Tacoma-Pierce County
Board of Health

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Study Session Agenda
February 21, 2024
3-5 p.m.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Auditorium

Hybrid Format with in-person and remote attendance
Dial in: 253 205 0468 Webinar ID: 879 2956 5840
Passcode: 593189

3629 South D Street, Tacoma, WA 98418
Board of Health Clerk, (253) 649-1502

Board Members
Marty Campbell
Bruce Dammeier
Kiara Daniels
Paul Herrera
Jani Hitchen
Nicholas Rajacich, MD
Catherine Ushka
Bryn Yambe

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. 2023 Budget Amendment
[Jaime Paulson, Fiscal & Budget Manager]

IV. Helping people on their path toward recovery
[JD Hooser, SUDP Program Manager]
[Dr. Eddie Goldstein, MD, Medical Director]

V. Executive Session

VI. Adjournment

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Call to Order
Vice Chair Hitchen called the February 21, 2024 Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health Study Session to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Marty Campbell, Kiara Daniels, Paul Herrera, Jani Hitchen, Catherine Ushka, Bryan Yambe. **Alternate Board Members:** Stephen Cook, Steve O'Ban, Dave Olson.
Members Excused:	Bruce Dammeier, Nicholas Rajacich.
Also, present:	Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health; Sebrena Chambers, Strengthening Families, Division Director; Jessica Gehle, Environmental Health Division Director; Charles Parker, Director of Justice, Equity & Diversity Initiatives; Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Manager; Nigel Turner, Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Edie Jeffers, Communications Director; Benjii Bittle, Business Development Manager; Brian Moore, Business & Technology Director; Darlene Mendoza, Human Resources Director; Jaime Paulson, Fiscal & Budget Manager; JD Hooser, SUDP Program Manager; Dr. Eddie Goldstein, MD; Gregory Jacoby, General Counsel.

2023 Budget Amendment

Jaime Paulson, Fiscal & Budget Manager presented a high-level summary of the Health Department's budget changes.

Ms. Paulson advised board members this amendment captures new funding and expenses not previously budgeted such as new grants, revenue contracts, both revenue and expenses including support services and division management if applicable. Ms. Paulson shared they are also capturing any grant adjustments and increase or decrease in grants previously budgeted or adjustments as they crossed years.

Ms. Paulson shared a summary of budget changes: Amendment increases budget by $33,551,270 (Does not include operating transfer), Environmental Health: $3,941,080, Communicable Disease Control: $2,192,180, COVID-19 Response: $21,580,650, Strengthening Families: $4,085,660, Administrative Services: $1,751,700.

Beginning Budget - $88,624,920; 2022 Amendments - $33,974,541; 2023 Amendments - $35,402,220. The 2022-2023 Proposed Final Budget is $158,001,681.

Each division director presented on specific budget changes in their respective division.

Jessica Gehle, Division Director Environmental Health, shared adjustment revenue for Onsite Sewage/Water Resources - $1,077,360; Waste Management – $(95,020); Water Quality and Protection - $339,110; Conditions for Health - $2,619,630. Total adjustment for Environmental Health is $3,941,080.

Discussion followed on adjusted revenue for Onsite Sewage/Water Resources. Further discussion took place on timeliness of getting permits; are we prepared and does this budget fund if home sales take off again.

Ms. Gehle advised board members on Conditions for Health. She shared this is their Social Economic and Environmental Conditions for Health Program. It is part of their Healthy Resilient Children and Youth initiative. Ms. Gehle shared that in 2023 funding opportunities come into this program. She thanked Pierce County for additional funds to expand services at their Family Resource Centers.

Nigel Turner, Division Director Communicable Disease Control advised board members on the total amendment for Communicable Disease Control. He shared they typically see an increase in the final budget from the initial one. He shared it reflects success in obtaining new grants as well as new work as they change rapidly to address new and emerging issues.

Mr. Turner advised on adjusted revenue for Network - $698,700; STD/HIV - $416,590; CD Epidemiology - $1,153,210; Emergency Response - $315,560; Food & Community Safety - $(391,880). Mr. Turner shared that Food & Community Safety is marked as a reduction. He advised board members this means they did not spend budgeted fund balance. He shared the total adjustment amount is $2,192,180.

