

Board of Health Record Of the Proceedings – Skagit County, Washington

Date: April 15, 2025

The Skagit County Board of Health met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, with Chair Peter Browning, Commissioner Lisa Janicki, and Commissioner Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Browning called the proceedings to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) 10:02 a.m. Approve Record of Proceedings

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve the Record of the Proceedings for February 11, 2025, March 10, 2025, and March 31, 2025. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Record of the Proceedings February 11, 2025 **(Approved)**

Record of the Proceedings March 10, 2025 **(Approved)**

Record of the Proceedings March 31, 2025 **(Approved)**

c) 10:03 a.m. Public Health Director Remarks:

Public Health Director Keith Higman noted that April 7 through April 13, 2025 was the 30th Anniversary of National Public Health Week (NPHW). This year's theme was "It Starts Here." NPHW 2025 brought together public health workers, students, organizations, and leaders for a weeklong celebration of public health.

d) 10:10 a.m. OSS Code Presentation:

Environmental Health Manager Britt Pfaff-Dunton and Environmental Specialist Charest Gainor provided an overview of Skagit County's On-Site Sewage Code, Chapter 12.05. Ms. Gainor noted that the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) adopted revisions to the on-site septic regulations, and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 246-272A. She said that when DOH revised the WAC, Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) were required to review and update local regulations. Ms. Gainor noted that all LHJ regulations must be as stringent as WAC, and that LHJ regulations could not be less stringent.

Ms. Gainor provided a timeline of the initial drafting of the OSS Code which began in June 2024, reviewed the proposed revisions, proposed new requirements, and upcoming actions which included continuing work sessions with the Board of Health on the proposed code, public meetings, public comment period, public hearing, and potential adoption.

Additional information can be obtained by e-mailing Skagit County Public Health at: Septic@co.skagit.wa.us.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/04142025.zip>

e) 10:40 a.m. Community Health Assessment Update and Presentation:

Public Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran provided an overview of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) which began in 2020 with Population Health Trust collecting and reviewing data. Ms. Ekstran also provided information about the 2025 CHA goals which included health equity, comprehensive data review, building upon previous CHAs, and the COVID Recovery Plan to streamline the process and highlight proactive and upstream components.

Ms. Ekstran and Population Trust members shared information about the process components, timeline, report writing, community outreach, access to care, behavioral health, UW student projects on community content and inequities, and the Board of Health retreat taking place in June.

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f) 11:00 a.m. Help Me Grow Update and Presentation:

Prevention and Communicable Disease Manager Jennifer Sass-Walton provided a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of the Help Me Grow Program.

United General District 304 Thriving Children and Families Supervisor Lyndie Simmonds, University of Washington, Class of 2025 Erin York Bannon, and United General District 304 Newborn Outreach Nurse Liz Cooksey provided information about the services their organizations provided which included: Pregnancy Connections; Family Resource Navigators; Family Resources Center; and Newborn Outreach Program.

Discussion ensued about the Help Me Grow Program's funding, the work that Population Health Trust was doing, and ensuring that mothers and babies were being released to safe environments.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/04142025.zip>

g) 11:20 a.m. Health Officer Update:

Dr. Leibrand discussed the importance of continuing the development of medications that would prevent and treat various diseases such as tuberculosis and measles.

h) 11:25 a.m. Public Comment:

None provided.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 11:26 a.m.

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

**BOARD OF HEALTH
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Peter Browning, Chair

ATTEST:

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Health

Ron Wesen, Commissioner