

Meeting Notes

Public Health Advisory Council of Snohomish County

July 25, 2018 | 7:45-9:15 a.m. | Snohomish Health District | Auditorium
3020 Rucker Ave., Everett, WA 98201

Members present:

Jiho Bryson, The Everett Clinic
Jeff Clarke, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
Lisa George, PRMCE
Korey MacKenzie, Diamond Knot Alehouse
Martha Peppones, Homage Senior Services
Mark Richardson, Snoh. Regional Drug & Gang Task Force
Sid Roberts, The Roberts Group
Jim Welsh, ChildStrive

Staff Present:

Jeff Ketchel
Dr. Mark Beatty
Heather Thomas
Linda Carl

Members not present: Jason Biermann, Snoh. County DEM; Jenna Bowman, Tulalip Health System; Amy Beth Cook, Lake Stevens School District; Brent Hackney, Brent Hackney Designs; Tony Mace, Paine Field Fire Dept.; Amy Navarro, United Way of Snoh. County; Kevin O'Brien, Lakes Stevens Fire Dept.; Tové Skaftun, Community Health Centers

Recording Secretary: Linda Carl, Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m.

Approval of meeting notes

It was moved by Sid Roberts and seconded by Lisa George to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2018, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair & Vice-Chair Elections

It was moved by Mark Richardson and seconded by Jeff Clarke to appoint Sid Roberts as chair and Korey MacKenzie as vice chair for the remainder of 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. MacKenzie has expressed interest in assuming the role of chair in 2019. Having a custom where the vice chair moves to chair the following year will allow for predictable leadership as well as an opportunity for more council members to serve in a leadership role.

Briefing & Updates

Board of Health:

Heather Thomas provided short a re-cap of the June Board of Health meeting. The Board approved the ILA with Snohomish County for IT services, a transition that's been in the works for several years. This transition fits into the chief health strategist goal to be state-of-the-art. Chair Roberts asked about copiers, and Jeff Ketchel responded that our public records officer has ensured our copier-usage is compliant with HIPPA and public records requirements.

The Board of Health has created two new task forces: one to look at options related to the Rucker Building, and the other to discuss the division of responsibilities between the Board, its Executive Committee, and SHD leadership.

Ms. Thomas gave an update to the Board on changes in staffing within Healthy Communities and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response that were necessitated in part due to a reduction in \$150,000 to PHEPR because of changes at the federal level.

Community Health Assessment (CHA)

Lisa George reported that the one takeaway from the last meeting was the number of primary care physicians in the county compared to population rates. In King County, the rate is one physician to 800 residents; statewide that number is 1 to 1,200; and in Snohomish County, the rate is 1 to 1,900. This ratio has an impact on the ability to positively affect health and well-being in the county. With the expansion of Sea Mar and the WSU medical school in the area, residency numbers will increase, which in turn will hopefully increase the number of doctors who remain in the county.

Ms. Thomas mentioned that SHD is considering sponsoring an art contest with the theme of “what community health looks like.” Potentially the PHAC could select the winning entry.

2019 Legislative Session

The Health District received \$437,000 this year – our portion of the state money that was part of last year’s legislative ask. This year’s legislative ask will include funding for environmental health, communicable disease, assessment, and Tobacco 21. WSLPHO (which Mr. Ketchel is active in) and WSPHA (which Ms. Thomas sits on the board) are working with local health jurisdictions on this year’s collective ask. At the next PHAC meeting there will be specific requests of PHAC members regarding ways to help. PHAC members are welcome to join staff and Board members at the public health education day in Olympia the first week in March.

PHAC Retreat & SHD Strategic Planning

Mr. Ketchel provided a draft outline of the strategic planning process. He’s meeting with a prospective consultant next week to discuss the process. At this time, the idea is to have a six-hour retreat: the first two hours will be for the PHAC only, the second two hours for the PHAC and Board together, and the last two hours with just the Board. One basis of health equity is power-sharing; the retreat will be a beneficial way for the PHAC and the Board to share and collaborate. Conversation followed regarding goals the PHAC would like to achieve at the retreat.

Chair Roberts added that ideally, after the retreat, the Board will leave with an understanding that the PHAC is here to help. He noted that the PHAC consists of non-electeds who volunteer their time and would like to build a bridge with the Board. Ms. George asked if there’s a process where added weight/credibility can be given to items reviewed by the PHAC prior to going to the Board; we need to move strategically toward building more trust with the Board. Ms. Thomas said there’s always been some question as to who the PHAC members represent when they give their recommendation: themselves, their agency, their sector? Ms. George suggested a subcommittee or task force to give more in-depth analysis to issues. Mr. Clarke asked if the retreat is intended to help determine how public health decisions are made in the county. Mr. Ketchel responded that part of that is the division of responsibilities and trust-building between SHD leadership and the Board.

Ms. George mentioned that SHD shouldn’t be political but also needs to act on data; the question is now to tackle partisan issues in a nonpartisan way. Dr. Beatty expressed caution when looking at data, since it can be manipulated. Per RCW, the health officer has the authority to communicate to the public the health status of the county.

Chair Roberts asked if the PHAC is an advisory group to the Board or to SHD leadership. Dr. Beatty observed that the Board spends a lot of their time on administrative issues; he sees the PHAC offering advice to SHD leadership on community issues. Mr. Ketchel said the PHAC ought to be an advisory council to the Board as

well. He'd like to see the PHAC chair as a nonvoting member of the Board. Ms. George suggested the PHAC provide a report to the Board after each meeting.

Announcements

Kresge Emerging Leaders in Public Health

Mr. Ketchel and Ms. Thomsen were selected to participate in an 18-month program. Twenty-two teams of two were selected nationwide. The project they will work on is to increase regional resources and cross-jurisdictional sharing with other local health agencies to create a mechanism to deal directly with the federal government. Their participation comes with \$125,000 to SHD.

NovusAgenda

Board agenda packets are now provided electronically to the Board, as well as in traditional PDF format. The packets are now available on SHD's website in searchable PDF formats. PHAC members expressed willingness to also receive their packets electronically starting with the September meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.