

Public Health Advisory Board

January 12, 2017 Meeting Summary

Present: Lindsey Karas, Rachel Lucy – Vice-chair, Ben Scholtz – Chair, Les Seelye, Chi-Na Stoane, Sue Sullivan, Ray Wolpow

Absent: *Barry Buchanan, Barbara Juarez*

Staff Present: Aaron Ignac, Anne Deacon, Astrid Newell, Cindy Hollinsworth, Greg Stern, John Wolpers, Judy Ziels, Patty Proctor, Perry Mowery, Regina Delahunt, Tammy Axlund

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Introduction and Welcome	Aaron Ignac, our new Health Information and Assessment Manager was introduced and welcomed.
Approve Notes from Last Meeting	Moved to adopt the November 3, 2016, meeting summary as submitted. Approved (7-0)
Election of Officers	Moved to elect Rachel Lucy as Chair and Sue Sullivan as Vice-Chair for 2017. Approved (7,0)
Director's Report	<p>Update: We received approval to remodel the Girard Street downstairs area, which includes adding four offices to bring Human Services and Health Information and Assessment staff together by division. This will provided the necessary private office space for staff to discuss confidential matters with clients.</p> <p>The North Sound Behavioral Health Organization gave us a large sum for building the Triage Center. The plan is to expand on the same site.</p> <p>A forensic investigation was conducted on the State Street building in November. We are awaiting results.</p> <p>The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination event held Tuesday should help increase all immunization rates.</p> <p>Mental Health Court is approximately a 2 year program. We started the program January 30, 2015, and have had one early graduate. Though not everyone involved in the program is able to graduate, there are other measures of success.</p>
Annual Health Board Action	Documentation was provided in the packet. No discussion occurred.
2017 Focus on Young Children and Families	<p>In a quick review of where we are now it was noted that County Council requested the opportunity to pay for another Nurse to expand the Nurse Family Partnership Program and this was included and approved in our budget. Also, Astrid and Regina met with the Human Resources (HR) Manager to discuss family friendly policies in the work force. HR will provide information on what we have in place so far. HR and the Executive are excited about the concept.</p> <p><u>Interview Highlights:</u> Consider how the themes inform action and what we can take from this for the next Health Board meeting.</p> <p>Sue interviewed Emily O'Connor, Chair of the Housing Advisory Committee & Director of Lydia Place: The committee has not done a lot of policy work, but is excited to do cross-committee work. She desires balance between crisis reduction and prevention. Invitation to PHAB member to attend HAC meeting</p> <p>Les interviewed Jennifer Moon, Unity Care: They are working on homelessness, food insecurity, opiate addiction and are concerned about access to food especially in the area where Albertsons closed. Invitation for support to fix this.</p> <p>Chi-Na interviewed Mike Massanari who is on Behavioral Health Revenue Advisory</p>

Committee, North Sound Behavioral Health Organization Advisory Board, and Behavioral Health Advisory Board: Improvement in Mental Health crisis response, but prevention and follow up still needed. Limited emphasis on the child. Impressed with Compass Health CRIS program and recommended we look at it. Cordata area is growing and in need of family support. It was suggested we speak to principal of the elementary school there. Dr. Baker, Superintendent of the Bellingham School District recommended the book "Our Kids" and expressed concern for the family unit and single parents with an emphasis on unplanned pregnancies. He sees benefits to regional support of Mental Health and other health policies and he would like to hear from Health staff at meetings. He had questions about drug court.

Rachel interviewed Stephen Gockley of the Jail Incarceration and Prevention Task force (Jail entry: Behavioral Health and non-Behavioral Health): Has an interest in working upstream with struggling families in community. Believes there is now good technology for electronic monitoring instead of Jail. Dan Hammill from City of Bellingham Council visited Smart Justice and is looking at bringing something similar here. Need to figure out how to leverage Health Board interest and bring groups together.

