

Tacoma-Pierce County

Board of Health



Study Session Minutes

January 4, 2023
3 -5 p.m.

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

In-person and dial-in

Dial in: 253 205 0468 Webinar ID: 827 7105 3726
Passcode: 764759

Call to Order

Chair Pro Temp Hitchen called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Members Present: Robert Baggett, Marty Campbell, Dave Morell, Nicholas Rajacich, Catherine Ushka; Alternate board members Stephen Cook and Jani Hitchen.

Members Excused: Bruce Dammeier, Kiara Daniels.

Also, present: Anthony Chen, Director of Health; Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director; Nigel Turner, Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Sebrena Chambers, Strengthening Families Division Director; Jessica Gehle, Environmental Health Division Director; Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Manager; Edie Jeffers, Communications Manager; Renée Meschi, Centers for Excellence, Project Manager; Taylor Caragan, Healthcare Liaison; Katie Ginn, First Five Fundamentals; Elizabeth Perez, South Sound 211; David Carr, Communicable Disease Control, Program Manager; Jennifer Hines, City of Tacoma Real Estate Assistant Division Director; Andrew Strobel, Director of Planning and Land use, Puyallup Tribe of Indians; Gregory Jacoby, Legal Counsel.

Surplus Land Policy

Renée Meschi, Centers for Excellence Project Manager advised board members on the Surplus Land Policy for the Health Department. She explained what surplus land is, what it means to declare real property surplus and how this policy came together.

She acknowledged Jennifer Hines, City of Tacoma Real Estate Assistant Division Director and Andrew Strobel, Director of Planning and Land use for their guidance and assistance on drafting the policy. Renée thanked Gregory Jacoby, General Counsel for reviewing multiple iterations of the policy.

Renée reviewed the prioritization of the Health Department's policy – what the Department considers for surplus property dispositions. She shared why it's important and informed board members on the legacy of land loss. She shared why this policy should be adopted. Discussion followed on how can we leverage this policy to have a wider impact and what can this leadership look like?

Discussion ensued around what are our pathways for engagement with the tribal governments that would be involved in this policy process and when that would happen. Andrew Strobel addressed questions regarding non-federally recognized and federally recognized tribes. Further discussion ensued around RCWs, legal process, transfers and surplus lands that have been given to date.

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Chair Ushka recommended bringing this discussion back for a second study session in February to allow board members time to review the policy and other information. Health Department staff will work to get this on the earliest agenda possible.

Growing with Our Young Kids Using Data to Enrich Our Future

Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Manager, Taylor Caragan, Healthcare Liaison, Kate Ginn, First Five Fundamentals and Elizabeth Perez, South Sound 211 advised board members on how their work aligns with the Department’s strategic plan; shared a brief introduction on Pierce County Early Childhood Network, Help Me Grow and an update on Family Connects.

Kate shared history on Help Me Grow and Project Child Success Early Learning Coalition in Pierce County and the consolidation of these two initiatives into Pierce County Early Childhood Network and a list of partners. They are one of 10 regions in the Washington Communities for Children network. She shared the program’s seven action teams.

Taylor updated board members on Health Provider Voice, alignment with strategic initiatives and the work it does in the community. Taylor leads this work across the state through the Washington States Communities for Children.

Taylor shared how they directly connect patients and their families with resources through their Provider Referral Form. She advised on a plan to begin discussion of piloting referral forms with some Mary Bridge clinics this year to expand ability to screen for social determinants of health needs and connect families to resources.

Elizabeth shared information about 211 and a success story about a single dad experiencing homelessness who reached out to 211 for resources. Naomi shared 211 data and Pierce County data trends.

Kate advised board members on Family Connects resources, shared a model of their work and referrals by matrix factor. Kate advised board members on Baby Lounges. She shared current locations – 66 families served.

Discussion followed regarding access to 211, how do we make it happen for all, addressing needs, stigma and messaging to community. Further discussion followed regarding services for residents outside of Pierce County

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:31p.m.

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health

Catherine Ushka
Chair, Board of Health

February 1, 2023

Date Signed