

## DRAFT Meeting Notes

### Public Health Advisory Council of Snohomish County

January 27, 2021 | 7:45-9:15 a.m. | Snohomish Health District | Zoom Meeting

#### Members present:

**Frank Busichio**, InterFaith Family Shelter  
**Jeff Clarke**, Commissioner, Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District  
(Chair-Elect)  
**Amy Beth Cook**, Lake Stevens School District  
**Jean Doerge**, Community Member  
**Lisa George**, PRMCE (Chair)  
**Robert Goetz**, Everett Police Department  
**Kurt Hilt**, International Association of Fire Fighters 1828  
**Patricia Love**, City of Stanwood  
**Korey MacKenzie**, Diamond Knot Alehouse (Past Chair)  
**Karri Matau**, Community Foundation of Snohomish County  
**Shaughn Maxwell**, South County Fire and Rescue  
**Tové Skaftun**, Community Health Centers

#### Staff Present:

Shawn Frederick  
Dr. Chris Spitters  
Heather Thomas  
Nicole Thomsen  
Linda Carl

**Members not present:** **Jason Biermann**, Snohomish County DEM; **Brent Hackney**, Brent Hackney Designs;  
**Midori Larrabee**, EvergreenHealth Monroe; **Naisha Williams**, Community Member

*Recording Secretary: Linda Carl, Executive Assistant*

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. Roll call was taken by Ms. Linda Carl who reported there was a quorum present.

#### Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Lisa George and seconded by Mr. Jeff Clarke to approve the minutes of September 23, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. George and seconded by Mr. Clarke to approve the minutes of November 25, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Special Business

##### *Officer Transition and Election of Chair-Elect*

Ms. George, as Chair-Elect, is now Chair of the PHAC for 2021. She thanked Mr. Korey MacKenzie for his service as Chair for 2020; Mr. MacKenzie remains on the leadership team as Past Chair. Ms. George opened the floor to nominations for Chair-Elect. Mr. Clarke volunteered.

It was moved by Ms. George and seconded by Mr. MacKenzie to elect Mr. Clarke as Chair-Elect for 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

#### COVID-19 Update

Dr. Chris Spitters reported that our numbers peaked in December and now have dropped to 253 per 100K in a rolling two-week period. New hospital admissions also peaked and are coming down; patients are primarily in Providence and Swedish. Long-term care facilities admissions are down and there are now fewer restrictions on admissions. Deaths have come down as well, with 17 from Jan. 10 to 16, and a total of

65 in January to date. Vaccines are not the reason for the decline because we're too early in the process. Hopefully in a month or two the positive impact of the vaccine will be seen and will prevent another wave. Phases A1/A2 are mostly complete, and we're now in B1 (65 and up, plus 50-64 in a multigenerational household). It could take about three months to vaccinate everyone in this phase. Thanks to our partners (DEM, South County Fire, EMS, Providence, and others), we've administered about 84% of the vaccines we were supplied, compared to about 59% statewide. We're working to stand up large-capacity sites with private partners that could help us reach 2,000 to 2,500 vaccinations per day. Staffing, however, is a concern, and the vaccination supply isn't meeting demand.

The new UK variant, B.1.1.7 is in the county. It has been found that antibodies from recovered COVID-19 cases were effective in neutralizing the virus (albeit at a somewhat lower efficacy than other circulating strains), but we don't know yet the clinical efficacy in humans. COVID-19 mutates over time and variants like this are not a surprise and should be expected. This doesn't impact our current management of the disease but will be a part of surveillance and vaccine development going forward.

In response to questions, staff noted that availability of appointments is dependent on supply. Second doses were not being scheduled due to lack of vaccine availability, but we're working on registration systems to automatically queue up second appointments. Modifications are being made to the Health District's and the County's websites to make the registration process a little more user-friendly. Those vaccinated at drive-through sites will receive an email close to their 21- or 28-day mark. It is, however, okay for the second dose to be administered beyond that timeframe. Prevention measures, including in LTCF, has not changed. Dr. Spitters expects that those who have been vaccinated will potentially see changes in their guidance, especially when a majority of elders are vaccinated. He is aware of some hesitancy to get the vaccine but hasn't seen the data in our state. The Community Equity Advisory Board is focusing on the COVID-19 response and outreach in BIPOC communities. People interested in volunteering at vaccination sites are encouraged to connect with our Medical Reserve Corp.

### **2021 Legislative Session**

The legislative session is virtual this year, and legislators have been asked to narrow their focus to global climate change, racial equity, COVID-19, and economic recovery. So far approximately 1,000 bills have been filed, with about 40 directly related to public health. Ms. Nicole Thomsen reviewed some of the bills she's tracking, including those related to overdose fatalities, statewide districting of public health and changes to boards of health structure, vaping youth ban and tax, and home kitchens.

### **2021 Program Policy Committee Work Plan**

The Program Policy Committee developed a list of eight items they'd like to focus on in 2021 (the list is provided in the packet). At last week's committee meeting, staff were asked to look at policies through an equity lens, explore short- vs. long-term policy planning, as well as focusing on grants and funding opportunities. Committee members would like to come up with mechanisms to collaborate/partner with other agencies and sectors while considering the Health District's role and where we can lead, partner, or support. They are very appreciative of the PHAC's comments regarding the draft work plan.

### **2021 PHAC Work Plan**

With the council's bylaws complete, Ms. Nicole Thomsen asked if the council would like to develop a work plan. The council agreed and suggested a work group. Volunteers are: Ms. George, Mr. MacKenzie, Ms. Love, Ms. Doerge, Mr. Clarke, and Mr. Hilt.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m. The next meeting of the PHAC is Wednesday, March 25.