

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;
2. Recommend public health priorities;
3. Provide community forums/hearings as assigned by the Health Board;
4. Establish community task forces as assigned by the Health Board;
5. Review and make recommendations for annual budget and fees;
6. Present annual report to the Health Board.

B. 1. The public health advisory board shall consist of at least nine and not more than thirteen members who are residents of the county. Members shall be appointed by the 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.

2. The term of office for the members appointed by the executive shall be three years; except, that four terms shall remain staggered. In accordance with WCC 2.03.030 a member may be appointed to serve up to two consecutive full terms, regardless of whether that member has served a first term of less than a full term. No board, commission or committee member shall serve more than two consecutive full terms; however, after serving two consecutive full terms a member may become eligible for reappointment to a board, commission or committee after a one-year period of separation from the respective board, commission or committee on which he or she has previously served.

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 and shall be a factor when considering membership. Membership consideration shall be given to tribal, racial, ethnic minorities and other populations that experience health inequities. The 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 the each following areas of expertise/experience:

- Health Care Access and Quality (Health Care System, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Health Care Provider)
- Physical Environment (Built Environment: Transportation, Parks; Natural Environment: Air, Water, Food)

- Social and Economic Factors (Housing, Basic Needs, Education, Employment)
- Business and Philanthropy (Large/Small Business, Charitable Foundations)
- Communities that experience health inequities (for example, but not limited to: Tribal, Hispanic, Immigrant, People with Disabilities or Special Health Needs, Seniors, and other communities)
- Government (City of Bellingham, Small City/Rural)
- Tribal Community Member/Tribal Government Representation.

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. 2004-004; Ord. 99-025; Ord. 93-024; Ord. 91-040 (part)).