

Tacoma-Pierce County

Board of Health



Study Session Minutes

June 16, 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 3:02 p.m.

Members Present: Derek Young, Bruce Dammeier arrived 3:16 p.m., Patricia Johnson, William Hirota, Dave Morell, Alternate Board Members Ken Farmer and Jani Hitchen.

Members Excused: Keith Blocker, Catherine Ushka, Marty Campbell

Also, present: Anthony L-T Chen, Director of Health; Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director; Stephanie Dunkel, Assistant Division Director Communicable Disease Control Division; Christopher Schuler, Finance and Operations Director; Lisa McVay, Budget Coordinator; Gina Shackleford, Facilities Manager; Ericka Case, Public Health Nurse and Immunizations Branch Director; 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

Dr. Anthony Chen, Stephanie Dunkel, and Ericka Case updated board members on COVID-19 disease trends, campaign highlights and vaccine rates.

Ms. Dunkel advised COVID-19 case rates, hospitalizations and outbreak numbers are trending down as our vaccine numbers continue to go up. She advised that as school ends they will factor that into how they plan going forward and work with the school districts in what the fall looks like including Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and taking into account vaccine and other key guidance allowed that will be part of their key conversation this summer.

Ms. Dunkel advised board members on where they are seeing higher disease rates and lagging vaccine rates. She shared this continues to change and evolve. Ms. Dunkel advised their focus is on vaccine efforts, where they are placing vaccine clinics and community engagement. She shared they are working with schools on associated higher outbreaks in sports, what guidance might need to be in place for next year as they work with their state partners.

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Ms. Dunkel shared they had over 1400 testing kits go out in care packages they deliver for people who are in isolation or in quarantine. Over the last couple of months, they have been adding test kits for close contact. They have also seen 1500 test kits delivered over our library systems. This continues to be a source of option for individuals who seek testing.

Ericka Case, Branch Director provided board members with an update on current immunization work, homebound vaccine for the most vulnerable and shared news coverage clip of what this effort looks like. Health care systems and community-based organizations are involved in this work.

Ms. Dunkel updated board members on communication efforts. They have communications and community engagement staff working, specifically on vaccine on translated materials and access to translations. Staff are working with community partners closely on how equity drives access to vaccine. The team has started to do educational drop ins and provide feedback. Ms. Dunkel shared that recently they were at a church where over 40 people came just to ask questions. The goal is doing health education and promotion.

Board Member Morell thanked Lori Karnes and team for their work on the White River School District testing program. Board Member Johnson shared feedback on her great experience using the drive clinic in Buckley.

Moving Forward: Reopening

Gina Shackleford, Facilities Manager updated board members on the planned reopening of the Health Department. The Department will have a soft opening Monday, June 28 for staff coming back into the building. July 1 is the formal opening to the public.

Staff who do not work directly with the public will continue to work from home. Staff that serve customers are coming back to the building, some full-time and some as needed for their technical expertise. Staff will serve as customer service ambassadors throughout the building to make sure customers and staff stay safe and healthy.

Ms. Shackleford advised board members on customer service efforts, updates on their information. Ms. Shackleford informed board members the Health Department is postponing Thursday late hours. They will discuss when to add these hours to the schedule at a later date.

Stephanie Dunkel advised on next steps moving forward. The Health Department planning team is coordinating discussions about internal transition planning and long-term strategy. Ms. Dunkel advised they are reviewing and assessing public health recovery from COVID-19. Discussion followed around what are some considerations the Health Department should keep in mind around these two areas.

Proposed 2022-23 Biennial Budget

Lisa McVay, Budget Coordinator walked board members through the proposed 2022-23 biennial budget. She advised on the proposed budget, cost and revenue drivers, COVID-19 and recovery, strategic plan investments, division budgets and budget timeline.

Christopher Schuler, Finance and Operations Director responded to questions regarding population increase and population and CPI impacts. Discussion followed on operating budget and parallel COVID-19 budget, allocating funding and legislature expectation on new funding.

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Division Directors updated board members on their division's budget. Katie Lott, Assistant Division Director reported for Environmental Health; Sebrena Chambers, Division Director reported for Strengthening Families; Stephanie Dunkel, Assistant Division Director reported for Communicable Disease Control; Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director reported for Administrative Services.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Darden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derek Young". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Derek Young
Chair, Board of Health

July 7, 2021
Date Signed