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Whatcom County Council
Board of Health

February 5, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Rud Browne called the meeting to order at 10:30 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

Ken Gas, retired pediatrician, spoke about the importance of early childhood health.

Buchanan reported on the launch of the expanded Countywide secure medicine return program.

2. DIRECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER REPORTS

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, reported and answered questions on the public health-related bills being put forward by the State legislature, including bills related to the minimum age for the purchase of tobacco, increasing the tax on vapor products, universal home visiting program for all new babies in the state, foundational public health services funding and policies, and removing the personal exemption for vaccinations.

Greg Stern, County Health Officer, reported and answered questions on a recent measles outbreak, different types of vaccine exemptions, and the veracity of vaccine data.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (PHAB) UPDATE

Rachel Lucy, Public Health Advisory Board Chair, reported and answered questions on the new Food Systems Committee and the recent immigrant health resolution.

4. 2019 HEALTH BOARD POLICY AGENDA

The following Public Health Advisory Board members and staff reported and answered questions on the Advisory Board proposed 2019 policy agenda:

- Rachel Lucy, Advisory Board Chair
- Chi-Na Stoane, Advisory Board
- Sterling Chick, Advisory Board
- Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director

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2 Board members reported on the Advisory Board proposed 2019 policy agenda, which
3 will include:

- 4 • Focus on early childhood development and support for families
- 5 • Housing, and housing support
- 6 • Foundational public health services

7
8 Health Board and Advisory Board members and staff discussed funding, other
9 examples of making community investments in children, the number of Whatcom County
10 children who live under the poverty level, sources of stress on families in the community,
11 the need for education and training on caring for children for childcare workers and parents,
12 whether there is a need to prioritize mental health and protecting children in abusive
13 homes, the benefits of mentorship, looking at the entire spectrum of homeless services that
14 could be available, collaborating with other agencies at the state and federal levels,

15
16 ***Donovan moved*** to adopt the three policy priorities for 2019.

17
18 The motion was seconded.

19
20 The motion carried by the following vote:

21 **Ayes:** Brenner, Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (6)

22 **Nays:** None (0)

23 **Abstains:** Byrd (1)

24
25 **5. FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING**

26
27 Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, gave a staff report.

28
29 The following Health Department staff answered questions:

- 30 • Greg Stern, County Health Officer
- 31 • Astrid Newell

32
33 ***Buchanan moved*** to approve the resolution to the Washington State legislature in
34 support of funding for core public health services.

35
36 The motion was seconded.

37
38 Councilmembers and Delahunt discussed the level of public health funding per capita
39 in each state.

40
41 The motion carried by the following vote:

42 **Ayes:** Brenner, Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (6)

43 **Nays:** Byrd (1)

44
45 Councilmembers and staff discussed whether there is a shortage of cold weather
46 shelters, people taking responsibility for their own health rather than relying on public
47 health services, and reducing barriers to making healthy choices.

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49
50 **ADJOURN**

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The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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