



**POPULATION
HEALTH TRUST**
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Skagit County Board of Health

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

PHT Meeting Minutes **October 6, 2022/8:30 am** **Skagit Station Meeting Room**

Members: Thomas Boucher, Patty Codd, Sonia Garza, Bill Henkel, Sarah Hinman, Chris Johnston, Kenneth Lawson, Mandi Rothman, Maureen Pettitt, Margaret Rojas, Lyndie Simmonds, John Sternlicht, Annaliese Vance-Sherman, Ismael Vivanco

Community Stakeholders: Chris Baldwin, Polly Dubbel, Jennifer Sass-Walton

Ex-Officio: None in Attendance

Staff: Melissa Doss

Guests: Kelli Baker, Kaitlinn Morin

Welcome- Maureen Pettitt

Maureen brought the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves. She then invited new members to share their professional history and current roles. Maureen reviewed the last Steering Committee meeting and updated members on their discussion and plans for the future. She also gave a brief outline of the agenda.

EQUITY PANEL DISCUSSION/CONVERSATION

Maureen started by introducing the members of the panel and asked them to move to the front table with the microphone and explained that the meeting was being recorded in order to get valuable information for the minutes.

Each panelist gave a short synopsis of their role and their work. Ismael Vivanco of Mount Vernon School District gave a summary of the district: approximately 1000 employees, ten schools, and several partnerships and programs. He detailed the curriculum and organizational structure which focuses on equity for all students. Kaitlinn Morin, MVSD Equity Lead Facilitator, shared her background and how issues such as cultural poverty and racial tensions were the catalyst that brought her to her current role within the MVSD. Margaret Rojas explained her role at the NorthSound Behavioral Health ASO and the growth and future prospects for the organization which provides Behavioral Health crisis services to those who are suffering from mental illness or substance abuse within the five County Region. The ASO consists of twenty-three staff members including clinical, IS/IT, administrative, and fiscal team members.

Panelists answered questions regarding the definition of cultural poverty, barriers to services in the past, continued partnerships, and staff push-back. Other questions and discussion evolved around LGBTQ+ needs, public trauma leading to the opportunity to take action to improve services, trainings/conferences, hiring practices, gender-inclusive policies in schools, struggles with pronouns, spreading misinformation and how to respond.

The discussion turned to solutions. A wide range of recommendations were discussed including:

- Gaining buy-in from leadership.
- The need to acknowledge that everyone is at a different place in understanding and knowledge, and that there will be individuals who struggle with (or deny) the reality of racism.
- Ensuring that consultants have lived experience.
- The need to be intentional and committed to the work, providing time for staff to participate.
- Don't give up because the systems pulls us backward. Constantly work against that by asking the right questions and putting the right strategies in place.
- Elevating and including the voices and experiences of those who have historically and are currently marginalized so that the transformed system is one that is established with and for them.

North Star Update

Sarah Hinman provided an update. The group had their first kick-off meeting which was an overview , including the Charter and the Guiding Principles. There is a North Star page on the Skagit County website. Sarah thought the meeting went well and had a great turnout. Next week there will be another Leadership Team meeting with the Mayors. There was a brief comment, question, and answer period.

Powerful Partnerships Debrief

Maureen commented on the great work Andrea did on the Powerful Partnerships handout and attendees all stated how much they enjoyed themselves. There was a brief discussion on the creativity and general enjoyment of the game that was played.

Maureen closed the meeting with information that the Board of Health Meeting was changed to October 24, 2:30-4:00 pm and thanked everyone for joining!