

Tacoma-Pierce County

Board of Health



Study Session Minutes

March 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 3:02 p.m.

Members Present: Derek Young, Dave Morell, Nicholas Rajacich. Alternate board members, Steven Cook, Kathy Hayden, Jani Hitchen, Steve O'Ban.

Members Excused: Catherine Ushka, Robert Baggett, Marty Campbell, 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; Benjii Bittle, Business Development Manager; Michele Jackson, Racial, Equity and Justice Program Manager; Victor Rodriguez, Health Equity Program Manager; Naomi Wilson, Community Assessment Manager; Edie Jeffers, Communications Manager; Darlene Mendoza, Human Resource and Risk Manager; Mark Holcomb, Interim Finance and Operations Director; Christina Morrison, Accounting Manager; 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.

Special comments by Anthony L-T Chen, Director of Health

Dr. Chen honored fallen Pierce County Deputy Dom Calata and recognized seriously injured Pierce County Sergeant Rich Scaniffe for their service. The two deputies were shot in the line of duty while attempting to serve a warrant.

Chair Young shared hopes of recovery for Sgt. Scaniffe, the families of both deputies and the whole Sheriff's department.

Public Health Centers for Excellence 2022 Update

Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director advised board members on the purpose and history of Public Health Centers for Excellence. Ms. Gizzi shared updates on the Centers' existing work, future contracts and how the Centers supports the Department's current strategic initiatives. She shared a project update and advised board members on plans for later this year. Ms. Gizzi responded to board members' questions.

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Strategic Initiative: Racial Justice & Health Equity

Benjii Bittle, Business Development Manager, Victor Rodriguez, Health Equity Program Manager and Michele Jackson, Racial Equity and Justice Program Manager advised board members on two strategic initiatives: racial justice and health equity.

Victor Rodriguez advised board members on health equity indicators. Discussion followed on do these seem too big or too small; do they speak to a broad audience; are they common sense and compelling; is anything missing. Mr. Rodriguez responded to questions and feedback from board members.

Michele Jackson advised board members on past, current and future work of the Racial Equity and Justice program. She advised board members a racial equity and justice lens which informs policy, practices, procedures and decisions.

Discussion followed on how health equity and racial justice will build a stronger and more resilient Pierce County and in the community board members serve, how can they apply health equity and racial justice to move forward this shared vision.

Mr. Bittle shared timelines and next steps.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Turner updated board members on the latest COVID-19 data. He advised on risk level for community spread in Pierce County. Pierce County is in the medium risk level. Mr. Turner shared updated guidance for schools. Washington State Department of Health released new guidance for schools, childcare, early learning and day camps.

Mr. Turner updated board members on COVID-19 response funding. He advised the Health Department will continue to work with county and state leaders on funding solutions for its COVID-19 response and recovery. Mr. Turner shared the Health Department continues to restructure its COVID-19 response to fit its community's needs and align with funding.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

Patricia Darden
Clerk, Board of Health

Derek Young
Chair, Board of Health

April 6, 2022
Date Signed