



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Advisory Council

April 25, 2023 meeting notes

Attendees: Elma Blum, Peggy Carlson, Sarah Garber, Amy Gross, Marla Sanger, Maria Swinger-Inskeep, Paul Childers, Dave Fuller, Michelle Stickley, Heather Dekker, Sue Marshall, Jeff Mori, Remy Eussen, Sandra Brown, Michael Watkins, Nissa Buchanan, Mark Collier

Absent: Shona Carter, Aru Headrick

Excused: Tyler Clary, Adrienne Fairbanks

Staff: Mallori Berry, Jeff Harbison, Alan Melnick, Roxanne Wolfe, Hayley Pickus, Andrea Pruett, Marissa Armstrong

Public Guest: None

(1) WELCOME/NEW MEMBERS/APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES *(Alan Melnick and Sandra Brown)*

- The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from March 20, 2022. Maria Swinger-Inskeep had an amendment to the March minutes regarding cadence of meetings and that not all members were in favor of holding monthly meetings. Amended March PHAC minutes to state majority of PHAC members in favor of holding monthly meetings. Remy Eussen moved and Peggy Carlson seconded motion to approve the meeting notes with the amendment. All were in favor.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- None

(2) PHAC UPDATE

- **Update on nominations and recruitment for vacant positions** *(Alan Melnick & Sandra Brown)*
 - PHAC has one vacancy for the Youth representative, and the Board of Health is advertising for this position. We have received one application that the Board of Health is currently reviewing. This position will be opened until filled.
- **Membership/Nominations committee** *(Sandra Brown)*
 - The Membership/Nominations committee will help recruit members when there are open PHAC positions, will assist in sending information out to potential new members and will review applications/letters of recommendation for a position.
 - Current members of the Membership/Nominations committee include Sandra Brown and Michelle Stickley. Marla Sanger expressed interest if no other members of PHAC are drawn to participate on this committee.
 - If you have any interest in participating on the Membership/Nominations committee, please contact Mallori Berry at Mallori.Berry@clark.wa.gov.
- **PHAC in person meeting** *(Sandra Brown)*
 - PHAC Executive committee has decided to hold an in person meeting on June 27th, 2023. Location has yet to be determined, however, we are looking to hold meetings in public locations as well as the Center for Community Health. If you would like to suggest a community location, please contact Mallori Berry at Mallori.Berry@clark.wa.gov.
 - We are looking to hold in-person PHAC meetings on a quarterly basis and keep the remaining monthly meetings virtual.

(3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

- **Harm Reduction Center/Syringe Services Program** (*PHAC ad-hoc review team*)

- PHAC ad-hoc group convened on April 14, 2023 to pilot the use of the draft advocacy decision tool. The ad-hoc group consisted of Sarah Garber, Nissa Buchanan, Peggy Carlson and Marla Sanger. Materials were reviewed in advance and scored using the decision-making tool. Ultimately the group came to a consensus and decided that this is an issue we would like to advocate on behalf of for Public Health and to draft a letter that would be presented to the Board of Health on April 26, 2023.
- Testing the tool allowed for feedback on how to adjust and utilize it better in the future.
- Some key points are that the Harm Reduction Center/Syringe Services Program includes evidence-based services that prevent the spread of infectious disease while providing a critical community access point and referral to substance use disorder treatment for individuals who inject drugs. In addition, the services provide screening for HIV, Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections, access to treatment for those who test positive for these conditions and access to preexposure prophylaxis for people who test negative for HIV yet are at risk for infection. Furthermore, research has shown that these services reduce the amount of syringes discarded in the community. The use of these services is based on trust, and we want people who inject drugs to be treated with dignity and respect when they access services within our community.



PHAC letter - harm
reduction and syringe

- The Council reviewed the above letter that Sandra Brown will read to the Board of Health on 4/26/23. Peggy Carlson moved and Remy Eussen seconded motion to approve the letter and have it read with a short preface on how the decision was made. All in favor.



042623_Harm
Reduction Services BC

- Alan shared the above slide deck with the council that will be presented at the Board of Health on 4/26/23. Chief Jeff Mori will be a panelist at the Board of Health meeting and will address questions related to syringes within the community. We will also have Dr. Anne Willis, Chief Clinical Officer with Columbia River Mental Health, who will address the value of the Harm Reduction Center and the opportunity it provides in encountering and referring people to substance use disorder treatment when they come to exchange syringes.

(4) CLOSING/ADJOURN (*Sandra Brown*)

- **NEXT MEETING:** May 23, 2023
The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.