

Board of Health Record Of the Proceedings – Skagit County, Washington

Date: February 5, 2021

The Skagit County Board of Health met in regular session on Friday, February 5, 2021, with Connie Davis, MD, Aaron Katz, CPH, Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Peter Browning, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the telephonic proceedings to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) 1:00 p.m. Call to Order – Board Chair

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order and performed the roll call.

b) 1:01 p.m. Board of Health Approval of Minutes

1. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, December 22, 2022 (**Approved**)

2. Record of the Proceedings for Thursday, January 14, 2021 (**Approved**)

c) 1:05 p.m. Board of Health Composition and Legal Authorities – Jennifer Johnson, Public Health Director

Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson shared a PowerPoint presentation and noted that several changes had been made over the years, and pursuant to RCW 70.46 the Board of County Commissioners may, at its discretion, adopt an ordinance expanding the size and composition of the board of health to include elected officials from cities and towns and persons other than elected officials as members so long as persons other than elected officials do not constitute a majority.

She shared RCW 70.05.060 Powers and Duties of Local Board of Health and noted that each local board of health shall have supervision over all matters pertaining to the preservation of life and the health of the people within its jurisdiction.

For more information please visit:

Skagit County Code Chapter 12.01 Skagit County Board of Health

<https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/SkagitCounty/>

She also reviewed the Open Public Meetings Act, and noted all actions and deliberations taken by the board of health are reviewed and conducted openly for the public pursuant to RCW 42.30.10.

d) 1:15 p.m. Skagit County COVID-19 Vaccination Update – Jennifer Johnson, Public Health Director

Ms. Johnson shared a brief situation status and Year-to-Date COVID Update.

She reviewed the Governor's Road Map to Recovery Plan and shared that Skagit County was in the North Region which included Whatcom, Island and San Juan counties and that the State would review data every 2 weeks, and that a region must meet 3 of the 4 metrics for to be able to advance through Phases of the Plan.

She also provided a vaccination status update and noted that currently Phase 1a and Phase 1b, Tier 1 were eligible to receive the vaccine and that there continued to be more interest than vaccine available.

For more information on where you can receive the vaccine:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/VaccineLocations>

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Skagit County Public Health's Vaccination Clinic site was located at the Skagit Fairgrounds, North Gate Entrance, 1410 Virginia Street in Mount Vernon.

Ms. Johnson also shared that COVID-19 testing hours would be reduced to expand vaccination resources.

- e) 1:25 p.m. Health Officer Situational Update – Dr. Howard Leibrand, Health Officer

Dr. Howard Leibrand provided a brief update regarding COVID-19 variants.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

- f) 1:35 p.m. HB 1152 Public Health Districts Overview – Jennifer Johnson, Public Health Director

Ms. Johnson provided information on HB 1152 supporting measures to create comprehensive public health districts. The proposed bill would change policies and procedures as follows:

Regional Board of Health

Regional Health Officer (Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Employee)

Regional Administrative Officer

District established advisory committee

Requires the Secretary to adopt rules that:

- Adopt comprehensive districts which must serve at least 250,000 people
- Adopt performance measures
- Adopt a process for performance evaluation
- Adopt a process for data reporting to DOH

Ms. Johnson shared that some concerns regarding the proposed bill included:

Timing

Removal of local connections

Social determinants of health

Regional decisions to localized issues

Functionality and performance

Health Officer effectiveness

Overlap with long standing Foundational Public Health Service Work (FPHS)

Financial Impact

For more information on HB 1152:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=1152&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

- g) 2:00 p.m. Legislative Overview – Josh Weiss, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs Consultant

Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs Consultant Josh Weiss provided an overview of the legislative process.

- h) 2:05 p.m. HB 1152 Discussion and Next Steps – Board of Health, Josh Weiss, Jennifer Johnson

Discussion, questions and answers were held regarding HB 1152.

- i) 2:30p.m. Population Health Trust Community Assessment – Kristen Ekstran, Public Health Analyst

Ms. Johnson noted that due to time constraints the Population Health Trust Community Health Assessment Presentation would be postponed to a future meeting.

- j) 2:45 p.m. Election of 2021 Board Chair – Board of Health

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Ms. Johnson shared that the Board of Health elects a Chair of the Board of Health at the first Quarterly meeting each year and asked for nominations.

Commissioner Lisa Janicki nominated Commissioner Peter Browning.

No other nominations came forward, and all members supported the nomination. The board unanimously voted in support of electing Commissioner Peter Browning to Chair the Board of Health for 2021.

Commissioner Browning accepted the nomination.

k) 3:00 p.m. Adjourn – Board Chair

The Board shared their gratitude for Ms. Johnson and Public Health staff for their continued efforts and COVID-19 response.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 3:00 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Connie Davis, MD

Aaron Katz, CPH

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Peter Browning, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board