

PROPOSED BY: Health  
INTRODUCTION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE TO RESTRUCTURE THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
ADVISORY BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1152 establishing new requirements for community health advisory boards (in Whatcom County referred to as the Public Health Advisory Board or PHAB); and

**WHEREAS**, PHAB met on July 7, 2022 and approved new bylaws that meet the requirements of House Bill 1152; and

**WHEREAS**, draft revisions to WCC 24.01.051 were written that both reflect the new PHAB bylaws and meet the requirements of House Bill 1152.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that WCC 24.01.051 is hereby amended as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance per RCW 70.46.140 or as hereinafter amended.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

ATTEST: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Donovan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

( ) Approved ( ) Denied

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

# Exhibit A

## 24.01.051 Health department advisory board created.

A. The county health department advisory board, referred to in this chapter as the “public health advisory board,” is created and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the health board and the health department director in the following areas:

1. Recommend public health policies Provide input to the local board of health in the recruitment and selection of an administrative officer, pursuant to RCW 70.05.045, and local health officer, pursuant to RCW 70.05.050;
2. Recommend public health priorities Use a health equity framework to conduct, assess, and identify the community health needs of the jurisdiction, and review and recommend public health policies and priorities for the local health jurisdiction and advisory board to address community health needs;
3. Provide community forums/hearings as assigned by the health board Evaluate the impact of proposed public health policies and programs, and assure identified health needs and concerns are being met;
4. Establish community task forces as assigned by the health board Promote public participation in and identification of local public health needs;
5. Review and make recommendations for annual budget and fees Provide community forums and hearings as assigned by the local board of health;
6. Present annual report to the health board. Establish community task forces as assigned by the local board of health;
7. Review and make recommendations to the local health jurisdiction and local board of health for an annual budget and fees; and
8. Review and advise on local health jurisdiction progress in achieving performance measures and outcomes to ensure continuous quality improvement and accountability.

B. The public health advisory board shall consist of ~~at least nine and not more than 13~~to 21 members who are residents of the county.

1. Members shall be appointed by the local board of health. A local health officer and a member of the local board of health shall serve as ex officio members of the board. The County Council will appoint the ex officio member of the Health Board that will serve on PHAB, executive, subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council, except that one member of the health board shall be appointed by the county council.

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2. ~~The term of office for the members appointed by the executive shall be three years; except, that four terms shall remain staggered.~~ Advisory board members shall serve for staggered three-year terms. This does not preclude any member from being reappointed. Terms will be in accordance with WCC 2.03.030 unless no one else applies.

3. The term of office for the member appointed by the county council shall be for one year, from the time of the council's reorganization meeting in January to the next such meeting the following year.

4. The public health advisory board shall be broadly representative of the character of the county. Board diversity is valued. Membership preference shall be given to tribal, racial, ethnic, and other minorities. The advisory board shall consist of a balance of persons with expertise, career experience, and consumer experience in areas impacting public health and with populations served by the health department. ~~The public health advisory board's composition shall include at least one member in each of the following areas of expertise/experience:~~The board's composition shall include:

a. Members with expertise in and experience with:

- ~~a.~~ a. Health care access and quality; ~~(health care system, mental health, substance abuse, physician or other health care provider, health insurance).~~
- ~~b.~~ b. Physical environment ~~(built environment: transportation, parks; natural environment: air, water, food);~~ including built and natural environments;
- ~~c.~~ c. Social and economic ~~(housing, basic needs, education, employment);~~ sectors, including housing, basic needs, education, and employment;
- ~~d.~~ d. Business and philanthropy; ~~(large/small business, charitable foundations).~~
- ~~e.~~ e. Communities that experience health inequities; ~~(tribal, Hispanic, immigrant, people with disabilities or special health needs, seniors).~~
- ~~f.~~ f. Government; ~~(city of Bellingham, small city/rural).~~
- ~~g.~~ g. Tribal ~~community member/tribal government representation; communities and tribal government;~~
- ~~h.~~ h. Community member with lived experience in any of the areas listed above.

b. Consumers of public health services;

c. Community members with lived experience in any of the areas listed in (a) of this subsection;  
and

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d. Community stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations, the business community, and those regulated by public health.

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5. The local health jurisdiction and local board of health must actively recruit advisory board members in a manner that solicits broad diversity to assure representation from marginalized communities including tribal, racial, ethnic, and other minorities.

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C. At its initial meeting, or as soon thereafter as practical, the public health advisory board may elect officers, adopt bylaws and such rules and regulations of procedure as are necessary for the conduct of its business. Meetings of the public health advisory board shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW et seq. (Ord. 2019-040 Exh. A; Ord. 2004-004; Ord. 99-025; Ord. 93-024; Ord. 91-040 (part)).

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