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Whatcom County Council
Board of Health

April 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Rud Browne called the meeting to order at 10:01 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. DIRECTOR REPORT

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, reported on the following items:

- National Public Health Week
- State bills pending in the legislature
- Foundational public health in the State budget
- Concerns about ongoing operational funding for the proposed new crisis stabilization facility

Buchanan submitted a draft letter from the Council to State legislators regarding proposed funding for the crisis stabilization facility (*on file*).

Anne Deacon, Health Department, reported on the benefits of crisis stabilization facilities.

Board members and staff discussed the operational budget shortfall, concerns about funding from the new managed care organization (MCO) Medicaid providers, and the ability to supplement with County money and other in-kind benefits.

Buchanan moved to send the letter to the appropriate senators from the County Council and the Council as the Board of Health.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brenner, Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (7)

Nays: None (0)

Board members and staff discussed the number of people who would be served each year.

Delahunt continued to report on the following items:

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- Community health assessment and community health improvement plan prioritization session
- Health Department strategic plan and strategic work plan
- Departmental focus on staff equity, expectations, and customer service

2. PROPOSED PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD CODE REVISIONS

Regina Delahunt, Health Department Director, reported and answered questions on defining and updating the County Code on the roles and responsibilities of the Health Board, Health Department, and Public Health Advisory Board.

Staff and Board members discussed how the current members would transition to the new positions; defining the social and economic factors as an indicator of an applicant's expertise; dividing the categories into individual positions just for physicians, social factor expertise, economic factor expertise, business, philanthropy, City of Bellingham, and a small city or the rural area; the appointment process; the specific positions that were difficult to fill; ensuring the balance on the advisory board reflects the entire community; and adding an experience category for private health insurance.

3. PUBLIC SESSION

- AND -

4. YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILY RESOLUTION

The following people spoke about the Young Children and Family Resolution:

- Desmond Skubi
- Tamara Tregoning
- Australia Cosby
- April Barker
- Vesla Kasimir
- Beverly Porter
- Kay Ingram, League of Women Voters
- Shovia Muchirawehondo
- Ken Gass, retired pediatrician
- Gabriel and Monica Koller, Generations Forward
- Emily O'Connor, Lydia Place Executive Director

Donovan moved to approve the resolution.

The motion was seconded.

The following people spoke and answered questions:

- Rachel Lucy, Public Health Advisory Board Chair, gave a presentation
- David Webster, Opportunity Council

Board members and presenters discussed the timing for coming up with a plan in a year, how Whatcom County compares to other counties in the state regarding childcare, the importance of education, and adding language at the request of the Brigid Collins House staff.

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1 **Donovan moved** to amend the fourth Whereas statement, "...and/or prolonged
2 adversity such as physical, **sexual**, or emotional abuse..."
3

4 The motion to amend was seconded.
5

6 The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

7 **Ayes:** Brenner, Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (7)

8 **Nays:** None (0)
9

10 Board members and the presenters discussed whether there is research on the value
11 of a parent staying home instead of putting a child in childcare, zoning or other laws that
12 don't allow businesses to offer childcare to non-employees, and insurance liability issues
13 with having children at work.
14

15 The motion to approve as amended carried by the following vote:

16 **Ayes:** Brenner, Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (7)

17 **Nays:** None (0)
18

19 **Donovan moved** to appoint Board member Frazey to serve on the task force.
20

21 The motion was seconded.
22

23 The motion carried by the following vote:

24 **Ayes:** Brenner, Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (7)

25 **Nays:** None (0)
26

27
28 **ADJOURN**

29 The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.
30

31 The Council approved these minutes on _____, 2019.
32

33
34 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

35
36
37
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39
40 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Rud Browne, Council Chair

41
42
43
44 _____
45 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription