



**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christina Wagar, Nancy Churchill, Kamori Cattadoris, Mary Selecky, Wes McCart, Dr. Caleb Holtzer, Katie Swain, Dr. Artzis, Dr. Leslie Waters, Cheri Petersen, Debra Wulff

NETCHD STAFF PRESENT: Jeanie Beegle, Sonja Moore, Matt Schanz, Molly Corvino, Kerrie Yanda

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Christina Wagar called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2022: Nancy Churchill moved, and Katie Swain seconded the motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2022. Debra Wulff abstained, as she was not in attendance at the meeting in question. Motion carried.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES OR COMMENTS: None.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

NETCHD STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: Matt Schanz stated NETCHD continues to work with VillageReach in finalizing the plan and will create a status check page that will provide a summary of the progress made towards each goal and its association activities.

Matt stated that NETCHD has started the hiring process for the new Childhood Immunization Coordination position. However, he stated the labor market has been challenging in today's climate.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT REVIEW: Sonja Moore stated focus groups have been completed in all three counties. The analysis and summary are in progress and will be completed by February 2023. Interviews will be completed with key stakeholders in each county and with PHAB members to go over the results. A subset of individuals will be pulled from each county's health coalition and will be involved in the improvement planning process.

Mary Selecky applauded Sonja Moore for all her work on the CHNA thus far, it is an incredible amount of work, and a very time-consuming process.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS RULE: Following the last PHAB meeting, Jon Ness began incorporating feedback and comments into the draft Domestic Animal Waste Policy. Matt stated that NETCHD's initial approach will be educational outreach and voluntary compliance, however, if the issue is a pressing public health threat, additional and more serious steps would be taken if the owner does not voluntarily come into compliance following education and referrals to assistance agencies.

Kerrie Yanda stated she believes education should always be the first step as some people genuinely don't know how to properly handle animal waste and are not aware of the potential hazards associated

Public Health Advisory Board Minutes

January 11, 2023

Page 2

with improper handling and/or neglect.

Leslie Waters asked how NETCHD can investigate an odor issue without performing a site visit.

Kerrie said NETCHD doesn't necessarily need to be on-site to determine if a property has improperly managed waste contributing to an odor complaint. She said that NETCHD can utilize Google Earth and its aerial views to determine if a property has animal waste piling up/improperly managed, and can further determine if additional public health threats exist, such as the animal waste being in close proximity to a water source.

Wes McCart said he believes a site visit should be completed following any complaint. He said if there is an odor complaint in the area, a drive by could be beneficial.

Matt referenced olfactory issues, commenting that if the residents are living in a state of constant odor, they may not notice that there is an issue. Additionally, if several adjacent property owners have filed complaints about a particular property, an educational letter may not be sufficient or satisfactory to the neighbors who lodged the complaint.

Christina asked how NETCHD plans to follow up with the individual(s) making the complaint.

Matt stated NETCHD will address this in the policy moving forward. Typically, only when a referral has been made (and the prosecutor is involved) would NETCHD go back to the complainant to update them on the progress/action taken. However, he believes this should be incorporated moving forward.

PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS AREAS: Molly stated there is still a high rate of respiratory illness. There have been 114 deaths across the state, with three deaths occurring in Stevens County and one death in Ferry County. NETCHD has received Tamiflu from the state stockpile, and continues to work with community partners to distribute when there is a need. Covid-19 has remained steady despite the holiday break, however, the XBB 1.5 variant has begun to spread across the state.

Molly also provided an update on the Suicide Overdose Fatality Review Board (SOFRB), stating that NETCHD is working to establish confidentiality agreements and memorandum of understanding (MOU) documents with partners. The Washington State Department of Health and NETCHD's legal team are reviewing these documents currently. In addition, NETCHD has begun outreach efforts to connect with those community partners who wish to be on the SOFRB. Once the group is formed, a determination on the frequency of meetings can be established.

Matt Schanz provided a legislative update regarding local health jurisdictions. He said during the pandemic, there was a substantial shift in legislature regarding how local health jurisdictions are structured. It was determined that a regional health officer position would be created that would oversee regional complaints and issues. The regional health officer that covers our counties is Dr. Bob Lutz, the former Health Officer for Spokane Regional Health District. There is also a coordinator that assists the regional health officer. Both the regional health officer and the coordinator are employees of Washington State Department of Health. The state is divided into five regions that each have a

Public Health Advisory Board Minutes

January 11, 2023

Page 3

dedicated regional medical officer.

Nancy Churchill asked how people would apply to be on the SOFRB; there are individuals in a 12-step program who would be interested.

Molly stated those on the SOFRB would be coroners, providers and other professional roles that routinely work with the data.

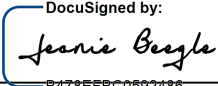
Leslie asked if the PHAB would be the appropriate platform to discuss issues surrounding long term care.

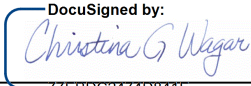
Molly stated that NETCHD was approached about providing education and training around "falls" in the elderly population. NETCHD staff are reaching out to community partners to see if any are interested in becoming trained to offer prevention training and education in the community. She said NEW Health Programs may be offering a program to certify individuals to become Medical Assistants.

Christina Wagar said that residential care facilities are managed under the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), so the PHAB would likely not have the ability to address the issues. She said that while NETCHD and area clinics could provide recommendations to DSHS, NETCHD would not have the authority to provide oversight or enforce.

Christina suggested other public health focus areas that have been brought to her attention by the community, such as radon, mold, and bed bugs. She stated there have been frequent complaints about bed bugs in apartment complexes and residential homes. In addition, due to the age of homes in our counties, issues like radon, leaking basements, black mold, outdated/rotting plumbing, and more are serious issues plaguing residents within our counties.

ADJOURNMENT: Christina Wagar adjourned the meeting at 8:49 am. The next meeting of the Public Health Advisory Board of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on February 8, 2023 by remote participation.

By 
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Jeanie Beagle
Administration Office Manager


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Christina Wagar
Public Health Advisory Board Chair