



WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

JANUARY 10, 2018

Present: Barry Buchanan, Barbara Juarez, Rachel Lucy - Chair, Les Seelye, Chi-Na Stoane, Lindsey Karas, Shari Robinson, Sue Sullivan - Vice-Chair, Ray Wolpov

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Approve Notes From Last Meeting	Moved to adopt the, meeting summaries from November 2 and December 15, 2017, as submitted. Approved (9-0)
Director's Report (DR) Whatcom County Council Who's Who WIC Update & Request for Support	<p><u>Triage Facility:</u> The Capital Budget at the State has not yet passed. With other available funds for this project, we have contracted with architect, Ron Wright of Seattle. He has designed several of these facilities. We are projecting to finish construction at the end of 2019.</p> <p>Changes to Health Board include the addition of Tyler Bird who was elected to fill the position vacated by Ken Mann. In addition to this change, Todd Donovan switched districts and County Council will appoint a new Council member on January 16th to fill Todd's vacant position until the next election.</p> <p>The Health Department (WCHD) included WIC in 2017-18 Budget. The State WIC contract cycle runs through September, and we have decided not to renew this contract. There has been a rapid decline in the number of people utilizing the program locally and federally. The hope is that a community partner will take this on and that these services will be co-located with other services. Though this has been a difficult decision, we are pleased that the service will continue to be offered in the community. Health Department staff have been in the WIC program for 25 years or more. We will work to support the affected staff during this transition.</p> <p>The State Department of Health will hold a community meeting to discuss the January 23rd, from 1-3 in the Garden Level Conference Room of the Civic Center, 322 N. Commercial.</p> <p>The decision to discontinue the WIC program within the WCHD was supported by PHAB, though Shari requested it noted that her support carried reservations.</p>
Election of Officers	<p>Moved to re-elect Rachel Lucy as Chair and Sue Sullivan as Vice-Chair for 2017. Approved unanimously.</p> <p>Board member Wolpov requested the notes reflect appreciation for the service of both Rachel and Sue and the work they have done in these positions.</p>



<p>Setting Priority Focus for 2018</p>	<p>Board members were invited to share their preferences for PHAB’s focus in 2018, specifically whether they supported continued focus on young children and families and what other issues they would like to consider. The following responses were given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health Improvement work • Start to think about and dig into homelessness. This impacts young children and families. • The United Way is transitioning to a single focus on poverty. Consider partnering with them on this as they bring community partners together during the next biennium. • Utilize the traction we have gained through our 2017 focus and the Generations Forward work and move ideas into reality. (WCHD will send out data from Generations Forward.)
<p>Setting Priority Focus for 2018 continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longitudinal studies are difficult on a national level. We are responsible process-wise to put our efforts into providing data for the next generation so they know what works • Stay on topic, but keep in mind that we need to move together with community focus and not leave any gaps. • We can research emerging issues as they come up. • The focus is part of what WCHD does and there is funding connected to this, so it will happen regardless. It makes sense to keep the momentum going. There are many areas to address within the Generations Forward model. Opiate addiction is a priority across the state. It creates poverty and impacts families, homelessness, incarceration reduction, etc. What are our partners and smaller communities doing? We should go in same direction. Opiates have to be a topic. • Young children and families is a good and wide-reaching topic. It even touches the environment and including those families unable to dig wells. • We should have an educational focus and bring County government to a joint session. Our role is to communicate and educate. The Chair called for a subcommittee to plan the joint meeting with the health board. Chi-Na and Rachel volunteered. Regina offered to assist and support. She suggested an evening meeting. April is early enough in the year, yet far enough out to incorporate CHI data in the discussions. <p>PHAB’s Role: to advise the Health Department and the Health Board. It is important to understand the landscape. WCHD role is to bring that understanding</p> <p>At the next Health Board Meeting we will report on Generations Forward and prime for the joint session of the boards.</p> <p><u>CHI Process Update:</u></p> <p>At the Special PHAB meeting on February 9th, we plan to dig into the “opportunity/community” piece with Dr. John Korsmo. WCHD staff invited board members to contribute to the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>It is important to be clear about what the 2018 PHAB focus means to the CHI and ensure concrete points are laid out with regards to where we are going in the next 6 months.</p>
<p>Other/Public Comment</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>What went well? What can we improve?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate what has been accomplished, the vote of confidence for the chair and vice-chair, and getting out early • Great meeting. We need each other. • Value the discussion and the WCHD. Grateful that health needs are being taken

	<p>care of by the WCHD. Thanks for the special lighting accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excited to see the year role out. Like the idea of having focus.• Like to have focus and this one seems all encompassing. Feels like we're just getting started.• The chosen focus is more of a filter and not mutually exclusive. There are overlaps, and different perspectives apply. Our ultimate unified vision/task is to steward a healthy community.• Appreciate the focus and see there is opportunity to hone in on a couple of items we can influence together with the Health Board.• Feel very at home here on this board. Appreciate what is established in process and organization, yet new board members feel comfortable. Great that this board is so engaged at 7 a.m.• Human Services is in the process of updating the 10 year plan to end homelessness. There is pressure to focus on those with high vulnerabilities which may not translate to young families with children. It may be helpful for some PHAB members to come to other Health advisory board meetings for cross pollination. Anne offered an invitation to anyone interested. She will send meeting dates and point out when agenda is ripe for this conversation.• Appreciated the conversation about WIC and the sensitivity to it.. Thanks to Astrid for her leadership role in bringing Generations Forward. It has been a rewarding experience and an inspiration.
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