

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

Date: April 27, 2021

The Skagit County Board of Health met in regular session on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, with Connie Davis, MD, Aaron Katz, CPH, Commissioner Ron Wesen, Chair Peter Browning, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present.

I. [CALL TO ORDER:](#)

Chair Browning called the telephonic proceedings to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) [2:01 p.m. Approval of Board of Health Minutes:](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Lisa Janicki to approve the minutes for Tuesday, March 23, 2021. Aaron Katz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 (**Approved**)

b) [2:03 p.m. Agenda Overview – Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson](#)

Chair Browning introduced Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson who provided a brief summary of the agenda.

c) [2:05 p.m. Public Health Data and Epidemiology Overview – Epidemiologist Lea Hamner](#)

Epidemiologist Lea Hamner shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Epidemiology and the science of public health. Ms. Hamner explained that epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations, and the application of this study to the control of health problems and reviewed key principles used in reviewing data. She also expressed the importance of prioritizing and communicating with the community.

Discussion was held regarding the complexities surrounding epidemiology and communicating to the public.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04262021/>

d) [2:30 p.m. PHT 2021 Community Health Assessment Update – Public Health Analyst, Kristen Ekstran](#)

Public Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran provided a PowerPoint presentation and update regarding the Population Health Trust Community Health Assessment. Ms. Ekstran reviewed data collection activities, Community Health Assessment next steps, and goal setting.

Chair Browning introduced Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand. Dr. Leibrand discussed increased rates of COVID-19, vaccinations, variants, vaccination efficacy against variants, and long-term side effects of COVID-19.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04262021/>

e) [2:40 p.m. Behavioral Health System Overview – Community Services Manager, Sarah Hinman](#)

Community Services Manager Sarah Hinman provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Behavioral Health Systems.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04262021/>

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f) [2:50 p.m. Overview of Public Health Strategies to Address BH System Gaps – Community Services Manager, Sarah Hinman](#)

Ms. Hinman reviewed Skagit County Public Health’s Behavioral Health Strategic Plan and discussed goals and objectives regarding permanent supportive housing, school-based behavioral health care coordination, low-barrier shelter and services, the criminal justice system, services for uninsured and underinsured individuals, and recovery support. Ms. Hinman shared that www.SkagitHelps.org had been created to help those in need find resources.

g) [3:00 p.m. Behavioral Health System Capacity Challenges and Strategies – Health Care Authority, Teresa Claycamp](#)

Ms. Hinman introduced Health Care Authority Integrated Managed Care Programs Manager Teresa Claycamp to discuss behavioral health system capacity challenges and strategies. Ms. Claycamp shared that she had invited Health Care Authority Behavioral Health and Recovery Division Assistant Director Keri Waterland, and Health Care Authority Medicaid Programs Division Assistant Director Jason McGill to address questions and concerns regarding network and capacity, workforce shortage, and the County’s role.

Ms. Waterland discussed workforce initiatives and recent legislative bills. She shared details about a behavioral health public education campaign focused on encouraging individuals to seek behavioral health as a viable career path.

Mr. McGill reviewed budget and rate impacts regarding behavioral health.

h) [3:15 p.m. Board of Health/ HCA Discussion – Board of Health and Health Care Authority](#)

Discussion, questions, and answers ensued regarding Medicaid and Medicare dynamics, legislative changes in criminal justice and behavioral health, workforce needs, reduction in student enrollment and curriculum development.

Chair Browning thanked the Health Care Authority team for joining the discussion.

i) [3:30 p.m. Population Health Trust Facilitated Discussion – Public Health Analyst, Kristen Ekstran](#)

Ms. Ekstran shared a PowerPoint presentation with questions from the Population Health Trust and asked the Board of Health for input on future planning efforts around behavioral health.

Discussion was held regarding needs in the community related to: building awareness of behavioral health and recovery; integrating behavioral health services and resources in key places; ensuring equitable access to services that are culturally informed; expanding workforce through the use of peers and community members, and increasing youth prevention and early intervention and recovery resources.

Ms. Johnson welcomed North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Executive Director Joe Valentine. Mr. Valentine shared concerns regarding workforce and exploring solutions including apprenticeships.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04262021/>

j) [3:45 p.m. Board of Health Discussion – Board of Health](#)

Chair Browning thanked all of the presenters and attendees for sharing in discussions. He also noted that the structure of future Board of Health meetings would be 50 percent presentation and 50 percent discussion time.

III. [ADJOURNMENT:](#)

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Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 4:10 p.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

**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