



**POPULATION
HEALTH TRUST**
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Skagit County Board of Health

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

PHT Meeting Minutes **April 6, 2023, 8:30-10:30 am** **Skagit Station Meeting Room**

Members: Thomas Boucher, Patty Codd, Sonia Garza, Bill Henkel, Leon John, Chris Johnston, Kenneth Lawson, Maddy Mackenzie, Mo Pettitt, Margaret Rojas, Lyndie Simmonds, Annaliese Vance-Sherman

Community Stakeholders: Chris Baldwin, Marci Bloomquist, Kas Church, Keith Higman, Jennifer Sass-Walton

Ex-Officio: Peter Browning, Howard Leibrand

Guests: Dan Berard, Kelli Baker, Jose Ortiz

Welcome:

Mo welcomed members and provided an update from the most recent steering committee meeting. Updates included continuing work with the Swinomish Tribe and a new K-12 representative for the PHT. Additionally, steering reviewed the DEI Report and discussed the PHT's new role of approving changes to public health fee schedules.

The Power of Food, Jose Ortiz, Tri-Parish Food Bank & CCS Farmworker Center:

Kas reminded members that food security would be an area of focus for the PHT this year. The Food Security Workgroup will meet April 26th and will continue meeting until late-September.

She then introduced Jose Ortiz. Jose has been committed to improving the lives of Skagitonians for over 30 years, both through his work with the Tri- Parish Food Bank and the Catholic Community Services (CCS) Farmworker Center. Jose recently received the Equity Champion Award from Food Lifeline for "his commitment to ending hunger by working to counter racist systems, practices, and consequences that perpetuate it."

Jose thanked everyone in the room for their efforts and reminded members that it takes everyone to band together to make positive change. He shared some of his family's history in the area as farm workers. Jose spoke about times the family would pull all their money and still not have enough to make ends meet for the rest of the year. It was during this time that he met a priest from a local church who would later ask Jose if he wanted to join him in visits to the migrant camps. Up to that point Jose thought he knew what poor meant, but it was not until he saw people living in unheated, small shanties, having been smuggled in to work for nothing, that he really saw and understood true poverty.

As part of his presentation, Jose shared challenges he's encountered working in food security. Some of his greatest challenges were during COVID when demand for food increased, but knowledge of how to operate

safely was still unknown. By working with the Public Health team, Jose was able to get masks and other equipment to keep service going at Tri-Parish. Through this partnership, they were also able to get vaccinations out to the migrant community. Jose ended his presentation by offering ways that the PHT and other community members could support the work of Tri-Parish, including volunteering their time.

Vital Conditions/Recovery Plan Crosswalk Activity:

Kas transitioned the group to a crosswalk activity. The activity was designed to familiarize PHT members with the Vital Conditions Framework. Members were given 30 minutes to complete the activity as a group and to address the following questions: What surprised you during the activity? In what areas did you not see the most synergy between vital conditions and the COVID Recovery Plan? Were there areas you didn't notice connections between the framework and plan? Members shared their findings through a whole group share-out as a wrap up for the activity.

Discussion & Vote on K-12 Sector Seat Representative:

Mo asked Dan Berard, Mount Vernon School District, to step out while the group held a conversation and vote on K-12 sector representation. Dr. Ismael Vivanco resigned his seat due to schedule conflicts. There was a brief discussion about the seat, merits of a representative from the Mount Vernon School District, along with Dan's commitment to group as shown by his attendance at the past few meetings. Anneliese made a motion to vote to recommend Dan Berard as the K-12 Sector Seat Representative to the Board of Health and Bill Henkel seconded the recommendation. All were in favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The vote was passed, and Dan was welcomed into the PHT.

Adjourn:

Kas thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 4th and the PHT Steering Commitment will be held on May 10th.