

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 24, 2022, with Commissioners None. present. , , and were absent/excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Browning called the proceedings to order at 11:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Browning led the audience in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 11:31 a.m. Board of Health Approval of Minutes – Board of Health

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1. Record of the Proceedings for October 19, 2021. **(Approved)**

b) 11:35 a.m. Board of Health New Requirements (HB 1152) - Jennifer Johnson, Director

Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson provided an overview of the impact that House Bill (HB) 1152 had on the structure of the Board of Health. HB 1152 required the expansion of local boards of health to include particular individuals that represent specific categories unless the board of health had an established community public health advisory board. Ms. Johnson said that the Population Health Trust (PHT) Advisory Committee fit into that category. She also explained that as a result of the passage of HB 1152, At-Large Board of Health Members Dr. Connie Davis and Aaron Katz would not be able to continue to serve on the Board of Health and, therefore, their appointments were rescinded by Resolution No. R20220045 on March 7, 2022. She said that Public Health staff would be proposing amendments to Skagit County Code Chapter 12 to allow for a retracted Board of Health to be comprised of the Board of County Commissioners and allow for the PHT Advisory Committee to continue to serve in their role to the Board of Health.

c) 11:40 a.m. Population Health Trust Community Health Advisory Board COVID Recovery Plan

1. Introduction - Kristen Ekstran

Public Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran provided information about the planning activities that moved the PHT Advisory Committee from the Community Health Assessment (CHA) strategy to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP - COVID Recovery Plan).

2. Cross-over Strategies - Chris Johnston, Margaret Rojas, Ismael Vivanco

PHT Advisory Committee members Camille Keefe, Chris Johnson, Margaret Rojas, and Ismael Vivanco shared information about health care settings providing a welcoming and safe space for under-represented communities and communities of color. They also shared information about training the community on impacts of trauma on behavioral health and using clergy, teachers, barbers, hairdressers, parents, trusted peers, and employers as a support system to engage in community conversations to reduce stigma and expand the reach of mental health services.

Information was provided about creating workforce pipelines for bilingual/bicultural behavioral health and medical staff based on successful models such as Skagit-Island Head Start and Maestros Para el Pueblo.

3. Child Care - Dean Snider

PHT Advisory Committee member Dean Snider spoke about advocating for employer-based on-site childcare, including extended hours of care, and investigating alternative models for the service and business sectors.

He also shared information about childcare in the workplace: Patagonia which had provided 33 years of on-site child care for employees and a link to a short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdKmZXaFwEU> where Patagonia's CEO explains how to make on-site child care pay for itself. More information can be found at <https://www.fastcompany.com/3062792>.

4. Equity - Camille Keefe

Ms. Keefe provided information about focusing on expanding equity in health care.

5. Housing - Kevin Murphy

PHT Advisory Committee member Kevin Murphy provided information about advocating for cross-organizational and cross-jurisdictional efforts on housing affordability and availability, especially those that focused on housing as a population health issue.

6. Behavioral Health - Margaret Rojas

PHT Advisory Committee member Margaret Rojas spoke the backlog of potential behavioral health peers awaiting training for certification through the state Health Care Authority (HCA) through sponsorship of HCA training in Skagit County.

7. Access to Care - Chris Johnston

Chris Johnson explained the importance of health care providers providing access to health care and the need to train and support multicultural/bilingual staff to better serve the needs of patients. He spoke about the need to develop safe and private telehealth care locations for individuals without access to technology.

8. Economic and Financial Security - Annaliese Vance-Sherman

PHT Advisory Committee member Annaliese Sherman spoke about focusing on employment development, financial literacy technological support, and outreach to specific communities, including the LGBTQ+ and other populations that were underrepresented in the workplace.

9. Food Security - Carolyn Conner

PHT Advisory Committee member Carolyn Conner spoke about the need to advocate for community-based programs that ensured culturally relevant and nutritious foods were available and affordable for all Skagit residents especially for families with children and other vulnerable populations.

10. Summary/Next Steps - Kristen Ekstran

Ms. Ekstran said that COVID Recovery Plan was already being implemented and that the next steps would be to reach out to the community, action planning, utilizing ARPA funding priorities, and launching more detailed CHIP around a single theme.

d) 12:30 p.m. Board of Health Discussion - Board of Health and Population Health Trust

The Commissioners discussed the COVID Recovery Plan, making the food distribution system more resilient, the impacts that COVID had on the community, providing access to counseling services, funding the goals of the Plan with ARPA funding, and expressed appreciation for all the work that the PHT Advisory Committee had done in developing the Plan

e) 12:45 p.m. Possible Action - Board of Health:

1. Adoption of Resolution Endorsing the Population Health Trust Community Health Advisory Board's COVID Recovery Plan **(Resolution No. R20220051)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve the Resolution endorsing the Population Health Trust Committee Advisory Board's COVID Recovery Plan. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

f) 12:50 p.m. Board Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Adoption of Resolution to Confirm Community Members to Serve on the Population Health Trust Community Health Advisory Board **(Resolution No. R20220052)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve Adoption of Resolution to confirm community members to serve on the Population Health Trust Community Health Advisory Committee. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

g) 12:55 p.m. Board of Health Section of 2022 Chair – Board of Health

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve selecting Commissioner Browning as Board of Health Chair for 2022. Chair Browning seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand spoke about meeting the medical and public health needs of the community.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 12:53 p.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Don Munks, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

JoAnne Giesbrecht, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners