

Tacoma-Pierce County

Board of Health



Study Session Minutes

August 18, 2021
3 -5 p.m.

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

Remote Attendance Only

Dial in: 253-215-8782

Passcode: 575390

Meeting ID: 992 6138 9468

Call to Order

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Members Present: Derek Young, Catherine Ushka, Keith Blocker, Marty Campbell, Bruce Dammeier, William Hirota, Patricia Johnson, Dave Morell, Alternate Board Members Ken Farmer.

Members Excused:

Also, present: Anthony L-T Chen, Director of Health; Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director; Nigel Turner, Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Stephanie Dunkel, Assistant Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Christopher Schuler, Finance and Operations; Kejuan Woods, COVID-19 Deputy Incident Commander; Victor Rodriguez, Health Equity Manager; Tony Ohrazda, Environmental Health Project Manager; Laurel Jellison, Environmental Health Program Manager; Sebrena Chambers, Division Director Strengthening Families; Edie Jeffers, Communications Manager; Darlene Mendoza, Human Resource/Risk Manager; Gregory Jacoby, Legal Counsel. Guest Sarah Walker, Co-Lab; Lydia Faitalia, Co-Lab.

Proclamation 20-28 temporarily prohibits in-person contacts with the public that are required by the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) (RCW 42.30) and the Public Records Act (PRA) (RCW 42.56), suspending some statutory language that would require such contacts. It is effective from March 24, 2020 until midnight, April 23, 2020, unless extended beyond that date.

COVID-19 Update

Kejuan Woods, COVID-19 Deputy Incident Commander advised board members on case rates and hospitalizations; schools and businesses outbreaks and; Pierce County and Washington state vaccination data. He shared key observations on vaccination resistance, vaccination rates, areas with low vaccine uptake, data trends, equity issues and disparities.

Mr. Woods shared a multi-pronged approach to controlling the spread of COVID-19 through layered mitigation strategies and education and strong 2-way communication. Mr. Woods advised board members on back to school guidelines for students and staff. Discussion followed on mitigation strategy, resistance related to the release of Emergency Use Authorization and waiting on approval from the FDA, and mandates and supreme court response to masking wearing. Further discussion ensued around FDA process based on maintaining its timeline and the FDA looking at production, coordination, transportation, and protocol.

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Participatory Policy Making

Victor Rodriguez, Health Equity Manager and guests Sarah Walker and Lydia Faitalia presented board members with a COVID-19 health equity assessment.

They advised board members on policies to advance health equity– policy areas for an equitable recovery and updated board members on a pilot participatory policymaking project. Discussion followed on community and restorative practices, policies considered and policy that incorporates group values.

Presenters advised board members on Community Land Trust (CLT). They defined CLT, shared its history, purpose, and benefits. Discussion followed on identifying opportunities to advance CLT in Pierce County and the difference from CLT and public housing.

Permit, Inspection and Enforcement (PIE) System

Tony Ohrazda, Project Manager advised board members on Permit, Inspection and Enforcement (PIE) system software. He discussed PIE and health department work. He shared requirements and improvements and listed potential vendors (solutions).

Mr. Ohrazda advised board members on budgeted funds, potential cost adjustments and stakeholders. Mr. Ohrazda concluded with a vendor selection timeline. Discussion followed on integrating with PALS property-based program, making it seamless for the customer, kiosks, and front counter staff to assist those who do not have access to a computer.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health

Derek Young
Chair, Board of Health

September 1, 2021

Date Signed