

Community Equity Advisory Board

April 9, 2024
Noon - 1:00 pm
Zoom meeting

Attendees: Kurtis Enick, Van Kuno, Clarence Shaw, Lika Smith, Mindy Woods, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

Absent: John Agyapong, Amelia Bai, DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Taniela Tokailagi

Department

Staff: Dr. James Lewis, Nicole Thomsen, Helen Wong, Pia Sampaga-Khim, Kelly Grimsley

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Nicole Thomsen at 12:04. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Clarence Shaw and seconded by Van Kuno to approve the meeting minutes of March 12, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Health Officer Report

Dr. James Lewis touched base on current public health topics. The first, the opioid epidemic which is an ongoing crisis. Since May 2023 there continues to be a very slow decline in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) opioid responses, but our county is still very high compared to years prior. The Executive's Office long term 3–5-year Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) goals have been published on the county website. The Health Department received an Overdose 2 Act (OD2A) grant from the CDC to work with local healthcare organizations to improve Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) prescribing and improve opioid prescribing practices. Also, the EMS is actively expanding the "naloxone leave behind program" and administered a Buprenorphine pilot that started in North County with one paramedic. Dr. Lewis is participating in a DOH workgroup regarding environmental drug contamination and working on repealing or overhauling the statute.

COVID-19 updates. In consultation with regional providers, we implemented a respiratory virus transmission alert threshold approach using emergency department syndromic surveillance data to inform implementation of masking in healthcare settings. Public Health issued a statement of support and there was a good response locally and there was a change in community isolation guidance for COVID. COVID activity has declined through March, RSV season has been relatively typical and now below transmission alert threshold and Influenza season has so far been relatively mild. Dr. Lewis will be participating in a WA State long COVID interest group of providers.

Communicable disease concerns: Measles. As of 3/7/24 there have been 45 cases in the U.S. There were 58 cases reported in 2023. All testing in Snohomish County have been negative as of today.

Communicable disease concerns: Pertussis. There has been a large Pertussis outbreak in Chelan-Douglas County with 64 cases as of April 2.

Communicable disease concerns: Candida auris is a yeast that has caused large outbreaks in healthcare settings and can be resistant to many or all available anti-fungal drugs. No cases in Snohomish County currently.

General updates. STI/HIV clinical services opened 12/1/23 and is going very well. There will be a STI/HIV Medical Assistant position opening soon. Current new positions; Opioid Epi, Immunization Public Health Nurse, Immunization Medical Assistant, Interim Health Equity Policy Analyst. On the horizon for 2024: MOUD (Medication for Opioid Use) work group, initiation of mobile vaccination services, respiratory vaccination clinics, expanding school-based clinics.

Helen Wong thanked Dr. Lewis for his time and stated it would be helpful to have him and Dennis Worsham alternate Community Equity Advisory Board monthly meetings so the Board can stay up to date on public health issues. Dr. Lewis said he'd be happy to participate and would appreciate any feedback on what information the members would like presented.

Questions and Answers

Pia Sampaga-Khim answered a question regarding substance abuse data not being complete. Pia said that the department recognizes this and will be working with communities that are not showing up in our data. The department would like to educate, provide support, and create systems that are a better fit for each community.

Lika Smith asked Pia if there was a program for moms that are currently pregnant and abusing drugs. Pia said there isn't one in Snohomish County but Everett Evergreen recovery is in the midst of building a treatment facility that specializes in pregnant teen and parents who are undergoing substance use. The project is currently in the building phase.

CEAB Community Compensation

Nicole Thomsen explained that when the CEAB was started in 2020 SHD had secured compensation for board members to participate. Then SHD merged with the County and all processes changed. The County does not compensate people on boards. The department feels that we should compensate our community members voices who are providing their input and impact by supporting the work of public health. Nicole Thomsen, Helen Wong and the department are in the process of working with the County on a micro agreement that may compensate the members in the future. The board will be kept updated.

Department Employee update

Pia Sampaga-Khim announced that Samara Heydon has accepted a job with King County and will be starting with them on April 29th. Colleagues are sad to see her leave but happy she'll be closer to her family.

New CEAB Membership Applicant

The department received a CEAB application from Dr. Yuguda. The application was reviewed by department employees and Helen Wong reached out to Dr. Yuguda to answer any questions about the Board.

ACTION: Clarence Shaw moved that the board accept the candidate's application as a candidate for membership and invite the applicant to the next Board meeting to introduce themselves and answer any questions. Lika Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Helen Wong will send out the candidate application to all Board members before the next meeting.

CEAB Retreat

Helen Wong discussed several of the department's current projects, including new RFP's, the 3 – 5 year strategic plan and the community health assessment. The department would like to schedule a board retreat so together we can talk about these issues and topics in a more intentional focused time. A timeframe of the week of May 20th was ideal for the departments strategic planning consultant. Nicole Thomsen/Helen Wong will have a doodle poll sent to the members to find a date that could work for almost everyone.

Next Meeting

May 14, 2024, 12:00 - 1:30PM via Zoom