



WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD DRAFT MEETING NOTES

SPECIAL MEETING - MAY 1, 2020

Present: Steve Bennett, Sterling Chick - Vice Chair, Lindsey Karas, Les Seelye, Chi-Na Stoane - Chair,
Leah Wainman

Absent: Barry Buchanan, Barbara Juarez,

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Approve Notes From Last Meeting	Moved to adopt the April 23, 2020, meeting summary as submitted. Approved (6 to 0)
Discuss membership, process and timeline for COVID-19 Employer Infection Control Task Force	<p>We received many applications for review from many individuals over many sectors. The subgroup will go through them and make recommendations to the full PHAB for membership on the task force.</p> <p>We cannot move forward in this process until the Health Board approves the resolution which assigns PHAB to convene set up the COVID-19 Employer Infection Control Task Force. A request for approval of the resolution will be on the May 5th County Council agenda. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. We do not yet know where this item will fall on the agenda.</p> <p>The Health Director clarified what this task force is and is not. Our focus as public health officials on technical assistance specific to infection control and to provide this support and guidance for businesses as they open. The health department will not be responsible to empower businesses to open, that is the Governor's role. The Governor is expected to provide guidance at 2:30 p.m. today. We are taking the public health prevention approach so that when businesses are allowed to open, they will feel confident they have measures in place to protect their staff and their customers.</p> <p>Bill Angel (Health Department Staff): Do we know which sectors the Governor will open? <i>This was deferred until the Governor announcement.</i></p> <p>We are working in unison with Strategic Planning Team from Whatcom Unified Command, who are researching what other jurisdictions, as well as national and state associations are providing in terms of guidance. Thanks to Bill who is working with this team. We are also gathering information from Health staff on guidance they have been providing as questions have come in from individual businesses. We want to make sure we collect and understand all the information, so we can coordinate and make sure we are all on the same page.</p> <p>We have to understand what is going on scientifically and medically and implement research based sound practice to keep all members of our community safe. We are creating the task force to provide structure to help the community move forward understanding safe practice.</p>
Public Comment	None.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.
Link to recording	View interactive recording

