



**POPULATION  
HEALTH TRUST**  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Board of Health**  
Kenneth Dahlstedt, Chair  
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner  
Ron Wesen, Commissioner

**PHT Mtg #51– SVC Career and Technical Center**  
**Thursday 11/07/19 - 8:30 am to 2:00 pm**

**“Expanding Horizons: Board of Health and PHT conversations”**  
**Annual Retreat 2019**

Kristen Ekstran welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. Trust members and Board of Health members introduced themselves. Chef Lyle, of the Northwest Career and Technical Academy, introduced the Culinary Students.

**PHT Overview for 2019 and PHT Priorities**

Kristen Ekstran shared the 2019 accomplishments of the Population Health Trust (PHT).

- Lives Saved
  - In 2017, 1 overdose was reversed for every 5 Narcan kits handed out
  - Between Feb 2016 and Nov 2018, Phoenix Recovery Narcan kits reversed 2,070 overdoses
  - Total doses of Naloxone (Narcan) distributed or prescribed in Skagit county has doubled since 2015.
- New Programs
  - Kristen described the new programs that have directly resulted from PHT planning efforts. Examples from both OWLT and First 1,000 Days were presented.
- Funding
  - \$330,000 for First 1000 Days work
  - \$1,597,000 in State and Federal grants for opioid work
  - Partner agencies have reallocated funds to align with the PHT plan
  - 0.01% used for the Northwest Regional Council and other programs
- PHT Value to the Board of Health
  - PHT provides value to the Board of Health (BOH) through data, analysis, and community investment
- Looking Back – Looking forward
  - Kristen reviewed work completed to date on the Trust’s priority areas
  - She highlighted evolving priorities for 2020 including equity and indicated that the BOH priorities would figure into the Trust’s plan as well.
  - 2020 Re-assessment by analysis, reports, and community conversations
  - Equity
  - Housing
  - Healthy eating & active living

## **Partner Perspectives**

Debra Lancaster thanked the BOH for creating the Population Health Trust and explained the influence the group has had and the reason they are still together is because of its members and the support of the BOH with staffing. She explained that if there isn't someone putting it all together it causes members to become discouraged. David Jefferson and Kristen Ekstran have made such an impact with PHT. Their dedication and hard work has kept everything organized and moving forward.

## **Conversation Regarding BOH Priorities**

Trust members asked the Commissioners about their priority areas and budgetary framework.

- Housing in rural areas and the lack of affordable housing
  - Growth Management Act established in the mid-1990's had a purpose of restricting sprawl, which was effective at the time, but has made housing expensive today.
  - Current discussion to use County owned properties in the cities and fair grounds for potential development of affordable housing.
- Budgetary Framework
  - Unfunded State mandates that they must fund, ex: providing defense attorneys
  - Can only raise taxes 1%, which does not keep up with County needs and expenses.
  - \$17 million in deferred maintenance to care for County facilities, including the upgrades needed to the 100 year old County Court House.

## **Questions to the Commissioners/BOH**

Trust members asked questions regarding issues of importance affecting the County.

## **Transportation Funding**

- Skagit County will be losing some transportation funding.
- Commissioners have formalized a relationship with a lobbyist in Olympia and Washington DC to strategically present concerns from Skagit County. They have also initiated an extended contract for a grant writer in the Commissioner's office who will be dedicated to writing grants that will positively affect Skagit County.

## **Law and Justice**

- Community Justice Center has classrooms where inmates can take classes from Skagit Valley College which can assist with their transition back into the community.
- The County jail is going through an accreditation process in the medical facility, which cost 2.5 million dollars a year for medical coverage of all inmates.
- Law and Justice in the community is 72% of the budget, which includes judges, lawyers, law enforcement, jails, etc. Commissioner Wesen asked the Trust "What can we do to interject earlier in someone's life to make it so they don't go through that system? That's our only hope to help the system to not keep growing."

## Environmental Health

- Discussions around the water span lead in pipes, orcas, plastics, and refineries. The BOH shared that there are tradeoffs by choosing one decision over another and they have to decide how to balance the needs and move forward. An example was the choice between a need for culverts and salmon protection.

## **Intersections between the Board of Health and PHT priorities**

- Commissioners explained the different ordinances and hearings, but stated that the PHT could let the BOH know if there is anything they feel is important regarding environmental issues. The BOH have some flexibility with local issues, yet little control over State mandated environmental health issues.
- As members of the BOH, the Commissioners would like the PHT to act as a Subject Member Experts (SME). The BOH will ask knowledgeable questions of the PHT, engage in discussion, and vote.

## Housing

- A suggestion was made for PHT to concentrate on educating the community that restricted housing supply causes the cost of living to go up and that a housed person uses fewer societal resources than someone who is homeless. It was pointed out that there are also long term negative effects on homeless students with only 40% graduating.
- Commissioners suggested the PHT could help by creating a traveling group to go city council to city council and share a high impact presentation regarding the housing situation. With a targeted strategy in front of electoral bodies it will be difficult for them to ignore.

## **Recognitions**

Randy Elde will be retiring in January of 2020. Jennifer Johnson thanked him for his tireless dedication with PHT and OWLT from the beginning. His presence and support will be missed.

Carol Hawk will also be retiring in January of 2020 from the PHT. Bill Henkel talked about her positive energy and thoughtfulness when working on any issue with Trust members and conveyed how she will be missed.

Debra Lancaster introduced Graham Kerr, who presented the Flash of Silver award to Diane Smith for her hard work and dedication with the 1095 organization.

## **Housing**

Kristen reviewed the Agenda for the afternoon.

Kevin Murphy set the context for a housing conversation by sharing with the PHT the various entities and projects underway regarding affordable housing and homelessness. He talked about the Housing Summit, the Skagit County Five Year Homeless Plan, and the Growth Management Act Steering Committee.

He then described targeted universalism and how he feels it can be applied to the housing issues to help unlock some of the barriers.

### **Discussion for a Housing Targeted Universalism Goal**

Kristen and Kevin asked the Trust members if they thought creating a Targeted Universalism goal would help the housing efforts.

Questions and discussion followed regarding wording, measurements, and definitions. The group agreed that the Steering Committee would work on developing a Targeted Universalism goal for housing and bring it back to the PHT meeting in December.

### **Round Robin – evaluation of the retreat.**

There was an overall appreciation for the open and frank discussion that took place. Members shared a renewed energy for equity work and what PHT can achieve moving forward into the new year. They felt hopeful and encouraged with the discussion and hopeful about the future.

**Adjourn**

**Next meeting is December 5<sup>th</sup> at Skagit Transit Conference Room.**