

Tacoma-Pierce County

Board of Health



Study Session Minutes

February 16, 2022
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

Vice Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Members Present: Derek Young, Catherine Ushka, Marty Campbell, Bruce Dammeier arrived at 3:13 p.m., Kiara Daniels arrived at 3:13 p.m. Dave Morell. Alternate board members Jani Hitchen, Steve O'Ban.

Members Excused: Robert Baggett, Nicholas Rajacich.

Also, present: Anthony Chen, Director of Health; Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director; Nigel Turner, Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Jessica Gehle, Environmental Health Division Director; Sebrena Chambers, Strengthening Families Division Director; Kejuan Woods, COVID-19 Response - Incident Commander; Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Manager; Edie Jeffers, Communications Manager; Darlene Mendoza, Human Resource and Risk Manager; Christopher Schuler, Finance and Operations Director; Amber Gibbar, Health Promotion Coordinator II; Troy Rowan, Environmental Health Specialist; Gregory Jacoby, Legal Counsel. Guest Char Krause, Puyallup School District.

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.

Enhanced Food Safety

Amber Gibbar, Health Promotion Coordinator updated board members on the launch of the new food safety rating system and online food safety training. Ms. Gibbar advised board members Tulsa OK and Cleveland OK are two local health jurisdictions served outside Washington.

She updated board members on improvements to the new system. Ms. Gibbar shared a new look and 2022 code updates. Ms. Gibbar advised board members they added 5 additional languages for a total of 13. Ms. Gibbar advised board members on next steps and responded to questions from board members.

Secure Medicine Disposal: Saving lives and the environment

Troy Rowan, Environmental Health Specialist updated board members on Secure Medicine Disposal. He shared the public health benefits of this intervention, highlighted medication disposal work and successes. Mr. Rowan advised board members on the suspension of Board of Health Resolution 2016-4511, EHC Chapter 7 – Secure Medicine

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Disposal. He informed board members of medicine return locations, established collection standards, practices and accepted controlled Rx. He advised board members on federal legislation and solutions.

Mr. Rowan updated board members on [MED-Project](#) coverage and advised board members on HB 1047 Safe Medicine Disposal. He explained suspension versus termination and responded to questions about MED-Project process and mail back.

COVID-19 Update

Nigel Turner, Communicable Disease Division Director provided board members with a schools update. He informed board members Washington State Department of Health (DOH) updated guidance for youth activities to align with K-12.

Guest, Char Krause with Puyallup School District shared appreciation from the Puyallup school district for the health department's responsiveness. Ms. Krause shared learnings, challenges and wins in mitigating COVID-19 in the Puyallup School District.

Discussion followed on student health, social and emotional and implementing mandated mitigation measures. Discussion ensued around balancing the benefit and cost. Further discussion took place around mandatory mask wearing compared to optional. Board members discussed whether student social, emotional health is the reaction caused by interventions or the overall trauma of what is happening.

Brief discussion took place around Test to Stay, keeping children in school and students who cannot get vaccinated. Mr. Turner responded to questions about balancing mandates and making recommendations with what is best for the community.

Mr. Turner updated board members on the latest COVID-19 data, cases, case rates, hospitalizations and deaths. He advised on COVID-19 data and shared messages of the week. Discussion followed on engaging schools, making sure there is representation from all school districts and hearing from teachers.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health

Derek Young
Chair, Board of Health

March 2, 2022
Date Signed