



**POPULATION
HEALTH TRUST**
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Skagit County Board of Health

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

PHT Meeting Minutes September 7, 2023 Skagit Station Meeting Room

Members: Dan Berard, Thomas Boucher, Bill Henkel, Chris Johnston, Maureen Pettitt, Margaret Rojas, Mandi Rothman, Annaliese Vance-Sherman

Community Stakeholders: Chris Baldwin, Marci Bloomquist, Kas Church, Kristen Ekstran, Jennifer Sass-Walton

Ex-Officio: Howard Leibrand

Guests: Kelli Baker

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. Topics included, a new member selection process, open PHT seats, and the upcoming meeting with the Board of Health.

Membership Selection and Protocol Update:

Kristen provided members with an updated copy of the guiding principles. Significant changes to the document were in formalizing the membership selection process and requirements for attendance. When seats become open, nominations for the sector representative will be taken during full Trust meetings. Steering will then review nominations and Kristen follow up with individuals directly to talk about member roles and expectations. Before being added to the group, individual nominations will be voted on Trust members.

There is currently an opening for higher education seat. Kenny Lawson accepted a role outside of Skagit County and resigned his membership with the PHT. Skagit Valley College has recommended Shelley Price as his replacement; however, Kristen would like to follow the membership selection process and open the seat to nominations. Dan and Margaret shared a few nominations and will follow up with those individuals to determine their interest and capacity to serve. Additional changes to the guiding principles were in attendance requirements. To remain active, individuals must attend 10 meetings and/or events each calendar year. Members formally adopted the new principles through a vote of consensus during the meeting.

North Star (housing/behavioral health) Update:

Mo provided an update on the North Star project. Actions the group has taken so far include,

- **A Community Everyone Can Afford:** *Creating more affordable housing in our cities.*

Developers, local governments, and housing experts have kicked off a first-ever county-wide effort to jointly fund priority projects, identify more land, and streamline zoning, permits, and fees to build more affordable housing faster.

- **Care For Those Suffering the Most:** *Coordinated crisis response and outreach that leads to recovery.*

First step: aligning co-response and crisis outreach by developing...

A business plan based on each community's priorities and needs. An information system that ensures outreach, crisis, health, and social service providers can communicate and coordinate with one another, across silos to link people to behavioral health and social services. (Julota). A regional and state policy agenda to highlight community needs, fill gaps, and improve services for high need populations.

There is a lot of excitement over the adoption of the Julota software which "transforms the disconnected patchwork of local service providers into a well-coordinated network that can proactively manage and support individuals, saving each community millions of dollars in healthcare and operational expenditures." Chris shared that the Sheriff's Department has been using the software and appreciates what the technology could do to take care of people that are struggling.

North Star goals for 2023- 2024 include,

- Creating more affordable housing and providing better care by coordinating cross-jurisdictional crisis response and outreach services that lead to recovery.
- Aligning North Star with other jurisdictional activities.
- Move from managing community issues to solving them.

Economic and Fiscal Security Goal 2 Prioritization Activity:

In small groups, members reviewed the potential steps to activate EFS 2 identified during the August meeting. After prioritizing the steps as a group, individuals were given three sticky dots to place on the "steps" sheet indicating which actions the Trust should delve into.

Food Security Strategy Review

Kas shared an overview of the goals and strategies identified by the Food Security Workgroup. These goals and strategies address four parts of the food system, Farming, Production and Processing, Storage and Distribution, Resources, Programs and Education, and Food Surplus and Waste. Given limited to time, members will spend more time on reviewing the plan during the October meeting.

Adjourn:

The next meeting will take place on October 6, 2023.