Ben interviewed Ken Larsen, of the Developmental Disability Board: His focus was on State and national issues. Potentially represents someone with drafting policy experience and could help with support the County. His County issues were the Triage Center and the County Jail. He would like it to be functional and funded - a jail with a full spectrum of services where people could be treated while in the system. He felt people get arrested so they can get off the street. Working on particular issues around civil rights, especially concerning mental health, while in jail. Talked about the value of State budget for service waivers and employment waivers, subsidies for hiring people with developmental disabilities. He's concerned about the potential for loss of funding for supportive employment. The Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board would like more information about housing and homelessness. When Mr. Larsen was asked, "what does it mean to you to put money in community?" he talked about spreading it out. Funding not just buildings but putting money in the community to employ people, provide services, housing, employment, and events. He is also concerned about the lack of supported services for people ending up in jail.

Lindsay interviewed Rachel Herman from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board: She saw a potential for partnership for legislative action. Interested in policies for funding for child care for outpatient facilities, out of pocket expenses, transportation. New programs that could be disseminated into a larger audience. She was interested in having someone from Planned Parenthood on the Public Health Advisory Board. Lindsay works with immigrant families and there is almost no access for Spanish speaking counselors and services for immigrants. She indicated a large need for behavioral health services in the north end.

Ray interviewed Sylvia Fagner from the Developmental Disabilities Board: She worked here for years and has seen the changes. Liked that the board stepped outside the silos to talk with other boards and committees. Prior to 2008 – 2009, the Health Department had a centralized team that provided diagnostic services for children in the community. After 2008-2009 the team dissolved and now we send people to Seattle. She advocates bringing diagnostic services back here. Sylvia also talked about the struggle that her advisory board has had in coming up with data and deciding what to focus on and how do you measure the services.

Staff comments

Greg – The Council of Non-profits gets people to together to network. The Council boards might be able to do something similar to leverage work and provide richer feedback to agencies and their boards.

How do we plan for food access? Can we offer tax incentives to food business to

	<p>support access in impacted areas? Can we support non-profits like food co-ops? Consider applying our housing model to food.</p> <p>Regina – biggest theme is behavioral health needs for children and families. Regina was at the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA) retreat and children and families were part of the discussion.</p> <p>Judy – Taking Action Group has infrastructure and behavioral health as themes that always flare up for both children and families. How can they repair the families and signals early on when children struggle early in life? As a community we aren't prepared to help. First Steps Group focuses on perinatal and postpartum support. The mental health issues of the parents and their inability to support children.</p> <p>Anne is on all the boards talked about today. Human Services Division has a budget of about 12 million dollars a year. A little less than half of that is local dollars with more flexibility. Other funds have restrictions as to what the funds could be used for. We are under resourced and this comes from federal policies on down. We don't want to stop our voice being heard on what is important. We need to continue providing education and training support to those that are providing the services.</p> <p>The County has some clear views on where they want to focus. For instance, the Incarceration Task Force is aware of the problem for children and families, but it isn't part of the task force directive. The Behavioral Health Revenue Advisory Board allocates 25% of funding to prevention and 25% to intervention for a total of about two million dollars a year. The State Developmental Disability funding has strict rules and we use millage for things that can't be paid with State funds.</p> <p><u>Key Themes:</u> Access to key services, housing, behavioral health, disparity amongst the services, and food.</p> <p>How can we make connections? What type of policies can we develop while making the connections?</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel will provide summary to Health Board., end an email out to board with additional people to contact, reach out to Barbara and Barry for their contacted connections, and work with Astrid to merge comments and observations into a document. • Talk to planned parenthood, principals, Dr Baker's opinion. • Chi-na will talk to Dr. Baker. • Ray also volunteered to reach out to others. • Ray-suggested PHAB should have a member that has a mental health background. Our former member Doug had that background. We could reach out to him to see if he would return or possibly recommend someone.
<p>Farewell to Ben</p>	<p>Ben suggested PHAB members attend Health Board meetings to bring or support recommendations.</p> <p>Regina presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ben and thanked him for his service.</p> <p>Ben reflected on his time on the board. The value of his collaboration with Doug and Rachel. His recommendation is to keep the process interesting and stimulated – the results will come.</p>
<p>Other/Public Comment</p>	<p>None</p>