drug-resistant case we've seen. Drug-resistant cases happen about 2% nationwide in which the patient is resistant to the two key drugs. When a patient has no insurance, the cost falls to the Health District. The cost of the drugs alone can be \$20K to \$50K, although often this expense will be covered by the manufacturer.

Updates

Ms. Nicole Thomsen reported that the Board approved the Health District's 2020 legislative agenda and encouraged PHAC members to share it with their networks.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7:45 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.