

DISCLAIMER: This document is a draft and is provided as a courtesy. This document is not to be considered as the final minutes. All information contained herein is subject to change upon further review and approval by the Whatcom County Council.

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Whatcom County Council
Joint Meeting of the Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board

June 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in the County Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Health Board

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

Absent: Rud Browne

Public Health Advisory Board

Present: (Barry Buchanan), Sterling Chick, Lindsey Karas, Rachel Lucy, and Chi-Na Stoane

Absent: Les Seelye and Barbara Juarez

OPENING

Holly O'Neil, Facilitator, introduced the process and welcomed attendees.

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and described their backgrounds and the health issue in which they are interested.

O'Neil described the agenda, guidelines, and outcomes for the meeting.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Stoane described achievements that include the Food System Committee, Community Health Assessment, the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) project, increased funding for foundational public health services, prohibition against vaping in public areas, services for immigrant families, resolution for full funding for crisis stabilization services and needle exchange program, and the secure medical return program funded by pharmaceutical companies.

2019 HEALTH POLICY AGENDA PRIORITIES

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, gave a staff report on Whatcom Working Toward Well-Being, housing and homelessness, and the impact of economic insecurity on families and children.

Board members and attendees discussed looking at public health issues through the lens of incarceration prevention; rates of prenatal care in Whatcom County; outcomes and data; and poverty and abuse as threats to the well-being of children.

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2 **PANEL - STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY**
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4 O'Neil introduced three panelists:
5

6 Andrea Northey, Opportunity Council Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), spoke about
7 experiences working with the homeless and the need for a variety of different housing and
8 shelter options.
9

10 Emily O'Conner, Lydia Place Executive Director, spoke about experiences serving
11 homeless families with children, the challenges they face, and the need for a flexible system
12 that can serve everyone in need.
13

14 Chris Wiebe spoke about her experiences as a single parent of children, one of whom
15 had cerebral palsy, and the economic challenges that resulted, including a loss of dignity,
16 confidence, and hope. Solutions will come from people who have experienced these
17 challenges.
18

19 Board members and attendees discussed the need to develop a culture where people
20 have support systems from others and involving the cities.
21

22 *(Clerk's Note: the Boards took a 15-minute break.)*
23

24 **POLICY - WHAT IS IT, WHY IT MATTERS, AND HOW WE CAN DO MORE**
25

26 Board members and attendees defined the importance of policy and what policy
27 could achieve.
28

29 Lucy referenced and read from the packet on a presentation regarding Health Policy
30 Leadership, including the health impact pyramid.
31

32 Board members and attendees divided into small groups to discuss and report on the
33 discussion of either:

- 34 • What are examples where we've made healthy choices easier as a county,
- 35 • Locally, what kinds of public policy interventions are we open or closed to
36 pursuing, or
- 37 • How can we improve the way we advance policy through formulation,
38 implementation, and modification?
39

40 **POLICY ROAD MAP FOR THE YEAR AHEAD**
41

42 Lucy stated that the work done today will inform the staff and advisory board going
43 forward.
44

45 Board members and attendees discussed the status and next steps for:

- 46 • The child and family action plan
- 47 • Immigrant family health plans
- 48 • And priorities from the Community Health Improvement Plan
49
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1 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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3 Jennifer Johnson, Skagit County Director of Public Health, spoke about the effective
4 collaboration among Whatcom County's Board of Health, Public Health Advisory Board, and
5 public health staff.
6

7 **CLOSING COMMENTS**

8
9 Board members and attendees described the benefits of today's work session.
10

11
12 **ADJOURN**

13
14 The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

15
16 The Council approved these minutes on _____, 2019.
17

18 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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22
23 _____
24 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Acting Council Chair

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27
28 _____
29 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription