

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**SKAGIT COUNTY SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 24, 2022, with Chair Peter Browning, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Browning called the Board of Health to order at 2:30 p.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) \*2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Board of Health Quarterly Meeting:

1. Approval of Record of the Proceedings for August 22, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Record of the Proceedings for August. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Consideration: Resolution to Confirm Members to the Population Health Trust and Introduction of New Members

Public Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran provided an overview of a proposed Resolution to confirm and appoint Patty Codd and Mandi Rothman as official voting members to the Population Health Trust. In addition, Skagit County Sheriff's Office Chief of Field Services Chris Baldwin was being appointed as a non-voting stakeholder member.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution to confirm members to the Population Health Trust (**Resolution No. R20220203**) Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Population Health Trust Updates and Feedback on Director Recruitment

Ms. Ekstran provided an update on Population Health Trust (PHT) activities and the status of four projects that had received ARPA funding. The projects included retention of childcare providers, increasing the number of childcare openings, and increasing LATINX childcare providers; expanding the perinatal behavioral health program; launching a program for LATINX mental health matters; and forming a work group, the Food Policy Council, to evaluate and provide action steps for food security.

Ms. Ekstran provided updates on two additional projects the PHT was working on: expanding access to healthcare through navigators/promotores and also through a work force pipeline from Skagit Valley College to local healthcare providers. Community leaders were enthusiastic about the projects ideas and additional details would be provided at the next Board of Health meeting.

Another project underway that was also embedded in all PHT work was equity. PHT members were sharing their expertise on the topic. The PHT was also hearing from businesses and local entities on equity and would be compiling principles, resources, and ideas from this work to share broadly within the community through a whitepaper.

Next, Ms. Ekstran shared that the PHT had discussed the vacant Public Health Director position and compiled a list of qualities they would want the new Public Health Director to have which PHT Chair Dr. Maureen Pettitt would be reviewing. The county was in the process of selecting candidates for the position and Ms. Ekstran thanked PHT Member/PeaceHealth United General Chief Administrative Officer Chris Johnston for his insight and comments after spending a day helping with initial screening interviews.

PHT Chair Pettitt shared that the PHT felt the following would be important qualities for the new Public Health Director to have: that they continue to provide what PHT needs to be efficient and effective, they are a visionary for innovative and strategic thinking, they are a good listener and collaborator- including the community and specific sectors in the community, they preserve the strong partnerships formed by former Director Jennifer Johnson, and that they acknowledge the importance of the social determinates of health. The PHT wanted to align goals and objectives with the Health Department and share resources when possible. They wanted a director who would continue to seek resources so that the PHT could continue their work, and they wanted to continue to be involved with the Public Health leadership team.

4. COVID-19 Test Site Discussion

Public Health Analyst Julie de Losada spoke about operations at the COVID Testing Site. Public Health had also included the provision of flu testing and vaccine in addition to the COVID-19 testing/vaccine and boosters and they had also used the site to distribute indoor clean air/wildfire kits. Due to the availability of home testing kits, community use at the site had dropped. Most of the residents now served had mobility difficulties which made the drive through option helpful. Ms. de Losada shared that some days only 5 residents were served. Public Health was recommending that hours be reduced at the site and that the provision of mobile testing and vaccines be provided to hard-to-reach segments of the population, to locations where residents congregated such as the Senior/Community Centers, and increase outreach and availability to non-English speakers.

The Board agreed with Public Health's plan to reduce hours at the test site and instead provide mobile services. It was agreed to run the current testing site at reduced hours through December.

5. Presentation: School Based Services

Public Health Analyst George Kosovich, Community Health Coordinator Peter Miterko, Northwest Educational Services District 189 Assistant Director Natalie Gustafson and Behavioral Health Administrator Christopher Allen, Communities In Schools of Whatcom-Skagit Executive Director Ario Salazar and Expansion Program Manager Chelsea Jimenez provided an update on the provision of behavioral health services in schools, funding, how the COVID pandemic negatively impacted youth, and shared positive impacts made by counselors/school social workers working with youth in schools.

6. Update from Health Officer

Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand provided an update on the COVID pandemic and general guidelines to not go to work or school sick, testing before gatherings, staying up to date on effective vaccines and boosters, masking, the emergence of COVID variants.

7. Public Comment

No comments were provided.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 4:08 p.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**

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Ron Wesen, Chair

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

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Dr. Connie Davis, At Large Board Member

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Dr. Aaron Katz, At Large Board Member

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board