



**POPULATION
HEALTH TRUST**
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Skagit County Board of Health

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

**PHT Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2025, 8:30-10:30 am**

Chinook Meeting Room

Members: Bill Henkel, Thomas Boucher, Patty Codd, Sonia Garza, Bill Henkel, Jeremy Hiatt, Linden Jordan, Maddy MacKenzie, Julie Merriam, Mo Pettitt, Lyndie Simmonds, Dean Snider, John Sternlicht

Community Stakeholders: Kas Church, Jennifer Sass-Walton, Chris Baldwin, Alex Gee, Monica Negrila, Sarah Hinman

Ex-Officio: Howard Leibrand, Commissioner Peter Browning

Guests: Kelli Baker, Neil Panlasigui

Welcome

Monica welcomed the group and thanked them for attending. While many had already received notice by email and/or phone call, she informed the group that because of budget cuts, Kirsten Ekstran's position had been eliminated. She acknowledged the impact of that news on members and their concerns they might have regarding the future of the Trust.

Public Health staffing/program updates

To give additional context, Sarah Hinman provided the Trust with an overview of the county's current budget situation and impact on Public Health. In addition to Kristen's position, several other jobs were eliminated. With the reduction in workforce, the scope of work for some staff will need to be restructured. Monica and Sarah were still trying to determine future staff capacity for the Trust.

Group conversation/opportunity for questions

Members shared their deep respect for Kristen and their appreciation for her leadership of the Trust. Many noted her ability to develop and sustain partnerships, acknowledge and support varied perspectives, and to mobilize individuals in support of a common agenda. All that shared that they valued the work of the Trust and saw it as vital to the community.

Data was mentioned by several members as an important function of the Trust. Many use the Community Health Assessment (CHA) to inform their own needs assessments, make program decisions, or to seek out funding.

Members noted that the Trust is a board that "gets things done," and the value in having so many community leaders at one table. The value of a Community Health Advisory Board was noted and supported by those in attendance.

Looking ahead, future work of the PHT

Trust members had many questions about the future of the group. Overall, there was commitment among members to find a way to sustain the work moving forward. Future meetings and conversations will help to shape what kind of support the county can provide while identifying some areas where member organizations might help.

Kas provided an update on the CHA. She shared that it had been submitted to their graphic designer and that she hoped a printed version might be available at the February meeting. She noted that they were still trying to determine what kind of capacity there may be for future Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) work. Kas also shared that Public Health was in conversations with a few community organizations to take over facilitation of the Food Policy Council. Her role will shift to North Star in January.

Adjourn

While there generally isn't a meeting in January, members asked that one be scheduled to continue the conversation. Kas will send an invitation to a meeting on Thursday, January 8th. Steering will meet on Monday, December 10th and continue the conversation on next steps for the Trust. Monica thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.