



**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, November 9, 2022**

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christina Wagar, Nancy Churchill, Kamori Cattadoris, Mary Selecky, Wes McCart, Dr. Caleb Holtzer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katie Swain, Dr. Artzis, Dr. Leslie Waters, Cheri Petersen

NETCHD STAFF PRESENT: Jeanie Beegle, Sonja Moore, Jon Ness, Matt Schanz, Molly Corvino

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Christina Wagar called the meeting to order at 8:03 am and provided the following statement about the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB):

“The Public Health Advisory Board is established to provide key input to the Board of Health on issues that affect the health and wellbeing of the citizens and/or the environmental factors within the jurisdiction of Northeast Tri County Health District. The role of the Public Health Advisory Board is to provide recommendations following the review of items that affect public health and safety.”

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2022: Nancy Churchill moved, and Mary Selecky seconded the motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2022. Motion carried.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES OR COMMENTS: None.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

PHAB VACANCY UPDATE: The vacancy was advertised across various platforms and printed in the Ferry County View. There have been five applicants to apply for the vacant position representing Ferry County. The following individuals have applied: Mike Martinoli; Colleen Drake; Colten Myers; Debra Wulff; and Esther Popp.

Caleb Holtzer stated he had spoken with Matt Schanz about the possibility of stepping back from the position if there was better representation within the applicant pool for Ferry County.

Christina Wagar requested comments from Nancy Churchill regarding Dr. Holtzer’s offer to step back to allow a resident of Ferry County to apply for the position.

Nancy said if there are qualified applicants that have applied, it would be more beneficial to have a resident of Ferry County in the position; she thanked Caleb Holtzer for graciously offering his time and input despite his busy schedule. Nancy indicated an additional application for the vacant position would be coming in from Denise Mckay.

NETCHD STRATEGIC PLAN FEEDBACK & COMMENTS: Matt stated no comments have been received;

Public Health Advisory Board Minutes

November 9 2022

Page 2

comments were due by October 14, 2022.

Christina said the goals in the strategic plan and timeline in the GANTT chart are quite ambitious, but may be appropriate considering we have a lot of ground to make up as an agency post-COVID.

Kamori commented on phrasing within the strategic plan, “educate vaccine-hesitant groups”. She feels one of the issues during COVID-19 was the vilification and shaming of individuals who had not received the vaccine. She feels we need to focus on educating community members on how to do their own due diligence and risk analysis for themselves and their family.

Mary stated the term “vaccine-hesitancy” is a term that began being used in the early 2000s due to parents starting to become concerned with providing their children with the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccines. Parents started asking doctors if they could space out the vaccines or if they could forgo the vaccines.

Kamori said there is good reason for people to be skeptical of vaccines. She feels the COVID-19 vaccine is not a vaccine; it is gene therapy that has been labeled a vaccine in order to gain public acceptance. She said the terminology makes it seem like it is a condition that needs to be “treated” out of people.

Kamori said her other comment is on lifestyle and diet; she wants the community to be more aware of the positive effect of diet/lifestyle changes in reducing the reliance on drugs and preventing and/or reversing chronic diseases.

Matt Schanz said we could add language such as, “utilizing evidence-based strategies that are culturally appropriate” to this section on the strategic plan.

Kamori stated she provides health coaching free of charge and said NETCHD could utilize her services without the need to allocate dollars.

Christina referenced the verbiage of “vaccine-hesitant groups”, stating that it may not always be possible to change the phrasing since some grants/funding will require certain wording be referenced/addressed to receive the funding.

Mary expressed concerns about the number of items within the plan that require quarterly reporting; she said this may be unfeasible long term. She also said that it seemed odd that the Administrator is responsible for keeping track of employee time off/vacation; this should be the responsibility of the employee, not the Administrator.

Caleb Holtzer echoed previous comments that the priorities and goals on the GANTT chart are ambitious, and wonders if there should be a clearer prioritization of the goals. He is excited to start talking about more effective means to treat chronic disease without medications, and educate about healthy lifestyle changes. In addition, he referenced earlier comments on verbiage within the strategic plan, stating the phrase “vaccine-hesitant groups” could be replaced with immunization education for all

Public Health Advisory Board Minutes

November 9 2022

Page 3

groups; we do not need to call out specific groups.

PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS AREAS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT/IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Sonja Moore said 15 focus groups have been completed so far, with only a few more groups left to be completed. Once the focus groups have concluded, a summary will be provided to the PHAB members for review. The PHAB will have a chance to provide comments and feedback on the summary.

Matt suggested adding a special meeting of the PHAB, specifically to review the results of the community health needs assessment with PHAB members. There were no objections; date to be determined.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS RULE UPDATE: Jon Ness stated there is information on the Washington State Board of Health website on the history and process of this rule. The rule covers all domestic animals including livestock and non-livestock. If there is a law that is more strict than the rule, the law will supersede the rule, such as when a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) law applies. When there is a violation, the rule directs the Health Officer to review the facts and seek voluntary compliance before proceeding with enforcement steps.


Jon provided examples of community complaints that have been received regarding improperly handled animal waste for which this rule would apply.


Mary Selecky asked if there are fines associated with violations of the rule. She clarified for other PHAB members that when the state BOH passes down a rule they typically allow counties to make it more stringent if desired for their county, but they cannot choose to not adopt the rule.

Matt said PHAB members can reference RCW 70.05 regarding the rule. It allows the Health Officer, county prosecutor, and local health jurisdiction to take action when necessary. He said NETCHD is seeking input and feedback from the PHAB and the BOH regarding the rule before moving forward with the finalization of the policy and implementation of the rule.

NETCHD BUDGET PROCESS – INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION: This agenda item will be discussed at the next Public Health Advisory Board meeting due to time constraints.

ADJOURNMENT: Christina Wagar adjourned the meeting at 9:01 am. The next meeting of the Public Health Advisory Board of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on December 14, 2022 by remote participation.

DocuSigned by:

By _____
B478EFBC0692486...
Jeanie Beegle
Administration Office Manager

DocuSigned by:


77EBDC2474D841F...
Christina Wagar
Public Health Advisory Board Chair