



**Draft Minutes of the State Board of Health  
June 6, 2016**

Snohomish Health District, 3020 Rucker Avenue, Everett, WA 98201 (Rucker Auditorium)

**State Board of Health members present:**

Keith Grellner, RS, Chair  
James Sledge, DDS, FACD, FICD  
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH  
The Honorable Jim Jeffords  
Fran Bessermin  
Stephen Kutz, BSN, MPH  
Thomas Pendergrass, MD, MSPH

Angel Reyna  
Clark Halvorson, Assistant Secretary of  
Environmental Public Health, Secretary's Designee  
The Honorable Donna Wright

**State Board of Health staff present:**

Michelle Davis, Executive Director  
Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant  
David DeLong, Health Policy Advisor

Kelie Kahler, Communications Manager  
Megan Block, Intern

**Guests and other participants:**

Gary Goldbaum, Director & Health Officer of Snohomish Health District  
Kelly Grimsley, Snohomish Health District  
John Thompson, Department of Health  
Tami Thompson, Department of Health  
Ken Pickard, Citizens of Ebey's Reserve (COER)  
Marianne Brabanski, COER  
Cate Andrews, COER  
Maryan Mural, COER  
Richard Abraham, COER  
Chris Frank, Clallam County Health & Human Services  
Garrett Newkirk, CIC  
Kathy Pierson, Snohomish Health District  
Aaron Millstein, Puget Sound School Coalition  
Nancy Furness, Snohomish Health District  
Heather Thomas, Snohomish Health District  
Adam Goldstein, Washington Education Association  
Brian Sullivan, Snohomish County  
Nancy Zakes, Zakes Foundation  
Audrey Adams, Washington Action for Safe Water

Keith Grellner, Board Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion: Approve June 6, 2016 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Jeffords/ Sledge. Approved unanimously*

## 2. ADOPTION OF APRIL 13, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

*Motion: Approve the April 13, 2016 minutes*

*Motion/Second: Pendergrass/Bessermin. Approved unanimously*

## 3. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, welcomed the Board to Everett and thanked the Snohomish Health District for allowing use of its facility. Ms. Davis introduced Megan Block, policy intern to the Board and announced that Alexandra Montaña was the successful candidate for the Health Impact Review analyst position. Ms. Montaña will start with the Board on June 16. Ms. Davis announced that members Grellner, Sledge and Kutz have indicated they plan to reapply to the Board. She indicated that she, Mr. DeLong and Member Jeffords would attend the Washington State Association of Public Health Officials in Blaine on June 7 and 8. Ms. Davis noted that state agencies were beginning to develop budget requests for the 2017 biennium and that she would be submitting a request to increase the Board's policy development and health impact review capacity.

Ms. Davis then asked for announcements from Board members. Stephen Kutz, Board Member provided an update on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, which met on May 11 in Wenatchee, and included a community forum. Ms. Davis mentioned that the Council was submitting a recommendation for the Governor to create statewide policy to promote equity in state government. She noted that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee is auditing the Council, as required by its state law, and the study would be completed in December. Ms. Davis mentioned that during the community forum one participant shared challenges of accessing dental care in Wenatchee. The Council heard that dentists do not accept Apple Health coverage, as a result people must travel as far as Seattle to get care.

James Jeffords, Board Member, reported on the Foundational Public Health Services meeting, the funding pieces and legislative work. They will meet monthly via webinar.

Tom Pendergrass, Board Vice Chair congratulated Keith Grellner on his appointment as the new Kitsap Public Health Director.

## 4. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

Clark Halvorson, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health, Secretary's Designee, shared a number of updates on behalf of the Department. He said the Department was developing updates for the Group A Drinking Water rules, which will have a hearing before the Board in October (Handouts on file). He also briefed the Board on follow up conversations he had with legislators and elected officials who had expressed concern regarding Group B water rules during the past two legislative sessions. Member Halvorson mentioned that the Cascadia Rising exercise would be held this week.

Member Halvorson described the Foundational Public Health Services work underway, and the current efforts to identify the cost, and changes needed to modernize the public health system. It is the goal of DOH to push a policy and budget request forward in 2017. The financial ask is \$25 million for local public health, \$25 million for system improvement, and \$1 million for public work.

Vice Chair Pendergrass, expressed his appreciation for the work to increase public health funding. He requested this plan include genetic screens for newborns, and noted future impacts regarding vision and screening hearing in schools.

