

Approved Meeting Notes

Public Health Advisory Council of Snohomish County

March 28, 2018 | 7:45-9:15 a.m. | Snohomish Health District | Auditorium
3020 Rucker Ave., Everett, WA 98201

Members present:

Jiho Bryson, The Everett Clinic
Lisa George, PRMCE
Brent Hackney, Brent Hackney Designs
Kory MacKenzie, Diamond Knot Alehouse
Amy Navarro, United Way of Snoh. County
Martha Peppones, Homage Senior Services
Mark Richardson, Snoh. Regional Drug & Gang Task Force
Tové Skaftun, Community Health Centers
Sid Roberts, The Roberts Group
Brant Wood, Snoh. County PUD
Fred Worthen, Community Transit – Vice Chair

Staff Present:

Jeff Ketchel
Dr. Mark Beatty
Heather Thomas
Nicole Thomsen
Carrie McLachlan
Bruce Straughn
Linda Carl

Members not present: Jason Biermann, Snoh. County DEM; Amy Beth Cook, Lake Stevens School District; Sheila Luong, Mariner High School; Tony Mace, Paine Field Fire Dept.; Kevin O'Brien, Lakes Stevens Fire Dept.; Jim Steinruck, Tulalip Health System; Jim Welsh, ChildStrive

Guest: Jenna Bowman, Director of Public and Community Health, Tulalip Health System; Rebecca Mauldin, Development Director, ChildStrive

Recording Secretary: Linda Carl, Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 a.m. by Vice Chair Fred Worthen.

Approval of meeting notes

It was moved by Brant Wood and seconded by Brent Hackney to approve the minutes from the Jan. 24, 2018, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Introduction

Jeff introduced Nicole Thomsen, the Health District's new health policy analyst and liaison to the PHAC

Deeper Dive into Chief Health Strategist

PRACTICE #2: Develop strategies for promoting health and well-being that work most effectively for communities of today and tomorrow.

Administrator Jeff Ketchel stated that the population demographics of Snohomish County is changing and the Health District needs to change with it. For instance, in 2014, 12% of the population was 65 and older; in 2030 that number will be 20%. The county will add an average of 12,500 people per year. Over the past 10 years, there has been a sharp increase in STDs, as well as an increase in Hep C among 20- to 30-year-olds, primarily due to intravenous drug use.

Practice #2 in Action

Community Health Assessment 2018:

Nicole Thomsen reviewed the current work being done by the CHA workgroup. Lisa George, a member of the workgroup, said they're looking at the metrics, how we're changing, and how we can grow. Combining metrics will help us target solutions and how we can impact population health upfront. Fred Worthen noted that we need to take a different approach due to different demographics, consider how we message, and utilize social media. Carrie McLachlan added that the CHA workgroup is open to the public; at tomorrow's meeting they'll discuss how to score disparities. Ms. McLachlan will email the list of 100 indicators to the PHAC.

Syringe Exchange:

The AIDS Outreach Project/Snohomish County Syringe Exchange has been in operation since 1988, but the 501(c)(3) umbrella agency that oversees the organization is looking to further divest their portfolio. A more sustainable organizational structure is needed. The exchange is funded through a contract with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and DOH is supportive of the Health District taking on the syringe exchange.

The AIDS Outreach Project's syringe exchange is a one-for-one operation. Clients are given sharps containers and do their own cleanup. Last year, the syringe exchange kept 2M needles out of the county. The 2-member team is at capacity, and more services are needed in the County. This is not just the exchange of syringes, but also enhancing wrap-around services to this high-risk group. Conversations with the syringe exchange include looking to add a "treatment night" where clients can meet with providers to ask questions about treatment options and determining what next steps might be. 50-60 clients have already expressed interest if that service were available. DOH is also looking to add HIV testing to its services at the syringe exchange. A mobile exchange with more wrap-around services could be added in the future.

Jeff Ketchel noted that the Board discussed putting the syringe exchange under the umbrella of the Health District as a part of the 2018 budget process. The Board voted in December 6-5 to not bring it on at that time, but requested staff to come back with additional information in the second quarter of 2018 for further discussion. PHAC members asked what they could do to help with the efforts, and staff stated this would be before the Program Policy Committee in April. Heather Thomas has also been arranging tours for community members, such as the Board, local mayors, and the Sheriff's Office. If PHAC members are interested in a tour, please let her know.

The Health District also provides needle-cleanup kits. Starting next month, Snohomish County solid waste will also accept approved sharps containers for disposal at the three transfer stations. There's a video on Snohomishoverdoseprevention.com regarding how to use the cleanup kits.

From Your Vantage Point

Fred Worthen suggested more messaging, perhaps steer the message away from the client and to community health impact; he also encourage the PHAC to attend Board meetings.

Ms. George questioned PHAC's purpose and value-add to the syringe exchange conversation. Mr. Wood expressed concern that the PHAC seems disconnected from the Board. Once the Program Policy Committee elects a chair, that Board member will begin attending the PHAC meetings.

Ms. Thomsen would like to meet one-on-one with each PHAC member to talk about the Council's role related to the Board. For policy-level discussions, the PHAC might consider making formal recommendations to the Board. Ms. Thomsen suggested revisiting the PHAC's bylaws.

Mr. Wood asked if the PHAC provides added value to the Board or to staff? Mr. Ketchel expressed appreciation regarding the counsel he's received from PHAC members on current issues. Mr. Worthen suggested the PHAC focus on community needs now and consider changes to the charter at a later date.

Sid Roberts expressed his concern with the level of homelessness due to the cost of housing/rentals.

Announcements

Ms. Thomsen will email PHAC members whose terms are expiring in June and ask if they want to be reappointed. Also, if you have a recommendation for someone who might be a good candidate for an open sector, please let Ms. Thomsen know.

Public Health Week is next week. Ms. Thomas distributed a form that can be completed and posted on social media. Please follow the Health District on Facebook and Twitter.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.