



**POPULATION  
HEALTH TRUST**  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# Skagit County Board of Health

Peter Browning, Chair  
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner  
Ron Wesen, Commissioner

---

## PHT Meeting Minutes March 2, 2023, 8:30-10:30 am Skagit Station Meeting Room

**Members:** Patty Codd, Sonia Garza, Bill Henkel, Chris Johnston, Kenneth Lawson, Maddy Mackenzie, Kevin Murphy, Mo Pettitt, Margaret Rojas, Lyndie Simmonds, Dean Snider, John Sternlicht, Annaliese Vance-Sherman

**Community Stakeholders:** Chris Baldwin, Marci Bloomquist, Kas Church, Polly Dubbel, Kristen Ekstran, Keith Higman, Jennifer Sass-Walton

**Ex-Officio:** Peter Browning, Howard Leibrand

**Guests:** Jennifer Johnson, Dan Berard, Jason Easton

---

### Welcome & Agenda Review:

Kristen welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda before turning things over to Mo Pettitt. Mo provided an update on the last steering committee meeting. Jennifer Johnson was introduced as a special guest/presenter for the meeting.

### North Star update presentation/Q&A:

Jennifer provided information regarding the origins and progression of the NorthStar Project. The project began about a year ago when the mayors of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, along with Skagit County Commissioners, formed a joint effort to address the intersection of behavioral health and homelessness. The goal of the project is to better align resources and services to address the complex needs in our community. Jennifer provided an example of the current gaps within our system, then shared how the NorthStar project would assist an individual through the process of getting help to improve their health, live a self-directed life, and to reach their full potential. She then provided next steps for NorthStar as well as information about a new stabilization campus in Sedro Woolley. This facility will provide evaluation and treatment and will have 48 beds, some for acute detox, mental health stabilization, and for inpatient co-occurring treatment. Additional projects that align with North Star goals include, a Recovery Café and Martha's Place managed by Catholic Community Services.

### Vital Conditions/Recovery Plan Activity:

Due to time constraints, the vital conditions and COVID Recovery Plan "crosswalk" activity has been rescheduled for the April meeting. Kristen asked members to take the materials on their tables home with them for review.

**Discussion: fee schedule responsibilities**

Keith Higman shared new responsibilities for public health advisory boards, like the PHT, with regards to recommending changes to fee schedules. The change is a result of new Washington State legislation. The group determined that the decision would be made by the full PHT versus steering alone making the decision. Additionally, a representative from public health would provide the necessary information about proposed changes before the PHT would provide feedback to the Board of Health.

**Updates:**

Kas Church, Community Health Coordinator, introduced herself to the group and provided an update on the food security work group launch. The first steering group meeting will be on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Kristen shared that invitations for Board of Health meetings will be sent out soon. Kristen also let members know that the DEI paper she and Mo have written is in final edits and will be shared soon.

**Adjourn:**

Kristen thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the conversation. The meeting was adjourned, and everyone moved outside for a new PHT Member photo.