Tacoma-Pierce County
Board of Health

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Special Meeting
January 31, 2024
3 - 4 p.m.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Auditorium

Hybrid Format with in-person and remote attendance
Dial in: 253 215 8782 Webinar ID: 820 4554 8943
Passcode: 261903
Webinar Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82045548943?pwd=wDMS6YiZMNLaCRPFE5ywlsPl01QMu2.1

Call to Order
Vice Chair Hitchen called the January 31, 2024 Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health Special meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

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

Executive Session

At 3:05 p.m. Board Clerk, Patricia Darden announced board members will enter executive session to discuss qualifications of an applicant for public employment pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(g) to last 30 minutes. At 3:35 p.m. Board Clerk Patricia Darden announced the Board will extend the executive session by 15 minutes.

Board Action

At 3:50 p.m. Chair Ushka returned the Board of Health to open session.

Chair Ushka entertained a motion to submit the Board of Health list of candidates for the position of Director of Public Health vetted by the recruitment committee to the Mayor of Tacoma and Pierce County Executive with the final selection.

Board Member Campbell moved to submit the Board of Health list of candidates for the position of Director of Public Health vetted by the recruitment committee to the Mayor of Tacoma and Pierce County Executive with the final selection. Seconded by Board Member Herrera.

Chair Ushka advised on the process and importance to have depth and breadth on this list of candidates that will go forward to the Executive and Mayor for final approval.

She advised on the recruitment committee that included two board members plus several members of the community. Over one hundred people participated in the community panel and staff panel. Chair Ushka shared her gratitude.

Marissa Karras with Karras Consulting assisted with the recruitment process. Ms. Karras shared it was a robust process with extensive staff and community input and involvement. Ms. Karras shared this produced a strong and diverse candidate pool overall. Ms. Karras advised that we ended up with thirty-three candidates for the position.

They had 20 candidates from outside of the state of Washington including two international candidates. Thirteen candidates from inside the state of Washington. 55% of the pool of candidates identified themselves as people of color and 45% as other. 42% identified as female and 58% as male.

Ms. Karras shared that towards the end of December they narrowed it down to 6 candidates that were interviewed by the selection committee and then the group was further narrowed down to 3 candidates who met with all department staff in a virtual form setting and then with a group of community partners.

She shared the next step in the process after this is for the candidates to go to the Executive and Mayor for them to make that decision.

Chair Ushka shared the recruitment committee will continue recruitment for the health officer position. She shared that typically the director of public health solely hires this position, but since that person is brand new, we will bring the new director of public health into that process. That decision will be made by our new director of public health.

The Chair called for board comment.

Board member O'Ban shared he is pleased with where we are. He thanked the Chair for her leadership through this. She shared that this has been a longer than expected process.

The Chair called for public comment.

There was no public comment.

She indicated for the record that Alternate O'Ban will vote in lieu of Executive Dammeier because Executive Dammeier is in the final interview. This is to avoid any appearances of a conflict of interest.

The Chair called for a motion for the Board of Health to submit solicited candidates for the position of Director of Public Health to the Mayor of Tacoma and Pierce County Executive.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work on and off the screen. She will send thank you letters to community and staff for their work on this.

She shared she is looking forward to the Executive's decision-making along with Mayor Woodards who will meet with the candidates in person.

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Board member Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Board member Herrera.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health

Catherine Ushka
Chair, Board of Health

March 6, 2024
Date Signed