

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, with Chair Lisa Janicki, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Janicki called the proceedings to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Janicki led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Board of Health:

Chair Janicki convened the Board of Health at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chair of the Board of Health Lisa Janicki
Commissioner of the Board of Health Ron Wesen
Commissioner of the Board of Health Kenneth A. Dahlstedt

Members of Population Health Trust (PHT)/Opioid Workgroup Leadership Team (OWLT):

Skagit County Public Health Officer/Ideal Options MAT Provider Dr. Howard Leibrand
Physician for various organizations Dr. Adam Kartman
Regional Manager of the Community Health Plan of Washington Marci Bloomquist
Skagit County Public Health Communicable Disease Program Manager Polly Dubbel
Pioneer Human Services Substance Use Disorder Counselor Jen Bononi
Community Action of Skagit County East County Manager Claudia Marken
North Sound Behavioral Health Organization HR/Contracts Manager Margaret Rojas
Community Action Street Outreach Coordinator Patty Banister
Sea Mar Community Health Center Cindy Garza
North Sound Behavioral Health Organization Linda Crothers
Employment Security Regional Labor Economist Anneliese Vance-Sherman
Skagit Council of Governments Executive Director Kevin Murphy
Skagit County Public Health Assistant Director Kayla Schott-Bresler
Skagit County Public Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran
Skagit County Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson
United Way of Skagit County Executive Director Debra Lancaster

Present in the audience:

Skagit County Coroner Hayley Thompson
City of Sedro-Woolley Police Chief Lin Tucker

1. Presentation – Medication Assisted Treatment by Dr. Adam Kartman

Dr. Adam Kartman said that he worked at a number of local locations as an addiction medicine specialist who treated patients with addictions to substances like drugs and alcohol. He provided information about challenges that communities faced in getting enough medication assisted treatment (MAT) to help alleviate opioid withdrawal symptoms for all who needed the service and in locations where patients could conveniently access the service. He provided statistics about the number of individuals who suffered from an addiction to opioids and the number of people who had lost their lives due to opioid overdoses.

He went on to address the benefits of MAT that some experienced with the treatment which included helping them to sustain their recovery, whether Skagit County should

expand MAT access to rural communities such as east Skagit County and the evidence for and benefits of using MAT in the criminal justice system. He also explained that counseling and using urine drug testing along with MAT helped in the treatment of opioid dependency.

Discussion ensued about the cost of MAT, breaking the stigma that MAT would be substituting one drug for another, barriers for access to MAT, lack of affordable housing and the need to support MAT to help prevent relapses.

Jennifer Johnson announced that the structure of Board of Health was in the processing of changing to include experts from the Population Health Trust Advisory Committee.

2. Presentation – Opioid Call to Action Update by Opioid Workgroup Leadership Team (OWLT) and Community Health Planner Kristen Ekstran

Community Health Planner/Public Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran spoke about the work being done to continue to implement opioid programs for everyone who needed treatment and the hub-and-spoke program which creates a help network to tailor treatment to individuals with substance use disorders.

OWLT members Margaret Rojas and Linda Crothers spoke about the stigma that individuals with substance abuse disorder faced and various ways to combat stigma.

Patty Bannister and Dr. Leibrand spoke about the successes and the challenges the east Skagit County community faced, the need for a MAT facility in east Skagit County so that individuals who were ready to get treatment could have access closer to where they lived. Dr. Leibrand spoke about the logistics of opening a MAT facility in east Skagit County.

Jen Bononi spoke about the need for a service hub-and-spoke facility in Skagit County to provide individuals with the opportunity to become connected to a wide range of community services, including housing, mental health, and substance use treatment. She said the concept would be to have different agencies with proficiency in these areas to be located in one facility and individuals would make appointments to complete applications, get assessments and the agencies would pass on important information about a variety of services.

A discussion ensued about a community court model, operating a hub-and-spoke program in Skagit County and OWLT's experience touring the Carnegie Resource Center service hub in Everett.

3. Discussion with Population Health Trust Regarding the State of Skagit with Addressing the Opioid Crisis, Possible Influences, and Strategies that would Benefit from Board of Health Support

The Commissioners and Population Health Trust members discussed educating the community about opioid use disorders and the nature of the disease, keeping information about opioid use disorders current, hiring a full-time grant writer to obtain funding for innovative programs for opioid addiction, reaching out to prepare youth who were entering middle school and high school about the dangers of substance use, the priority of implementing the hub-and-spoke model, the \$17 million in deferred maintenance at county facilities, the possibility of starting a pilot hub-and-spoke facility and the steps that need to be taken to implement MAT in Concrete.

