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Whatcom County Council
Health Board

July 30, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Rud Browne called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the County Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barbara Brenner, Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey, and Satpal Sidhu.

Absent: None

1. PUBLIC SESSION

No one spoke.

2. DIRECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, referenced and read from the Health Department Director's reports in the PHAB packet on the following items:

- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Healthcare access through the Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA)
- The status of a proposed private behavioral health hospital in the area
- The status of the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program
- Housing statistics
- Mobile syringe exchange sites
- Coordinated water system plan
- Solid waste excise tax distribution

Councilmembers and staff discussed whether the Health Department can take over the WAHA health access clearinghouse services, water association concerns, and House Bill (HB) 1406 housing funds.

3. AIR QUALITY AND WILDFIRE SMOKE PLANNING

Mark Buford, Northwest Clean Air Agency Director, submitted and read from a presentation (*on file*) and answered questions on the following topics:

- Federal involvement in clean air issues
- How they measure and monitor clean air
- Coordinating other state and local agencies
- The timeline for monitoring and lowering sulfur dioxide near Alcoa

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- A wildlife solution from the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) changing management practices
- Monitoring diesel from trucks and trains
- Whether there are needs for additional monitoring locations in the county
- Whether greenhouse gas emissions is an air quality matter

Dr. Greg Stern, Health Officer, submitted and read from a presentation on the health impacts of wildfire smoke (*on file*) and answered questions on the following topics:

- When to postpone indoor exercise when the air quality is bad
- How to communicate what the levels are to the community

John Wolpers, Health Department, referenced information in the packet, reported, and answered questions on:

- A repository of consistent information for all the counties
- Focusing on clear messaging to the public on the steps to protect health from smoke
- Air pollution concentration thresholds for cancelling outdoor public events
- Health Department next steps

Staff and councilmembers discussed providing early warning to events organizers on the decision process, whether mandatory closures are an option, and air quality filter technology.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (PHAB) UPDATE

Rachel Lucy, PHAB Chair, referenced the Board packet and reported on the status of:

- Child and family wellbeing action planning
- Health protection for immigrant families

Councilmembers and the presenter discussed immigrants being targeted by federal agents regardless of immigration status.

5. HEALTH BOARD/PHAB 2019 JOINT SESSION FOLLOW-UP

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, referenced the Board packet and reported and answered questions on how policy makers can impact the health of the community and the priority focus on children and families, next steps and moving forward, incentives and penalties.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tom Kunesh, Health Department, submitted a handout (*on file*) and answered questions on food donation regulations.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

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The Council approved these minutes on _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Rud Browne, Council Chair

Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription