



Skagit County Board of Health

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

PHT Meeting Minutes August 3, 2023, 8:30-10:30 am Skagit Station Meeting Room

Members: Dan Berard, Thomas Boucher, Patty Codd, Bill Henkel, Maureen Pettitt, Margaret Rojas, Annaliese Vance-Sherman

Community Stakeholders: Chris Baldwin, Kas Church, Polly Dubbel, Kristen Ekstran, Jennifer Sass-Walton

Ex-Officio: Howard Leibrand

Guests: Jess Nelson

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 also provided an update of the topics discussed during the most recent steering meeting.

Refreshing and reviving EFS strategies 1-3, Part 2:

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:

- What work is already underway? With whom?
- What do we need to know more about?
- How can the Trust support and/or expand this work?
- Members were also asked to consider potential steps the Trust could take to activate the strategies

ECONOMIC & FISCAL SECURITY (EFS)	GOALS	STRATEGIES		
	<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 multilingual 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>

For **EFS 2**, Trust members liked the idea of hosting a forum or showcase that would connect employers to organizations serving the populations identified in the goal. They also supported the Trust doing research to learn more about incentives, requirements, and identifying potential businesses open to career-connected

learning. This would make it easier for school districts and other youth-serving organizations to help individuals find internships and job shadowing opportunities. Members felt that the PHT could do the initial work required to build these connections, but that ultimately the website/directory/etc. would be hosted by EDASC. All agreed the PHT should identify best practices and amplify whenever possible.

For **EFS 3**, members proposed inviting legislators to attend PHT meetings on a quarterly basis. This would allow legislators to provide relevant updates and for the PHT to share more about their work in the community. Additional research into liability and risk for employers could also be helpful information for the PHT to gather and to provide to employers interested in hosting on-site childcare centers. Lastly, members wanted to discuss their role in advocating for improved compensation for childcare providers with the Board of Health. Knowing what is allowable could guide the group towards next steps in this area.

Food Security Workgroup updates and conversation:

Stacey provided an update of the survey conducted as part of the Food Security Workgroup process. In total, 463 individuals completed the survey. Through the process, the team learned that in person surveys are best and that there were challenges in analyzing Hispanic or Latino versus White and in gaining adequate geographic representation. The top barriers to food access were, 1) the cost of food, 2) medical conditions that limited/affected food choices, and 3) not having enough time to cook. Respondents expressed an interest in having dental care, clothing resources, mental health supports, and a mobile/vision clinic at food banks. Stacey is working on a data report and will send it to PHT members once it is available.

Kas shared an overview of the food system and provided information specific to: Farming, Production and Processing, Storage and Distribution, Resources, Programs and Education, and Food Surplus and Waste. The overview provided context for the goals identified by the Workgroup that would later be discussed by PHT Members.

Kristen introduced the goal review activity, providing members with a worksheet to guide their discussion. Overall, members approved of the direction and scope of the goals. Some edits were suggested that slightly modified the goals. The biggest concern expressed was how to measure progress. Kristen acknowledged this challenge and assured members that would be taken into consideration as the Workgroup drafted strategies.

She shared that next steps in the process for the Food Security Workgroup will be to identify strategies, then actions that will help achieve goals established in the plan.

Due to time constraints, the North Star update will occur at a later meeting.

Adjourn:

The next meeting will take place on September 7, 2023.