4. Possible Action:

a. National Overdose Awareness Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution recognizing August as Overdose Awareness Month. **(Resolution No. R20190135)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

b. Population Health Trust Membership Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Resolution to Confirm Community Members to serve on the Population Health Trust Advisory Committee. **(Resolution No. R20190136)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

5. Report from Public Health by Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson

Ms. Johnson announced that Public Health had just published the 2017-2018 Biannual Report and that it would be available on the Public Health website at <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Health/main.htm>.

6. Legislative Update by Assistant Public Health Director Kayla Schott-Bresler

No legislative update was provided.

7. Public Comment

Danica Troop of 4320 North Terrace Avenue in Bellingham commented on stigma reduction.

Skagit County Coroner Hayley Thompson said that her office had seen a reduction in overdose related deaths.

Christopher Manns with Outreach Connections spoke about the useful function of a service hub model.

Jen Bononi spoke about touring the recovery cafe concept in Everett.

Bill Henkel spoke in support of drop-in low-barrier shelters.

There was an announcement about an overdose awareness event taking place on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at Cleveland Park in Mount Vernon.

Chair Janicki adjourned the Board of Health at 11:30 a.m.

b) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 11:34 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

No County and Individual Success Stories were provided.

2. Public Comment Period

Assistant Public Health Director Kayla Schott-Bresler announced that there would be a community meeting taking place on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Sedro-Woolley Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about Skagit County's application for a Type 1 Essential Public Facilities permit for the construction of a stabilization campus. The campus would include a 16-bed evaluation and treatment center as well as a possible 24-bed withdrawal management program. Additional information can be found on the Public Health's website at: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HumanServices/main.htm>

Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson announced that Public Health would be providing vaccination clinics to the individuals experiencing homelessness and intravenous drug users on August 19 and 20, 2019, at several locations coinciding with Phoenix Recovery's mobile needle exchange and at the Friendship House.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

- c) 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Presentation from Assessor’s Office, Geographic Information Services (GIS) and Information Services (IS) Regarding Changes to Assessor’s Mapping for Current Use and Designated Forest Lands

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 1:30 p.m.

Assessor Dave Thomas explained that the Assessor's office administered the Open Space Current Use Program. The Program is a property tax reduction program administered according to Washington State Open Space Taxation Act. He noted that Skagit County had three classifications of Open Space Programs: Current Use Open Space, Farm and Agriculture and Designated Forest Lands. He explained that when a Current Use/Designated Forest designation required a separate PACS (picture archiving communication system software) account and map designation, a new parcel "P" number was created. He explained that the creation of the new parcel number had created some confusion for the public because the new number was created in addition to the parcel number that was assigned to where the home was located. In order to help clear up the confusion, the Assessor's office had worked with the Geographic Information Services (GIS) to develop a new method to track Current Use parcels.

Senior Environmental Sensing Analyst Josh Greenberg provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding how landowners applied to be placed in the Program. He explained that once sites were entered into the Program, both the Current Use site and the home site required new legal descriptions and that a new parcel number was created for the Current Use site. Mr. Greenberg said that the new method that Geographic GIS had developed to spatially track the Current Use parcels would differentiate the Current Use site from the home site. He said that there were currently 7,586 parcels with a Current Use or Designated Forest designation.

Mr. Greenberg explained the new process included working with the landowner to determine Current Use boundaries to determine where the home site would be, the information would be entered into the PACs system and submitted to GIS for them to enter the information into a separate layer and GIS would add a Current Use number to the Assessor's map. He explained that the advantages of the new process would be to avoid landowners creating their own legal descriptions; parcels would not include tax deferment programs; reduce conflicts between Current Use Land and the legal boundary line adjustment and it would be better suited for analysis and connecting to databases.

He went on to explain some of the challenges with the new system was that there would be a separate layer to maintain and update and the work involved in updating existing Current Use sites.

Chief Deputy Assessor Annette DeVoe said that the Commissioners would be receiving some Open Space Applications there that were created prior to the implementation of the new method.

A discussion ensued about how the new method would create more accurate information about how many legal lots were available to build on in the County.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation:](#)

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/08052019/>

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 1:58 p.m.

- d) 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Planning and Development Services – Hal Hart, Director:

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 2:30 p.m.

Building Official Jack Moore provided a summary of the proposed amendments to the Skagit County Planning and Development Services fee schedule.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the additional fees for code enforcement, building permit fees, stormwater review fees, whether there should be a fee to expedite service and hiring a consultant to get the permits expedited.

[Link to Staff Report:](#)

1. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony Regarding the 2019 Fee Schedule

Chair Janicki opened the public hearing at 2:45 p.m.

Seeing no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 2:46 p.m. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Janicki adjourned the proceedings at 2:48 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board