



**POPULATION  
HEALTH TRUST**  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# Skagit County Board of Health

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

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**PHT Meeting Minutes**  
**June 1, 2023, 8:30-10:30 am**  
**Skagit Station Meeting Room**

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**Members:** Dan Berard, Thomas Boucher, Patty Codd, Bill Henkel, Chris Johnston, Kevin Murphy, Maureen Pettitt, Lyndie Simmonds, Dean Snider, John Sternlicht

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

**Ex-Officio:** None in attendance

**Guests:** Jorge Estefan

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## Welcome & Agenda Review:

Kristen welcomed the group and invited Mo to review the agenda for the meeting. Mo thanked everyone for attending and highlighted the agenda topics that would be discussed. She then introduced the guest speakers, John Sternlicht and Jorge Estefan, from the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC).

## Focus on Economic and Fiscal Security:

John Sternlicht and Jorge Estefan provided an overview of EDASC and their strategies for equitable economic development. Below are key highlights from the presentation:

### Equitable Economic Recovery- Connecting Skagit Businesses Together

**Purpose-** Latino and other underserved communities will be encouraged, empowered, and assisted to establish and grow businesses.

**Values-** trust, collaboration and connection, wealth and community, respect and empathy, resilience

## The Plan:

1. Build relationships and trust with underserved groups and communities.
2. Connect underrepresented small business owners with resources and organizations that can assist and support them.
3. Educate and train underrepresented small businesses owners so they can launch, expand, and sustain their businesses to provide better opportunities for their families that will lead to generational wealth creation.

Some of the challenges faced by Latino and underrepresented individuals: limited access to capital, lack of networks and connections, systemic discrimination and bias, regulatory and administrative burdens, language and cultural barriers.

Actions taken by EDASC to support underrepresented communities in May 2022.




Next steps for EDASC include continuing to build relationships and trust with underserved communities, connecting underrepresented small business owners with supportive resources, and educating and training individuals so they can launch, expand, and sustain their businesses to provide better opportunities for their families.

Q &A:

There was a brief question and answer session, along with a discussion following the presentation.

Refreshing and reviving EFS strategies 1-3:

	GOALS	STRATEGIES		
<div>ECONOMIC &amp; FISCAL SECURITY (EFS)</div> 	<p>1 Meaningful job creation and financial stability - especially for non-English speaking residents, individuals experiencing I/DD, veterans, and the LGBTQ+ community - occurs through the collaborative efforts of economic development organizations, education, businesses, and government.</p> <p>2 Workforce development strategies, initiatives, and policies support population health by prioritizing adequate training and compensation for childcare providers, behavioral health professionals and multi-lingual health care navigators, and other providers.</p>	<p>EFS1 Focus employment development, financial literacy, technological support, and outreach to specific communities, including the LGBTQ+ and other populations underrepresented in the workplace.</p>	<p>EFS2 Promote cross-sector programs for apprenticeship and career-connected learning and develop new approaches to recruitment of Spanish and indigenous-speaking students, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth experiencing disabilities.</p>	<p>EFS3 Advocate for public funding to improve compensation for childcare providers, behavioral health professionals, and multilingual health care navigators by coordinating with state and federal advocacy organizations on common messages and strategies.</p>

Kristen reminded the Trust of the COVID Recovery Plan goals and strategies related to Economic and Fiscal Security (EFS). She invited members to engage in discussion about the EFS goals and strategies and then answer the following questions:

1. What do we know about this strategy? (What work is underway/with whom?)
2. What do we need to know more about?
3. What are some potential steps to activate this strategy?

Due to time constraints, members will revisit the activity during the next Trust meeting in August.

### **Updates:**

Kas provided an update on the Food Security Workgroup. She shared that survey collection was going well with over 400 responses. The FS Workgroup recently completed an assets and gaps analysis. At the next meeting, members will learn more about farming, production, and processing in Skagit County.

Stacey shared a series of updates in response to the data analysis activity members completed during the May meeting. She shared that Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) data will be used by the Workgroup instead of poverty data. Additionally, behavior change will be used as a proxy for health outcomes as it is a better measure than those initially proposed. Members were invited to take a handout that provided updates and additional information in response to questions raised during the initial activity.

Kristen provided updates on ARPA funded projects in childcare, perinatal behavioral health supports, and Latinx mental health.

**Childcare-** The Center for Retention and Expansion of Child Care along with CIE are recruiting and training new potential family care providers. The first CIE incubator group is collaborating with CRECC to mentor potential new providers. On June 15, the Trust, EDASC, and SIHRMA will host employers for an evening of resources and education by the Opportunity Council about ways to support employees with better access to child care.

**Perinatal behavioral health-** Peers have been identified and are being trained! They will increase access to perinatal 1:1 and group peer support for parents and children.

**Latinx mental health-** Eighteen (18) English-speaking and 13 Spanish-speaking peers have been trained in the Mental Health Matters curriculum. Activities are being coordinated to push out the information and resources within the community: events/training in collaboration with SVC and MV Hope, Narcan distribution, and other activities will engage peers with their community.

### **Adjourn:**

Kristen reminded the group that there is no PHT meeting for the month of July. The next meeting will take place on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Before that date, the PHT is invited to join a meeting with the Board of Health (BOH) on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Food Security will be the primary topic of discussion during that meeting.

Mo thanked everyone for joining and for their participation.