



WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 3, 2018

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

Absent: Ray Wolpow, Barry Buchanan

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Approve Notes From Last Meeting	<p>Moved to adopt the March 1, 2018, meeting summary as submitted. Approved (5 to 0, 1 abstained)</p> <p><u>Follow up on action items:</u></p> <p>Joint meeting with Health Board set Cindy Hollingsworth and Rachel have come up with data for the Syringe Services Greg will provide ideas for numbers on prevention, which is our focus</p>
Director's Report (DR)	<p><u>Transition of WIC Services:</u> 2 community partners applied to the State to take on this service. We have not received the State's decision</p> <p><u>Building Update:</u> There is a possibility of using the 509 Girard Street building for a low barrier homeless shelter. The City of Bellingham is in favor. The County Executive does not believe this is the best option, but will support the City's choice. Since they would need to renovate the State Street building and move the morgue in order to relocate staff before they can begin to renovate 509 Girard. If they do choose 509 Girard, the transition would be 2-3 years down the road.</p> <p><u>Food System Planning update:</u> There is a meeting May 10th with county planning and community partners to develop a Food System Task force. Rachel will represent the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB.) Board members are welcome to attend. Astrid will send meeting time and location to anyone interested.</p> <p><u>Community Health Improvement update:</u> There have been edits and additions to the Community Health Assessment since it went out in the agenda packet. The Healthy Whatcom group is meeting to figure out the next phase including how to bring it to the community and support efforts. PHAB members are welcome to attend meetings which will be held every other week. Rachel has the dates.</p> <p><u>PHAB/HB Joint meeting July 17th:</u> Rachel asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to meet twice for an hour and put the agenda together: Chi-Na, Sue, and Regina volunteered. Tammy will invite Barry to participate</p>



<p>Changing Role of Public Health</p>	<p>The transition of WIC services emphasized the shift in the role of the WCHD and PHAB.</p> <p>Page 33 of the packet shows the evolution of Public Health over the last century.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that as a board we are transitioning and are between 2.0 & 3.0, and that we have some initiatives that are a solid 3.0. • As we move more toward 3.0, it is not about getting rid of 2.0 and direct services, but building on it and creating a system to determine what resources the community provides to maintain health in our community and what capacities we need to maintain as a health department. <p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify Board: Do we need to change the make up? What expertise do we need? • Group Think: we need to ensure we are creating a safe place • Where are we investing in infrastructure to meet the changes? <p>PHAB Members thoughts, questions, and inspiration from the Chief Health Strategist article:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are data driven and should be able to organically move with the evolution of the culture. We have a responsibility to protect our community. • Helping elders maintain quality of life • Concerned about moving away from a “safety-net” provider. Some are already underserved due to lack of insurance, transportation, and the need for “permission” to access services, etc. • We need a culture shift: instead of assisting people to learn to help themselves, it seems we do it for them. As a society, we need to be able to make our choices and not have the government make them for us. We should focus more on children to bring them out of this cycle. • We have come a long way with immunizations, etc. which opens the way to • Is it appropriate for PHAB to make recommendations for funding and resources to move this forward? • Connections are important to bringing partners together, yet to respect the legal component and responsibilities of independent governments such as the tribes, intergovernmental, and social groups makes it complicated. • It is important for us to have more clarity around this topic before the joint meeting with the Health Board. We will discuss it more at the July 5th PHAB meeting. • PHAB members can act as critical thought partners advising the Health Department, despite the perception that the HD staff are the experts
<p>Preliminary Community Health Assessment walk through</p>	<p>Board members partnered with staff to review materials using the questions on the discussion form to determine what themes really stand out and these were their comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data is alarming and disheartening, but is confirming the qualitative information. We, as a County, have some work to do. • Good job finding and including voices we don’t always hear. We will break down further by school district, to ensure voices are heard at a community level. • Suggestion: look at churches in various communities and get buy in, look

	<p>at those that are diverse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support families in the next generation, with a focus on daycare, so that it is not cheaper to stay on DSHS funding than to work. • We must use the data and make sure all institutions have access to relevant data that paints a true picture of our area: Substance abuse, including alcoholism, seems to be very high here and affects our young people more than any demographic • Is the rise in poor mental health an increase in actual numbers or in awareness and ability to talk about it? • This is telling of who we are. Nice place to live but very segregated society. How do we make decisions for the voices that are not heard? • The CHA report provides an awesome presentation of the information and data. <p>PHAB members were asked to thoroughly review the draft of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and record insights, themes and reflections to provide to the Health Department for the Key Findings portion of the report. As you review the content, remember the audience for this piece is partner organizations and policy makers. Please email Tammy by Monday with questions, and any themes or insights to be reflected in final report.</p> <p>We will have the CHA to share at the joint meeting with the Health Board in July.</p>
<p>Other/Public Comment</p>	<p>Shari announced her resignation. This will be her last meeting as she is moving out of State.</p> <p>We can review board candidate applications from our last vacancy, since it was filled just over a year ago. Board members are encouraged to submit names of mental health experts who may be interested in the vacant position.</p>
<p>What went well? What can we improve?</p>	<p>Rachel will send out a survey to gather meeting evaluation information.</p>