



WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 7TH, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Sterling Chick, Lindsey Karas, Chi-Na Stoane, Les Seelye, Leah Wainman
Absent: Barbara Juarez, Barry Buchanan
Excused:

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Call to order	Roll call of Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) Members
Approve Minutes	Sterling moved that the minutes from the November meeting be approved as presented. Steve seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion passed. Ayes: 6, Abstain: 0, Nay: 0
COVID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequities in Healthcare System • Equitable Vaccination System 	<p>The data collected throughout the pandemic provides supporting evidence of the known inequities in healthcare systems. Discrimination, health access and utilization, occupation, education and income, and housing create less flexibility and more challenging situations related to exposure.</p> <p>The impacts have been increased utilization of systems, housing and disaster assistance have been the leading need, food security concerns are increasing on average per month. Depression has tripled amongst adults during the pandemic. A slide show was presented with more data that touches just the surface of the complexity the nation and state are facing.</p> <p>The delivery of vaccinations is a tiered structure. The federal level and CDC provide guidance to states, then the states manage a provider program and distribution. Once a prioritization framework is developed at the state level the local government works with providers to ensure equitable distribution and provide support.</p> <p>To develop an equitable vaccination system the Health Department has a framework about supply, phases and distribution. Currently the Health Department is working to enroll providers, pharmacies and work with tech support. One focus is working through key, trusted, individuals in the community to develop and deliver messaging that will be well received, and increase volunteer enrollment. Another focus is building capacity to fill in the gaps when they are needed, provide education and clear communication to the public, breaking down barriers.</p>
Racial Equity Action Plan	<p>A request was presented to create a subcommittee to identify what action PHAB wants to take in support of the Racial Equity Action Plan. This subcommittee will also discuss board training, membership recruitment and representation for the tribal community.</p> <p>Lindsey Karas, Leah Wainman and Steve Bennett all volunteered.</p> <p>Sterling moved to create the subcommittee. Leah seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion passed. Ayes: 6, Abstain: 0, Nay: 0</p>
Child and Family Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Procedure 	<p>The Ordinance for the Child and Family Task Force was passed by the Health Board in December. The recruitment process has begun, with objective to have 15 representatives based on priority populations. By using trusted messengers and translated materials there is a hope for diverse applicant pool. A big challenge is</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a PHAB Member 	<p>citizenship requirement to be a member, this creates a barrier to engage specific communities. Although for this group the change will not come soon enough, the hope is to address County Code for future considerations.</p> <p>The initial framework is to ground in equity, family engagement and results-based approaches. There is a lot of work being done in this area and the goal is not to duplicate efforts.</p> <p>Sterling Chick volunteered to represent PHAB on this task force.</p> <p>The board voted and Sterling was appointed. Ayes: 6, Abstain: 0, Nay: 0</p>
<p>Chair and Vice Chair Update/Election</p>	<p>Vice Chair: Steve Bennett was suggested as Vice Chair. Chi-Na moved to approve. Lindsey seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion passed. Ayes: 6, Abstain: 0, Nay: 0</p> <p>Chair: Sterling Chick was suggested as Chair. Chi-Na moved to approve. Steve seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion passed. Ayes: 6, Abstain: 0, Nay: 0</p> <p>This was Chi-Na Stoane's final meeting as member and chair. She has done an amazing job as a PHAB member and helping in Public Health. She has led the community through framed communication with the public and Health Board, especially during a pandemic.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>8:30 am</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Next regular meeting March 4th, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. <u>VIRTUAL</u></p>