



**POPULATION
HEALTH TRUST**
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Skagit County Board of Health

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

PHT Meeting Minutes March 7, 2024 Skagit Station Meeting Room

Members: Claudia Avendaño-Ibarra, Dan Berard, Patty Codd, Sonia Garza, Bill Henkel, John Leon, Linden Jordan, Maddy Mackenzie, Julie Merriam, Lilia Ortiz, Mario Paredes, Mo Pettitt, Margaret Rojas, Mandi Rothman, Lyndie Simmonds, Dean Snider

Community Stakeholders: KaSandra Church, Polly Dubbel, Kristen Ekstran, Keith Higman, Jennifer Sass-Walton

Ex-Officio: Howard Leibrand

Guests: Stacey Anderson

Agenda and Steering report:

Kristen reviewed the agenda for the day then invited Margaret, the newly appointed PHT Chair, to provide updates from the recent Steering meeting. Margaret shared highlights from that conversation including discussion around revisions to the CO1 strategy. She also talked about the review for the PHT Trends website, which will take place during the meeting.

Steering nominations:

Kristen notified members that Margaret had moved into the position of PHT Chair after Mo stepped down following a two-term. She thanked Mo for her service to the Trust. Kristen then shared that Bill was nominated to serve as PHT Co-chair.

There are a few openings on the Steering Committee. To serve, individuals must have been a member of the PHT for two years. Members currently eligible for Steering are Chris Johnston, Dean Snider, John Sternlicht, Lyndie Simmonds, Maddy MacKenzie, Thomas Bouchet, Chris Baldwin, and Marci Bloomquist.

Chris and Thomas had been nominated. Kristen if there were others that members would like to nominate, noting that there could also be self-nominations. No additional nominations were made during the meeting, so Kristen said she would move forward with invitations to Chris and Thomas.

Proposed Revision of CO1:

Kristen shared the proposed revision for CO1, "Inspire a culture of care and belonging in health care and other public settings that is responsive to the needs of underserved communities through relevant trainings, timely resources and authentic dialogue."

The original language read, "Identify appropriate equity training, including about the LGBTQ+ community and make available to all Skagit County health care providers, behavioral health providers and the community at large."

Members appreciated most aspects of the rewrite but struggled with the action word of "inspire." Some felt that it was not actionable enough and suggested verbs that might better spur action. Members also felt that

policy should be included somewhere in the strategy. They agreed that real change happens through the creation and adoption of policy. Members also discussed the Trust's ability to "tell organizations what they should be doing," noting that the PHT can model, encourage, and suggest, but cannot mandate organizations to change internal policies and procedures.

Kristen took note of the many suggestions and shared that she and Kas would continue working on a rewrite to capture different aspects of the conversation.

PHT Trends data review:

Kristen shared that much of the meeting would be dedicated to reviewing the PHT Trends website. For new members, she shared a bit of background on the site.

- Trends was developed so that the PHT would have repository of data for assessment and planning.
- The Trust also wanted to share data with community to encourage data-driven decision-making.
- Eastern Washington University maintains the website and the current contract with them is for approximately 175 indicators.

She told members a review made sense now given that,

- The PHT scorecard contains data that were determined by workgroups to be key metrics needed to follow progress on community change. She would like those indicators to be part of the site but does not want to exceed the 175 as that would increase cost.
- Additionally, the Trust has done four Community Health Assessments (CHIPS) since the website launched. There have also been data changes including new definitions, new understanding of issues, and new collection techniques.

Trust members were divided into four groups based on their area of expertise and interest. Each group was asked to review the set of indicators, then discuss the importance of the indicator to the work of the Trust and to their work personally. They were then to suggest keeping or removing the indicator. Members were also asked to review a list of indicators being considered for addition to the site.

During a full group report out, each group noted indicators they would be okay with removing. Many of those to be removed were selected because the data felt redundant. Others were suggested for removal as they felt less relevant to health outcomes or to the work of the Trust. Members approved adding most of the new indicator with some misalignment on climate-related indicators.

Kristen thanked the group for their work and shared she would review suggestions with members of the Assessment and Planning Team. Following that, she would discuss with Steering the final list of indicators to be added and removed from the site.

Updates:

Representative Ramel will join the Trust for the April meeting. In addition to his presentation, the meeting will be dedicated to behavioral health. Members will hear updates on several ARPA funded projects including perinatal behavioral health and Latinx Mental Health Matters initiatives.

Meeting Adjourned:

Kristen reminded the group of future meeting times and topics. She then thanked them for their time and adjourned the meeting.