Tacoma-Pierce County
Board of Health

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Regular Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2024
3 - 5 p.m.

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

Dial in: 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 852 6383 2261
Passcode: 038473
Webinar Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85263832261?pwd=a1crSUJscWFkTFhJcGl0N0VkSjZDZz09

Call to Order
Vice Chair Hitchen called the January 17, 2024 Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health Regular meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call
Board of Health Members Present: Catherine Ushka, Jani Hitchen, Marty Campbell, Kiara Daniels arrived at 3:05, Paul Herrera, Nicholas Rajacich, Bryan Yambe. Alternate Board Members: Stephen Cook, Steve O'Ban.
Board of Health Members Excused: Bruce Dammeier.

Comments by the Public (not related to a specific agenda item)
There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the meeting minutes for **January 3 and January 17, 2024.**

Resolution No 2023-4815 - Authorization to contract with MultiCare Health Systems for $164,000 to provide mobile immunization services during the period of January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. Vice Chair Hitchen read the title into the record. Board Member Campbell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Regular Agenda

Resolution No. 2024-4826 – Authorization to amend the Environmental Health Code by adding a new Chapter 7 Retail Food Regulations". The Clerk read the title into the record.

Christina Sherman, Food and Community Safety Program Manager presented the resolution. Ms. Sherman advised board members the program is asking the Board to adopt health and safety regulations relating to camps, primary and secondary schools, water recreation facilities, and food service.

Ms. Sherman shared that in each case the program proposes adoption of state regulations by reference. She shared that the program proposes each of the four new chapters under individual resolutions. Discussion followed around regulatory transparency. Further discussion ensued around the process of communicating to customers when chapters are open for update.

Board Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Resolution No. 2024-4827 – Authorization to amend the Environmental Health Code by adding a new Chapter 9 "Water Recreation Facility Regulations". The Clerk read the title into the record.

Christina Sherman, Food and Community Safety Program Manager presented the resolution. Discussion followed around regulatory transparency. Ms. Sherman advised board members on what a water recreation facility is and shared examples of a swimming pool or spa.

Board Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Resolution No. 2024-4828 – Authorization to amend the Environmental Health Code by adding a new Chapter 10 "Environmental Health and Safety Regulations for Primary and Secondary Schools". The Clerk read the title into the record.

Christina Sherman, Food and Community Safety Program Manager presented the resolution. Ms. Sherman advised board members it includes private and public schools. Discussion followed on regulatory transparency.

Further discussion followed around outreach to school districts for questions or concerns. Ms. Sherman advised board members the program sent emails to stakeholders and partners and put out a newspaper media ad. She shared they received one question from a private school.

Board Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Resolution No. 2024-4829 – Authorization to amend the Environmental Health Code by adding a new Chapter 13 "Camp Regulations". The Clerk read the title into the record.

Christina Sherman, Food and Community Safety Program Manager presented the resolution. She advised board members on the types of camps the Health Department regulates in Pierce County.

Discussion followed on the types of camps regulated and what is regulated. Ms. Sherman advised it is about sanitation, the bunks and making sure they are preventing any kind of disease transmission through temporary housing at the camps and preventing injuries.

Ms. Sherman advised board members that the Health Department regulates overnight stays. They do not regulate day camps. Further discussion followed on does this allow the Health Department to regulate or inspect homeless encampments. Ms. Sherman advised board members that currently under this regulation it does not. The Department does try to intersect and cooperate with other programs to assist in sanitation if asked.

Chair Ushka requested a follow-up discussion to gain better understanding of what kinds of inspections are done and how they are managed - ensuring the safety and sanitation of people in these sites.

Board Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

Ms. Sherman responded to a follow up question about regulations. She advised board members that regulation may lie with the Department of Health and not the local jurisdiction.

There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Resolution No. 2024-4832 –Authorization to continue investigation of Facility Options presented by Pierce County Facilities to the Board of Health on January 3, 2024. The Board of Health recommends the following: Exclude Options 1 and 2, and continue to explore Options 3, 4, 5 and 6. In addition, the Board of Health requests Pierce County Facilities to explore a new option to demolish the Soundview Building and construct a new building for the Health Department on that property. Therefore, we request the Board to move the letter for signature and send to Pierce County Facilities Director, Karl Imlig, and satisfy the Pierce County Council proviso language. Authorization to adopt Chapter 246-376 WAC by reference in its entirety, effective 12:01 a.m. February 7, 2024.

The Clerk read the title into the record. Ms. Darden advised board members of a scrivener's error in the last sentence of Resolution No. 2024-4832. Ms. Darden mistakenly included "Authorization to adopt Chapter 246-376 WAC by reference in its entirety, effective 12:01 a.m. February 7, 2024." She advised that this last sentence should be stricken from the title.

Board Member Campbell moved to amend the title that strikes the last sentence. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

The motion to strike the last sentence passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Gina Shackelford, Program Manager, Business Support Services presented the resolution.

Alternate Board Member O'Ban advised board members he will vote to abstain. He shared that the character of the resolution letter mentions is a direction to the Facilities Department of the Executive. Alternate Board Member O'Ban shared that he sits in the chair of the Executive, and it would not be appropriate for him to vote.
Board Member Campbell moved to adopt the resolution as amended. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

A brief discussion followed on why the decision was made to remove options 1 and 2 and keep option 3.

