

# Tacoma-Pierce County

## Board of Health



### Study Session Minutes

March 15, 2023

3-5 p.m.

**Meeting location - Metro Parks Tacoma**  
**4702 S. 19th St Tacoma, WA 98405**

### Hybrid Format with in-person and remote attendance

**Dial in: 253 205 0468 Webinar ID: 879 2956 5840**

**Passcode: 593189**

### Call to Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Members Present:** Marty Campbell, Kiara Daniels arrived at 3:35 p.m., Jani Hitchen, Nicholas Rajacich, Catherine Ushka; **Alternate Board Members:** Stephen Cook, Robyn Denson, Bryan Yambe.

**Members Excused:** Robert Baggett, Bruce Dammeier, Paul Herrera.

**Also, present:** Anthony Chen, Director of Health; Nigel Turner, Division Director, Communicable Disease Control; Sebrena Chambers, Strengthening Families Division Director; Jessica Gehle, Environmental Health Division Director; Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Manager; Selina Chambliss, Interim Racial Equity & Justice Director; Marcy Boulet, Coalitions Liaison and Communities of Focus Coordinator; Diane Evans, SNAP Ed Coordinator; David Carr, Communicable Disease Control, Program Manager; Erika Bartlett, Environmental Health Policy Liaison; Christina Sherman, Program Manager; Carolyn Bassett, Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor; Gregory Jacoby, General Counsel; Jahmad Canley, CEO, Potential Unleashed; Jennifer Marana, Potential Unleashed.

### Racial Equity & Justice Program Update

Selina Chambliss, Interim Racial Equity & Justice (REJ) Director updated board members on REJ program work. She advised board members on where the program started, where it is headed and how it's going. Ms. Chambliss shared that racial equity and justice is one of five of the Department's strategic initiatives.

She advised board members on REJ program growth and the Department's investment in this work. Ms. Chambliss advised board members the Department is in the process of hiring a Director of Justice Equity & Diversity Initiatives. This position will report to the Director of Health leading both the Health Equity and Racial Equity and Justice programs.

Ms. Chambliss shared that the Department is also recruiting for a vacant Racial Equity & Justice Program Manager position and a Racial Equity & Justice Policy Coordinator position.

Jahmad Canley, President and CEO of Potential Unleashed updated board members on some of the processes Potential Unleashed is going through and where they are in that process.

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Mr. Canley shared Potential Unleashed is conducting assessment work of the Health Department. They will conduct staff interviews, identify where healing work intersects with policies, processes, and procedures. Potential Unleashed will develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan for health department staff racial reconciliation, healing, and trust-building.

Mr. Canley shared they will work with the Department to prioritize and implement recommendations, coach, and provide recommendations to internal stakeholders. Discussion followed on the length of the contract and how long the work will take place. Mr. Canley will have a firm timeline after the assessment is complete.

Board members shared their thanks and appreciation for the work that is taking place.

### **Food Safety Program: Commitment to Customer Service**

Christina Sherman, Program Manager and Carolyn Bassett, EHS Supervisor advised board members on the Food Program's connection to the Department strategic plan, what the program does and why, the program's commitment to customer service and areas of improvement they are working on.

Carolyn Bassett, EHS Supervisor advised board members on the Plan Review Program, approval process, inspections, and investigations. She shared data on application type, days to application review and applications approved for 2021 to current. Ms. Bassett updated board members on plan review improvements and their commitment to customer service – food safety inspections.

Ms. Sherman advised board members on food safety inspection signs and improvements they are working on around inspections. She shared the program is hiring for Food Safety Inspectors. Board members shared suggestions on hiring for this position. Discussion followed on outreach for food inspectors.

Further discussion ensued around outcomes of inspections. Mrs. Sherman responded to questions regarding opportunity for restaurants to share suggestions and or questions about rules that may not make sense to them. She advised that restaurants can talk with their inspector or communicate through the program email box which is checked daily during business hours.

### **Food Systems Partnerships**

Marcy Boulet, Coalitions Liaison and Communities of Focus Coordinator and Diane Evans, SNAP Ed Coordinator updated board members on where Food Systems work fits within the Department strategic initiatives, what is a health food system and why is it important.

Ms. Boulet advised board members on what roles they fulfill as a health department and why does healthy food matter. She shared social, economic, and environmental factors make up more than half of our ability to live a health life. Ms. Boulet advised healthy, accessible, culturally relevant food is critical. She shared it helps us prevent disease, and communities name it as a priority. Ms. Boulet shared components of a food system.

Diane Evans, SNAP Ed Coordinator advised board members on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on the policy side, partnerships, and future efforts. Partners include Grandview Indigenous Food Sovereignty Garden; Pierce Conservation District's Farm Incubator Program; Franklin Pierce Schools Farm and supporting Black and Indigenous famers and farm development.

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Ms. Boulet advised board members on interactive food asset mapping. She shared partners want to increase assets. Food asset mapping will identify assets and gaps to help partners plan. Ms. Boulet shared future partnerships and thanked existing partners.

Discussion followed on who board members think the program should be connecting with in their community whether it is SNAP-Ed policy work or other food systems work to make sure the program is utilizing its dollars the best it can. And also creating partnership opportunities in support of a healthy and robust food system.

Board members shared feedback on who should be included in future partnerships, questions about food asset mapping and what it is mapping, community gardens and location of those gardens how we can work with some of our partners to encourage this and make sure we are good stewards and aren't wasting food. Something that allows us to educate small communities that want to do something.

Brief discussion followed on regulations on foodbanks from a climate action and nutritional standpoint, making sure there is a community kitchen where there is a way to preserve food that you might otherwise throw away without refrigeration. Further discussion followed on what is included in food asset mapping, rating quality of food source, food desserts and opportunities to grow food sources.

### **Update by Chair Ushka**

Chair Ushka updated board members on the director recruitment process. She reminded board members Karras Consulting Firm received the contract through the RFP process. Chair Ushka shared the board wants to expand the recruitment committee to include a number of stake holders and board members already sitting on the committee. She welcomed board members to share with her the names of who might be on this expanded committee. The goal is to have 7 to 15 people total.

Chair Ushka reminded board members to confirm attendance for April 19 BOH retreat or find a better date.

She shared an upcoming opportunity to attend the Local Boards of Health conference May 2-4 sponsored by WSALPHO and WSAC in Semiahmoo, WA. She also shared an opportunity for board members to attend the 2023 NALBOH Annual Conference being held at Hotel Murano, July 31-Aug. 2, 2023.

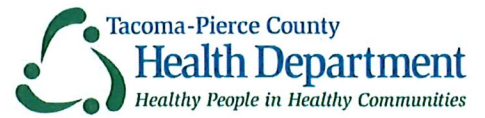
### **Executive Session**

At 4:05 p.m. Chair Ushka announced the Board will enter into executive session to last 20 minutes to discuss complaints against a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(f); and also, potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Vice Chair Hitchen motioned to move into executive session. Seconded by Alternate Board Member Denson.

At 4:25 p.m. Chair Ushka announced the Board is extending executive session for the period of 10 minutes.

At 4:35 p.m. Chair Ushka reconvened the March 15, 2023, Board of Health Study Session.

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## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

## ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Darden". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

**Patricia Darden**  
Clerk, Board of Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Ushka". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

**Catherine Ushka**  
Chair, Board of Health

**April 5, 2023**

Date Signed