Tacoma-Pierce County
Board of Health

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Study Session
January 3, 2024
3-5 p.m.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Auditorium
Hybrid Format with in-person and remote attendance

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Dial in: 253 215 8782 Webinar ID: 852 6383 2261
Passcode: 038473

Call to Order
Vice Chair Hitchen called the January 3, 2024 Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health Study Session to order at 3:02 p.m.

Members Present: Marty Campbell, Kiara Daniels, Paul Herrera, Jani Hitchen, Nicholas Rajacich, Catherine Ushka; **Alternate Board Members:** Stephen Cook, Robyn Denson, Steve O'Ban arrived at 3:06 p.m., Bryan Yambe,

Members Excused: Bruce Dammeier.

Also, present: Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health; Sebrena Chambers, Strengthening Families, Division Director; Jessica Gehle, Environmental Health Division Director; Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Manager; Nigel Turner, Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Ingrid Payne, Operations and Finance Director; Edie Jeffers, Community & Communications Relationship Manager; Brian Moore, Business & Technology Director; Darlene Mendoza, Human Resources Director; Erin Dilworth, Healthy Community Planner; Gregory Jacoby, Legal Counsel. Guest Steve Wamback, Pierce County Facilities Management; Deborah Anderson, Pierce County Facilities Management.

Healthy Community Planning

Erin Dilworth, Healthy Community Planner updated board members on the work her program is doing and how that work links to the Health Department's Strategic Plan. She shared six elements of healthy community planning, advised health impact assessments (HIAs), State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) reviews and the program's work with other planners in the county.

Ms. Dilworth advised board members on the six elements of healthy community planning: land use and community design; transportation; housing; economic development; natural environment; parks, recreation, and open space.

She shared Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) is relatively new work for the Health Department. HIAs serve as a tool to inform decisionmakers and the public of potentially significant impacts, both beneficial and harmful of a proposed project policy or program.

The program is currently working with City of Tacoma on two HIAs: Home in Tacoma and Picture Pac Ave which is the subarea plan for Pacific Avenue from I-5 down to South 96th.

Ms. Dilworth advised on an advisory group made up of eight community members representing neighborhood councils, community leaders, people who live along Pac Ave, active transportation advocates and health advocates. The advisory group held an open house for community to share what is it about Pac Ave that makes them healthy or hurts their health.

She advised board members the purpose of State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is to identify adverse impacts from a project and make recommendations, intervention, or mitigation. The program is working with other planners in the county – Healthy Community Planning group. She shared information on an upcoming Healthy Community award at the Pierce County Regional Council in February.

Discussion followed on processes: HIA process - how is it started and how is the final determined on what is studied. SEPA process - review timelines, turnaround time and is it concurrent with other processes. Further discussion followed on how is the program is engaging and thoughts about sharing or working with some of the initiatives that are happening in the Pacific Avenue corridor or through the county.

Ms. Dilworth advised board members the program works with residents up and down the corridor. The program is using their existing outlets, doing a lot of community engagement, and getting as many touchpoints as they can.

Discussion followed on Blue Zones happening in the Pacific Avenue community, policy work around this jurisdiction, what is the state's role in this work and partnership.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Building Study

Gina Shackelford, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Facilities Director advised board members on ongoing meetings with an architecture group brought to them through Pierce County. Ms. Shackelford advised board members Steve Wamback, Pierce County Facilities Management and Deborah Anderson with Facilities Management will present the Health Department building study and answer questions.

Pierce County Facilities presented six options for a new Health Department building that meets the organization's capacity needs:

- Option 1: First and second floor addition to existing building.
- Option 2: First, second floor additions and add a third floor to the existing building.
- Option 3: Modernize existing building and adjacent Soundview building.
- Option 4: Lease and improve an existing building.
- Option 5: Purchase existing building and remodel for the Health Department.
- Option 6: Acquire land that meets TPCHD location criteria and build new building.

Board members discussed each option, impact to staff and operations, services, and the need to maintain the continuity of services. Discussion followed on excluding options 1 and 2, exploring options 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Discussion followed on timeline and what is Pierce County Facilities' ask of board members. Ms. Anderson advised board members March 1 Pierce County Facilities will share the analysis with County Council. Mr. Wamback recommended board members submit a concise statement of view from the Board to County Council.

Chair Ushka asked staff to add a note to the next business meeting for a discussion with the Board so they can agree on a statement and send it forth with full input from everybody on the Board. Alternate board member O'Ban requested a copy of the presentation. Board Clerk Patricia Darden will share a copy with board members.

Health Department staff will draft a statement highlighting today's discussion and share it at the next board meeting for input and make a formal action during a Regular Meeting.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

Catherine Ushka
Chair, Board of Health

February 7, 2024
Date of Adoption

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health