

Tacoma-Pierce County

Board of Health



Study Session Minutes

January 5, 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 3:03 p.m.

Members Present: Derek Young arrived 4:54 p.m. Catherine Ushka, Robert Baggett, Marty Campbell arrived 3:23 p.m., Bruce Dammeier, Dave Morell, Nicholas Rajacich. Alternate board members Stephen Cook, Kathy Hayden, Jani Hitchen, Steve O'Ban arrived 3:17 p.m.

Members Excused: Keith Blocker

Also, present: Anthony Chen, Director of Health; Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director; Nigel Turner, Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Jessica Gehle, Environmental Health Division Director; Andy Rohr, Strengthening Families Assistant Division Director; Kejuan Woods, COVID-19 Response - Incident Commander; Edie Jeffers, Communications Manager; Darlene Mendoza, Human Resource and Risk Manager; Christopher Schuler, Finance and Operations Director; Tony Ohrazda, Environmental Health Project Manager, Laurel Jellison, Environmental Health Program/Project Manager; Ericka Case, Communicable Disease Control, Network Nurse; Gregory Jacoby, Legal Counsel.

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 briefed board members on the latest COVID-19 data. He advised we are seeing increases back in areas where we were once seeing declines. Mr. Woods shared case rates, hospitalizations and outbreaks for schools and business.

Mr. Woods briefed board members on the demand for testing due to the Omicron variant, holidays and snow. He advised board members the Health Department is working with Department of Health, Department of Emergency Management contractors and other partners to provide more testing options for the community.

Discussion followed on assessing testing site usage, trusted messenger and guidelines, keeping schools open and test to stay. Further discussion ensued around approval for booster shots for younger children and when should people get re-boostered.

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Permit, Inspection and Enforcement System Vendor scoring and recommendation

Tony Ohrazda, Environmental Health Project Manager and Laurel Jellison, Environmental Health Program/Project Manager briefed board members on a Jan. 19 Board of Health resolution that authorizes an agreement between the Health Department and their recommended vendor to implement a new PIE system. Discussion followed on stakeholder involvement, importance of a user-friendly process that is efficient and practical.

HIV in Pierce County

Ericka Case, Network Program Manager provided board members with an HIV overview. She shared statistics on where are we now with HIV, Health Department prevention work and key partnerships. Ms. Case shared challenges and opportunities. Discussion followed on what should we do to reduce HIV stigma and raise HIV awareness in local communities. Ms. Case will share a copy of this presentation with board members.

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

February 2, 2022

Date Signed