



WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

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

| Topic | Discussion/Outcome |
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| Approve Notes From Last Meeting | Moved to adopt the May 3 and July 12, meeting summaries as submitted. Approved (8 to 0) |
| Director's Report (DR) | For the most part our budget proposals were well received. Our WIC program transfers to Sea Mar at end of September. We plan to move all Health Department Staff to the State Street building in 2021, and will decide how to best utilize the vacant WIC space in the interim. Community Health Assessment orientation are being held throughout the community. |
| Groupthink | Meeting participants broke into small groups to discuss the questions provided in the packet and come up with one practice they felt contributed to past victories and that they would like to see PHAB adopt. The following suggestions came out of these small groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a lot of big goals and sometimes we just need an easy ask/action item. Something that makes things a little better today than yesterday is a win. • Keep these meetings a safe place. • Make a focused effort to present items that have a clear objective. Use a clear public process. We should have annual joint meetings with the Health Board (HB) to foster communication which is vital. • Qualitative information brings significance to the individual, but can get lost in quantitative data. • Community driven items with a passionate champion. • Practice around planting a "no" to ensure other perspectives are considered. • Though there is minimal time together, PHAB influences the HB/County Council. Leveraging of frameworks such as Health in all Planning, Compassionate Community is a strategic function that sets precedent, so as membership of HB changes, we don't lose momentum. • Consider the time of day at which we have these discussions. A member asked if 7 a.m. is the optimal time for problem solving? There were mixed responses. |



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| <p>Food System Planning Proposal</p> | <p>Rachel debriefed the group about our Food System Planning process so far and requested input regarding concerns, comments, or questions before we carry a proposal forward to the Health Board. We hope to present this item at the October Health Board meeting.</p> <p>Proposal: Create a task force under PHAB or a County committee which would need to be established by ordinance.</p> <p>Edit: 2B to say Agricultural Advisory “Board” and Public Health Advisory “Board” instead of “Committee” for each. Use Health Board as opposed to County Council because the plan will cover the whole county including small cities and should be passed by the Council acting as the Health Board.</p> |
| <p>Food System Planning Proposal continued</p> | <p>Q. A board member asked if there should be a representative of someone who has of struggled with food stability. A. The committee process will include participatory research to gather information from those dealing with this issue.</p> <p>Q. Is there a goal to ensure only healthy items can be purchased with public funds? For example, people can buy pop and candy with food stamps. A. The Food System Committee would set targets to tackle items like increasing consumption of fruit & veggies</p> <p>Health and Public Works would help provide the needed expertise to disseminate the information and to educate. Mechanisms of outreach are being developed by these departments and include education of school teachers to promote healthy choices and the Farm to School Program.</p> <p>All PHAB members indicted they were in favor of taking the proposal to the October Health Board.</p> <p>Barry has convened a group to look at grocery anchored development in East County. There is a willing developer and a rough timeline.</p> |
| <p>PHAB/HB Joint Meeting</p> | <p>The Board discussed the joint meeting and how to continue to build relations and dialogue to better partner with the Health Board (HB).</p> <p>HB members expressed an interest in getting to know PHAB members. To facilitate this, PHAB members can call or set up 1:1 or small group meetings to discuss issues with individual HB members. HB is looking to WCHD and PHAB to research and present on items bubbling up in the community. Can PHAB members commit to one meeting with a HB member between meetings?</p> <p>The location and dynamics of HB meetings are not ideal for relationship building. It would be better to have more informal venues to communicate. Can we create a setting for mutual reciprocal exchange of ideas? The biggest challenge has to do with scheduling and getting everyone in the room together. It is important maintain the transparency of open public meetings and ensure a venue large enough for public attendance.</p> <p>Barry indicated the HB would value interpersonal exchange of ideas, but not through extra meetings.</p> |
| <p>Policy Agenda Development</p> | <p>We have a list created jointly with the Health Board and need to determine where to start. To initiate discussion, PHAB members were asked to consider the following questions: what would next steps look like? How do we set priorities? How do we align with and connect with current efforts (CHA, homelessness, etc.) and entities working on these? WCHD staff could help decide what to tee up.</p> <p>The Health Board would like to see children and families continue to be a priority. Looking through this lens, how do the topics fit and what can we work on? Where are the windows of opportunity?</p> |

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| | <p>What do those at the table have passion for? Considering Health in all Policies: Where is Health least involved in all policies? Eg.: Legal System</p> <p>When asked, “Which topics do you have the most passion for?” Members responses were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal justice/ incarceration (x3) including recommendation for flexibility in or elimination of state mandated sentencing guidelines • Early Childhood Development & families(x4) • Food systems/access (x5) • Homelessness • Substance use • CHA alignment • Mental health <p>Members were invited to send guidance to Rachel, Sue, or Regina between meetings.</p> |
| <p>Other/Public Comment</p> | <p>Appreciate the interest in children and families.</p> |
| <p>What went well? What can we improve?</p> | <p>Rachel will survey the group after the meeting.</p> |