



**POPULATION
HEALTH TRUST**
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Skagit County Board of Health

Peter Browning, Chair
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner
Ron Wesen, Commissioner

PHT Meeting Minutes **August 1, 2024, 8:30-10:30 am** **Skagit Station Meeting Room**

Members: Thomas Boucher, Patty Codd, Sonia Garza, Bill Henkel, Leon John, Chris Johnston, Maddy Mackenzie, Julie Merriam, Lilia Ortiz, Marueen Pettitt, Margaret Rojas, Lyndie Simmons

Community Stakeholders: Chris Baldwin, Kas Church, Polly Dubbel, Kristen Ekstran, Keith Higman, Jennnifer Sass-Walton

Ex-Officio: Howard Leibrand

Guests: Kelli Baker, Lani Miller

Welcome and Agenda Review:

Kristen welcomed members and invited Margaret to review the agenda for the day and to provide updates from the last Steering Committee meeting. During this time, Margaret also shared some data regarding the challenges of mental health care access in Washington. Currently, Washington is ranked 41 out of 51 in Mental Health America's *The State of Mental Health in America Report*. This report is based on prevalence of mental illness and access to care.

During this time, members also asked for an update on Opioid/Fentanyl work. Keith shared that the Board of Commissioners had recently been provided with an update on the issue in Skagit. Next steps in the process are a series of four meeting during which time they will discuss specific aspects of the issue. The final step will be a meeting to advise the commissioners on next steps to address the issue. Keith said that he would keep the group apprised of the ongoing conversations and decisions.

Powerful Partnerships Activity Review

Kristen invited members to review a draft of a mock-up display for the kiosks/breakout sessions for the Powerful Partnerships event. She reminded members that they had brainstormed content during the June meeting. These breakout sessions will highlight PHT work on, Opioids, First 1,000 days, Food Security and Access to Care.

Members spent time reviewing the drafts and providing feedback about the content. Groups were also asked to develop two to four questions to engage and solicit input from session attendees. Kas and Kristen will incorporate their suggestions, then come back to the group with an updated version the mock-up.

Updates

To wrap the meeting, Kristen provided members with updates for ongoing PHT projects.

Food Policy Council (FPC): The FPC will present some early wins to the Board of Health during a meeting on August 20th at 10am. Kas provided the Trust with some updates during the meeting.

Farming, Production and Processing- Community Action partnering with Viva on wholesale agreements with farmers. The action supports local agriculture and increases the quantity of produce at food banks.

Storage and Distribution- Skagit Valley Food Coop and Helping Hands are partnering on the purchase of bulk grains to ensure clients have what they need.

Resources, Programs, and Education- Skagit County Public Health and Community Action have been partnering on a series of in-person meetings to bring together community resource system navigators.

Food Surplus and Waste- Several FPC members participated in the county-wide Food Waste Prevention Coalition. This group hosted a series of events to raise awareness and offer training on the issue.

Skagit Trends: The SCPH Assessment and Planning team will talk to EWU about some adding some climate indicators and organizing the Trends indicators by the Social Determinants of Health. The team believes this will better reflect the Trust's approach to work in our community. Dr. Jones will be in Skagit on August 22nd and will meet with the Skagit Community Foundation's board as part of his visit. Kristen invited others who might be interested in having Dr. Jones visit to follow-up with her.

Health system navigator project: Unfortunately, the joint application submitted by the PHT, Sea Mar, Island Health, Peace Health and Skagit Regional Hospital for a health system navigator program was not funded by the North Sound ACH. The team is still looking for funding to launch the program.

ECHO (Exploring Careers & Health Care Opportunities): ECHO Tours are a single day event coordinated by Career Connect NW that brings area students to explore careers in health care. Several Trust members are meeting to explore what that could look like in Skagit. Trust members want it to be more than just a career exploration fair, so have discussed local internships, one-day trainings, etc. to help build a local workforce pipeline.

ARPA funded behavioral health programs: The North Sound BH-ASO has funded the Parent Resilience Program for another year. Program directors for LatinX Mental Health Matters are seeking a fiscal sponsor to be able to continue services, so that program is on hold for now.

Meeting Adjourned:

Kristen thanked everyone for their time and reminded them that the next meeting would be on September 4th. The Steering Committee will meet on August 12th. Members are also invited to join the Board of Health meeting on August 20th where the Food Policy Council will provide an update on their work in advancing the Food Security Plan Skagit.