There was no public comment. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 1 abstention.

COMMENTS BY INTERIM DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

[Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health]

Black History Month

Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health advised board members February Is Black History Month, a time to celebrate Black culture and Black achievement. Black history is American history.

She informed board members the Health Department is recognizing this in a few different ways:

- Highlighting historical figures each week for staff on our intranet.
- Displaying a banner of "I AM 400," artwork from father and son Jerome and Jeromyah Jones highlighting 69 portraits of Black history makers.
- Sharing a blog about Black history and public health. Look for that soon!

Ms. Gizzi shared the Department hopes Board Members and the viewing audience will all join in recognizing and celebrating Black history in February.

American Heart Month

Ms. Gizzi shared February is also American Heart Month. It's a good time to remember that Pierce County residents face high rates of heart disease compared to the rest of Washington. She advised board members that people with diabetes and high blood pressure are 4 times more likely to develop heart disease. Ms. Gizzi shared several lifestyle changes that can help improve a person's health and decrease their chances of suffering from heart disease.

Protect from measles

Ms. Gizzi advised board members on measles. She shared this is a reminder to make sure you and your family are protected against measles.

She informed board members that State and local health officials are investigating 3 cases in Southwest Washington. Ms. Gizzi advised board members that measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is very effective against measles. Ms. Gizzi advised board members that about 95% of people get protection after a single dose. Two doses protect 99% of people. Board members can learn more at tpchd.org/measles.

Granicus Award

Ms. Gizzi introduced Miguel Buddle, Vice President of Implementation Services at Granicus. Mr. Buddle presented the 2023 Granicus Digital Government Trust & Transparency Award to the Department's Communications Team for their work on the COVID-19 vaccine campaign.

Working smarter to fight our opioid crisis

Chelsea Amato, Opioid Task Force Coordinator provided board members with an overview of the Opioid Task Force. She shared objectives and background information. Ms. Amato advised board members on current work the task force is doing which reflects county and state goals.

She shared a list of action-oriented committees and highlighted a new initiative the task force started called Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Lived Experience Advisory Council. It is made up of people with lived experience.

Ms. Amato advised board members on the upcoming 2024 Opioid Summit happening March 21, 8"30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Puyallup Pioneer Park Pavilion. She shared information about the Opioid Abatement Council, Youth fentanyl prevention campaign and Pierce County Overdoes Awareness Campaign.

Edie Jeffers Communications Director advised board members on the Fentanyl Facts campaign. Youth are the intended audience. She shared data from January 2020 to June 2022 on deaths under the age of 24 due to fentanyl overdose and drug-poisoning related emergency visits.

Ms. Jeffers advised board members the Tacoma-Pierce County Opioid Task Force offered funds from the Behavioral Health Tax funds for the creation of a Youth Fentanyl Prevention Campaign. She shared a list of teams from around the Health Department that participated in this effort. Ms. Jeffers highlighted ads with youth as the target audience.

She shared information about community engagement and community contracting and how community partners work to make messaging most relevant to their audience. Board members watched a short film depicting the impact of fentanyl overdose. Ms. Jeffers shared the need for trusted messengers helping share this life saving information.

Board members shared their gratitude for the messaging and work. Discussion followed on the Behavioral Health Tax fund and addressing issues like this. Chair Ushka shared positive comments about the website fentanylfacts.org.

Who's Hungry in Pierce County

Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Director, and guest Sue Potter with Nourish Pierce County advised board members on food insecurities in Pierce County.

Ms. Wilson advised board members on how this links to the Department's Strategic Plan. She shared what is food insecurity and its consequences. Ms. Wilson shared data on healthcare cost due to food insecurity, how food insecurity varies between populations, where people live, and demographics. She advised this data is on a lag.

Sue Potter, Executive for Nourish Pierce County Food Banks, advised board members on the history of Nourish, the support and services it provides. Ms. Potter shared information on brick and motor and mobile food banks – portable grocery stores and the areas they served. Ms. Potter advised board members on the number of people utilizing food banks, the increase in the number of times a person visits and the demographic accessing these resources.

Ms. Potter advised they are developing a grocery store model where guest will have a grocery store experience. They will pilot and test this new technology at a new pantry in Lakewood. Ms. Potter described the food locker system, the technology needed to do it and the staff base. She shared that the systems to support it is a challenge.

Chair Ushka shared her passion for this work. Discussion followed around solutions to food insecurities, what a food locker is and military hunger. Ms. Potter shared her thoughts about solutions, the need to advocate, donate and volunteer. Board members discussed messaging on the topic of volunteering.

Vice Chair Hitchen advised she is doing a touring a food locker in action through the fulfillment side. Pierce County has a location in Bonney Lake called Good Roots. The lockers have been in action for at least over a year. Vice Chair Hitchen will share with Chair Ushka when she is going.

Ms. Wilson closed with information about policy, programs at the Health Department and collaboration with the Blue Zones and communities of focus which just launched a mapping tool for food systems assets.

COMMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Vice Chair Hitchen talked about the importance of sleep and the impact to physical health, mental health, decision-making. She shared that she has not heard anything about this from a public health standpoint and that it would be interesting to look at this to see if there is something we need to do at a public health level.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

ATTEST:

Catherine Ushka
Chair, Board of Health
March 6, 2024
Date of Adoption

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health