



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Advisory Council

## February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting notes

- Attendees:** John Brooks, Sandy Brown, Joan Caley, Paul Childers, Mark Collier, Remy Eussen, Charbonneau Gourde, Katie Huynh, Lawrence Neville, Stephanie Roise-Yamashita, John Roth, Marla Sanger, Cassandra Sellards-Reck, Aru Undurti
- Absent:** Adrienne Fairbanks, Dave Fuller
- Staff:** Adiba Ali, Travis Dutton, Doreen Gunderson, David Hudson, Janis Koch, Michael Kubler, Kathleen Lovgren, Alan Melnick, Hayley Pickus, Roxanne Wolfe
- Guest:** Shanda Haluapo, LeeAnn O'Neil
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### (1) WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES *(Marla Sanger)*

Marla opened with introductions and welcomed Chief John Brooks from the Ridgefield Police Department. He was nominated by the Law Enforcement Council to succeed Bob Richardson as the Clark County law enforcement community representative.

John Brooks has been the Chief of Police for Ridgefield, WA for the last 3 years and served on the Portland Police Bureau for the 26 years prior. He will be thrilled to join PHAC and is looking forward to being appointed by the Clark County Council.

The council reviewed the meeting notes from December 10, 2019. Remy Eussen moved and Stephanie Roise-Yamashita seconded motion to approve the meeting notes as submitted.

### (2) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

### (3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### ▪ Election of Executive Committee Members *(Dr. Melnick)*

The official vote was held for the proposed slate of Executive Committee members for 2020: *Chair - Marla Sanger, Vice Chair - Aru Undurti, Member at Large - Sandy Brown.*

Joan Caley motioned to cast a unanimous vote for the slate. Paul Childers seconded and Cassandra Sellards-Reck abstained from voting. The majority was in favor and the new executives will begin their one year term in March 2020.

#### ▪ WA State Board of Health Member Nominations *(Dr. Melnick)*

The WA State Board of Health (BOH), located in Thurston County, is looking for people interested in serving on the Board. The State BOH focuses on analyzing policies, developing rules, promoting partnerships, and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. They have an opening for a consumer of health care who cannot be an elected official. The Board typically meets 7-8 times a year, with 2-3 of those meetings taking place outside of Thurston County. Most of the meetings fall on the second Wednesday of the month. They pay for Board member travel and lodging and some members will qualify for a \$50 a day stipend. The Governor appoints these positions and Board members serve 3 year terms. If you are interested or have someone in mind who might be interested, please let Doreen know. The application can be found at:

<https://govforms.dynamics365portals.us/application-form/>

#### (4) PRESENTATION

- **Community Priorities Project** (*Adiba Ali, David Hudson, Kathleen Lovgren, Hayley Pickus*)

A strategic goal of CCPH is to collect and analyze current and diverse data that provides community health information to support decision making. On a day to day basis, CCPH epidemiologists look at a wealth of data and work with staff to utilize the most up to date information for planning and decision making. The Health Assessment and Evaluation (HAE) team recognized that this data is not always easy to access or interpret for our community partners, councilors, and the general public. They wanted to create a platform that allowed Clark County residents, organizations, leaders, schools, etc. to see maps of some of the critical community health indicators. They've created a platform that is interactive, makes data accessible and available, and covers a variety of topics important to health - including risk factors and social factors that influence health such as housing and employment. The HAE team worked with the County GIS department to create a tool called Healthier Clark County Infomap! This tool is expected to be available to the public in early March 2020. It is focused on 10 topic areas: demographics; social determinants of health such as housing, transportation, education, food security and more; youth and adult chronic disease; child health; adverse childhood experiences; maternal health; adult behavioral health; and adult and youth substance use. The hope is that this website encourages community members, community-based nonprofits, local coalitions and collaboratives, volunteer groups, local city and county departments, schools, businesses, elected officials, decision makers and more, to explore the data and take action to improve community health and wellbeing.

- **Child Death Review update** (*David*)

One year of review has taken place and the top two identified causes are Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and suicide. The child death review team is focused on prevention and determined that new parents are overloaded with information and that Safe Sleep information is often overlooked, as well as, not readily available in multiple languages. CCPH has developed a one page document and door hanger for new parents that focuses on Safe Sleep tips.

#### (5) DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

- **Legislative update** (*Dr. Alan Melnick*)

- **FPHS (Foundational Public Health Services) Funding:**

For the 2019-2021 biennium, the Department of Health (DOH) committed to distribute FPHS funds in lump sum payments of six month allocations, up-front at the beginning of each six month period, each in July and January. The January 2020 FPHS disbursements, however, will be for three months, rather than six. Due to declining sales of vapor products, the shortfall in tax revenues on these products is currently estimated at around \$10.5 million - nearly half of the \$22 million pledged by the legislature for the 2019-2021 biennium. Until the legislature passes the supplemental budget, it is uncertain how much of the \$22 million will actually be available to the governmental public health system for this time period. This creates financial risk for all involved. To minimize risks and disruptions, the FPHS Steering Committee agreed to the 3 month allocation instead of a full 6 month allocation. This will allow time for the legislature to work and the FPHS Steering Committee to have a better idea of the amount of funds that will actually be available for FPHS this biennium and to determine how to proceed from there. The Governor's proposed budget includes *"Backfilling Shortfall for FPHS: \$10.528 million – Estimated revenue from vape taxes will be insufficient to cover the FPHS Account appropriation in the 2019-21 biennium. Ongoing state funding is proposed to sustain foundational public health services."*

To replace the 10.5 million FPHS shortfall, **HB 2679/SB 6451** creates the Nonprofit Health Carrier Community Benefit Fund and allows the state's Insurance Commissioner to annually evaluate the nonprofit's surplus account. If deemed "excessive (400% percent above Risk Based Capital [RBC] requirements), the carrier must pay 3% of the excessive surplus, which is deposited into the Fund.