Sebrena Chambers, Division Director for Strengthening Families advised board members on adjusted revenue for Behavioral Health - $3,087,160; Parent, Child & Family - $1,611,170; Treatment Services - $(612,670). She advised board members that funding for Behavioral Health and Parent, Child & Family received dollars from Behavioral Health awards from Pierce County. Ms. Chambers shared the total adjustment of $4,085,660.

Discussion followed on Mental Health First Aid for Veterans. Ms. Chambers will bring this question back to her team.

Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health updated board members on Administrative Services adjusted revenue. She shared the following: Office of the Director - $155,600; Communications - $610,000; Human Resources - $291,210; Assessment, Planning & Development - $237,920; Vital Records - $60,000; Health & Race Equity, Community Engagement - $354,470; Centers for Excellence - $42,500. Total adjustment is $1,751,700.

Nigel Turner, Division Director Communicable Disease presented COVID-19 Response Funding 2023. He shared the following information:

Pierce County CARES: ($330,380).
Department of Health: $15,842,410
- $11,985,020 – American Rescue Plan Act.
- $1,251,890 – Vaccinations.
- $2,605,500 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Pierce County American Rescue Plan Act: $5,968,620
- $5,653,320 – General.
- $287,230 – Isolation and Quarantine.
- $28,070 – Staff Resiliency.

Other
- $100,000 – Public Health Workforce Development

Total adjustment $21,580,650.

Discussion followed on American Rescue Plan Act funds winding down and knowing 2025 and 2026 expenditures.

Helping people on their path toward recovery

JD Hooser, Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP), Program manager advised board members on the integration of Meds First clients into Treatment Services. Mr. Hooser thanked Pierce County for their support in this. He shared how this links to the Health Department's Strategic Plan.

He advised board members on what Treatment Services and Meds First was prior to integrating. Mr. Hooser advised board members on services provided by this integration.

Dr. Eddie Goldstein, MD offered board members the opportunity to ask questions. Discussion followed on timelines and treatment process for community members who walk-in for treatment. What does this look like from a client perspective.

Dr. Goldstein advised board members on harm reduction patient centered approach. He shared this is part of what any medical care provider does with any patient. He shared the need to embrace their inherent value and promote justice equity. He shared they are appreciative of the financial and moral support that board has put forth.

Discussion followed on what are we doing to pursue racial equity and justice in these areas so that people do feel comfortable seeking care. How are they looking to close this gap.

Dr. Eddie informed board members on ongoing staff education around cultural sensitivity, stigma and all the things that have made it difficult for patients to trust the medical community. He shared what they are doing to shift from rules-based treatment to compassionate trauma informed treatment.

Ms. Chambers advised board members the program is connecting with partners. She shared information about the Opioid Task Force and its subgroups. Ms. Chambers advised board members the program is working with two of the subgroups: treatment and clinical as subject matter experts. They are working with these groups to get the word out on the clinician part and talk to doctors. It will take time to change that culture and change the stigma around it. Working together we will see movement with our partners.

Alternate Board Member Cook advised board members that at the Residency at Community Healthcare did outreach and some medically assisted therapy. He shared that Dr. Goldstein helped them set this up. Dr. Cook advised that since the X-Waiver went away they are training all their Residents. He shared that Residents hope to train to work in underserved communities. Dr. Cook shared they also have some of their Residents working at the Health Department in the injection/infection clinic.

Further discussion followed on reaching beyond Community Healthcare when we are talking about partnerships. Ms. Chambers advised the Opioid Task Force is doing this.

Vice Chair Hitchen invited Chelsea Amato, Opioid Task Force Coordinator to give an update on the upcoming Opioid Summit happening March 21, 8:30 a.m. -1 p.m. at Pioneer Park Pavilion in Puyallup. Information should go out as soon as tomorrow. Vice Chair Hitchen encouraged board members to attend. It is a great learning opportunity.

Vice Chair Hitchen talked about how we expand. She talked about the 988 system, coexisting, having an office and the ability to call a single line for people to make the appointment. It is accessible to people with a phone and might be the step for that person who says today is the day I want help.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

Catherine Ushka
Chair, Board of Health

March 6, 2024
Date of Adoption

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health