



**POPULATION
HEALTH TRUST**
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Skagit County Board of Health

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

PHT Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2025, 8:30-10:30 am

Chinook Meeting Room

Members: Bill Henkel, Chris Johnston, Mo Pettitt, Lyndie Simmonds, Alex Gee, Lindsay Lopes, Maddy Mackenzie, Julie Merriam, Jeremy Hiatt, Leon John,

Community Stakeholders: Kas Church, Kristen Ekstran, Keith Higman, Marci Bloomquist, Jennifer Sass-Walton

Ex-Officio: Howard Leibrand

Guests: Neil Panlasigui, Kelli Baker, Krystal Romero

Welcome and overview of the data carousel

Kristen welcomed the group and gave an overview of the day. She asked Bill Henkel to provide an update from the most recent Steering meeting. He shared that a variety of topics were discussed including plans for the upcoming Powerful Partnerships event scheduled for October 2nd, nominations for the Skagit Change Maker and Skagit Community Champion awards, and the scheduling of a series of community listening sessions, part of the Community Health Assessment process.

Trust introductions

To welcome new members, Jeremy Hiatt (Boys and Girls Clubs of Skagit County), Lindsey Lopes (North Sound BH-ASO), and Alex Gee (Skagit County Public Health), Trust members shared both how long they have been with the Trust and what keeps them coming back each month.

CHA process recap

Kristen provided an update on the CHA process, launched earlier this year.

- The first step in the process was to update the PHT score card.
- This was followed by additional data collection, both quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative data was compiled from databases and assessments from community partners, including Community Action, Skagit/Island Head Start, and Peace Health United General, among others. Two qualitative studies were conducted, one on access to health care, the other on youth wellness.
- A data carousel was held in June, providing both the PHT and Board of Health with an opportunity to review a set of 34 indicators on six themes: economic stability, adult behavioral health, housing, health care access/outcomes, youth wellness and community context.

- Throughout this, Kristen worked with a group of students from the University of Washington-Bothell on a series of health equity research projects, populations of focus were indigenous, Japanese, Latino, and Ukrainians.
- The assessment and planning team also conducted a pop-up survey to hear from the community about both health challenges and strengths.
- The most recent step in the CHA process was the creation of a series of issue statements. These statements were an attempt to summarize the presented indicators, additional data, and feedback from Trust members collected during the data carousel. Members would be reviewing these statements later in the meeting.

Final data pieces

Neil shared with the group both results of the pop-up community survey and an analysis of the qualitative data collected on youth wellness. There were over 300 responses to the pop-up survey, some collected during in-person events throughout the county and some that were submitted online. Of those that responded, access to natural spaces, a sense of belonging, and access to medical providers were the top strengths. The most frequently identified challenges in Skagit were affordable housing, access to behavioral health services, and affordable child care.

Next up, Neil shared results qualitative data collection on youth wellness. This data was collected through panel presentations, focus groups, and key informant interviews. The purpose of the data collection was to gain a better understanding of the challenges and needs of youth in Skagit. Neil's analysis consisted of six theme areas including: youth behavioral health, access to services and navigation, family caregiver support, basic needs and social determinants, community partnership and coordination, and youth empowerment and skill-building.

Issue statement review

Kas provided the group with an overview of the process behind the development of the issues statements. She noted that one of the themes presented during the data carousel process, social and community context, had been folded into child and youth health and economic stability. She invited members to review the proposed issue statement, then as a table, provide feedback on the summary. As a close to the activity, each table shared their feedback and ideas on the summaries. Kas informed members that the assessment and planning team would review their comments, then work to incorporate them into the theme summaries.

Next Up

The Steering Committee will meet on Monday, August 11th. A Board of Health meeting is scheduled for August 19th, and the full Trust will meet again on September 4th. Kristen thanked the group for their time and adjourned the meeting.