Expenditures from the fund are exclusively to be used for FPHS or subsidies for individuals who aren't eligible for federal subsidies. Current surpluses are: Regence at \$1.2 billion, Premera at \$2.2 billion and Kaiser \$774 million. **HB 2679** was heard and passed the House Appropriations. It was amended and raised the RBC to 600% and now applies to private carriers. The amendments drew support from Republicans and the bill is now in Rules. **HB 2915** was introduced January 31 by Rep. Pollet. The proposal increases the relevant taxes to fully fund the FPHS Account. The bill changes vape tax method to a 45% excise tax (vs. the "per ml" method); creates new 4.4% B&O surcharge on manufacturers/distributors of cigarettes, other tobacco products and vape products. It places revenue from excise and B&O tax into FPHS accounts for distribution to cessation, prevention, enforcement, and foundational public health. The bill reduces the \$10 million identified for the Andy Hill Cancer Research Fund to \$5 million, subject to appropriation. The bill has not been scheduled but can be deemed NTIB because of the tax changes imposed in the proposal.

○ **Vaping legislation update:**

A substitute **SB 6254** bill was approved by the Senate Health and Long-Term Care committee, where it awaits a hearing. The substitute changes the definition of flavored vapor products to exclude tobacco and menthol flavors. It allows the sale of flavored vapor products only in retail outlets restricted to persons 21 or older, imposes a 37% excise tax on flavored vapor products, directs the money to the FPHS accounts, and strikes the prohibition on a manufacturer also holding a retailer license. The bill could be exempt from cutoffs and deemed "NTIB" (Necessary to Implement the Budget) because of the added tax provision.

○ **Flu update:**

We are currently in week five of flu season with 21.4% reported cases. Activity continues to decrease; however, we are starting to see more influenza A, which tends to be more severe. There is still time to get a flu shot as it could be several weeks before we are officially out of the flu season. The influenza vaccine covers both A and B and is 40-60% effective.

○ **Coronavirus:**

John Hopkins provides an online map in real-time to show updates on the number of reported cases. At 11am this morning there were 43,146 cases: 42,670 in mainland China (including Hubei), 1018 deaths and 4,347 recovered. 13 cases have been reported in the USA, with 1 in WA. That person has recovered and there is one person under investigation. The symptoms consist of mild respiratory disease to severe lower respiratory disease. Incubation is 2-14 days and there is currently no treatment available. Person to person transmission is possible and the period that a person is contagious is not yet known. The mortality rate is currently around 2% and it is unknown how severe the virus is going to be. Individuals who are asymptomatic from mainland China are being voluntarily quarantined for 14 days after arrival and are monitored. Those who become symptomatic are considered persons under investigation and are tested for the infection. Risk is really remote in Clark County but we do need to be vigilant.

○ **Ethics Committee update** (*Roxanne Wolfe and Dr. Melnick*)

The Ethics Committee's most recent accomplishment is the adoption of the ventilator allocation scoring system. Now that the scoring system is agreed upon, the goal is to have Legacy Salmon Creek and PeaceHealth adopt the scoring system while developing a triage team who will use the scoring system to make these decisions, not the provider at the bedside. The triage team will only know the person's score and nothing else about them. This will become part of our emergency plan if we encounter a situation where demand exceeds supply. Home ventilators are not included in this as they are not the same kind used in an ICU. The state ethics committee is aware of the work being done in Clark County.

o **Environmental Public Health update** (*Janis Koch and Travis Dutton*)

The Washington Senate passed a statewide plastic bag ban on single use plastic bags, sending the bill to the state House. The bill would also require stores to issue an 8-cent charge for other bags being offered at checkout.

o **Public Health Community Awards 2020** (*Roxanne Wolfe*)

CCPH has issued a news release and is accepting applications through the end of the day on February, 28<sup>th</sup>. A selection committee made up of CCPH employees and PHAC members will review the nominations. Winners and nominees will be honored at the Board of Health meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have an individual or organization to nominate and/or you would like to participate on the selection committee, please email Doreen Gunderson.

**(6) COUCIL MEMBER UPDATE** (*Marla Sanger*)

▪ **Heritage Farm Advisory Committee** (*Sandy Brown*)

Members are concerned about the future of the farm. The loss of this farm would negatively impact our community. The farm partners with numerous organizations, including Clark County Food Bank, Master Gardener Foundation and Partners in Careers veterans farming program. There are over 1500 volunteers and 1300 youth who participate in the farm. Community input is desired to suggest activities, events and ways to better utilize the farm.

Joan Caley moved to have PHAC send a letter of support. Paul Childers seconded and all were in favor.

▪ **Vancouver Navigation Center** (*Remy Eussen*)

As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, SHARE is no longer operating the center. The center remains open to the public under the operation of the City of Vancouver and is currently seeking a new operator. SHARE will continue to provide clothing and food donations.

▪ **NEXT MEETING** (*Marla Sanger*)

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Clark County Public Health. The new executive committee will be in place at that time.

**(7) ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.