Member Halvorson described efforts to update the Group A Drinking Water rule chapter 246-290 WAC. One of the department's goals in this revision is to find the problems and fix them, and noted that the Department would be briefing the Board in August. Diana Yu, Board Member asked if trucked water could work in an emergency. Member Kutz mentioned asked if the department would test delivery of truck water. Member Halvorson said DOH does not regulate delivery of truck water to individual homeowners. He noted that this drought system may be the "new normal" so DOH is working on this challenge. Member Kutz asked if water distributors/deliverers are regulated. Member Halvorson explained that trucks delivering to more than 15 homes would need regulation by DOH, which is a challenge that increases program complexity. Vice Chair Pendergrass inquired about notification to homebuyers and water system disclosure.

Member Bessermin and Member Jeffords inquired about the Department's conversation with the Stevens County commissioners. Member Halvorson reported it was an amicable and positive meeting. He indicated there would be follow up with all NE Tri-County (Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille) Commissioners and Okanogan. DOH may be providing financial support to small systems that enter into an agreement. Member Yu inquired about the consistency of water safety regulations among smaller counties with limited resources. She is hopeful that standards and approach are replicable across every county. Member Halvorson noted the relative small number of new Group B systems being set up in the NE Tri-County area. Chair Grellner commented that satellite management support for Group B's began in the 90's.

Member Halvorson announced the Cascadia Rising Exercise scheduled for June 7 and 8. He said the department has been planning this exercise over the last 4 years-- it will be the largest state earthquake drill in the state's history. Member Kutz asked about back-up water systems when the power goes out, noting his understanding that the Group A Rule does not currently require back up power. Member Halvorson said that DOH is currently working on this in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program. Chair Grellner re-enforced the importance of personal accountability for the first 3-4 days, to have back up water. He commented about emergency scenarios being condensed, and that much of the learning is through the debriefing process. Member Yu shared the FEMA training that she participated in, and noted that training and recovery is very important.

#### **5. BRIEFING – SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT, STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS**

Dr. Gary Goldbaum, Director & Health Officer of Snohomish Health District (SHD), provided a brief history of the SHD and its local funding. He noted that in his 10 years with SHD, staffing has been reduced 40 percent. He provided a historical overview of the largest public health concerns for Washington and how public health programs were designed to address them. Dr. Goldbaum identified important SHD partners including the American Red Cross, the Health Care Authority, and local school districts.

Vice Chair Pendergrass asked how SHD plans to deal with a possible outbreak of infectious disease. Dr. Goldbaum expressed concern for the reduction in funding to the SHD and listed public health programs for infectious disease that are no longer available. He then introduced The Honorable Brian Sullivan, Chair of the Snohomish Board of Health. Mr. Sullivan talked about funding reductions for the SHD and its impact to local public health programs.

*The Board took a break at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened at 11:13 a.m.*

## 6. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chair Grellner read a prepared statement (on file) and invited public testimony. Chair Grellner indicated that each person would have three minutes for testimony.

Ken Pickard, Whidbey Island resident and President of Citizens of Ebey's Reserve, spoke about the public health concern of Growler jet noise in Island County. He noted that studies have indicated that noise levels reach 134 decibels in neighborhoods, 120 decibels in schools and 100+ decibels within homes. He said that the Local Board of Health will not act. Mr. Pickard provided a document to board members about this topic.

Marianne Brabanski retired audiologist and works with Citizens of Ebey's Reserve, discussed the health impacts of Growler jet noise on Whidbey Island residents. The citizens of Whidbey Island are exposed to noise levels loud enough to cause hearing loss. She asks that the Board recognize this public health hazard.

Cate Andrews, Coupeville resident, expressed concern about noise exposure in Island County. Ms. Andrews recounted a number of potential health effects from chronic stress. Ms. Andrews read quotes from citizens of Island County from the lawsuit against the Navy.

Mariam Attwood, Coupeville resident, expressed concern about the health emergency of noise pollution from Growler jet noise. She discussed the disadvantages of using DNLs (Day/Night average levels) as a measurement of noise pollution. She expressed concerns about jet propulsion fluid as a public health threat.

Garrett Newkirk, Whidbey Island resident, expressed concern about noise exposure from growler jet noise. His family has lived on Whidbey Island since 1909. He has measured noise on his property at 143+ decibels.

Aaron Millstein, Puget Sound School Coalition, expressed concern about lead in drinking water in Issaquah school district. He urges the board to seek funding for schools to conduct lead testing. Funding for local health jurisdictions should also be adjusted. The Puget Sound Coalition asks to be involved in the discussion around the governor's directive.

Adam Goldstein asked the Board about their actions on screenings for lead in drinking water.

Audrey Adams, Washington Action for Safe Water, expressed concerns about lead in drinking water. She is concerned that fluoride in drinking water can allow for increased potential of lead in drinking water due to fluorosilicic acid's corrosive nature.

## 7. STATE HEALTH REPORT *(Note-The Chair moved this item to the afternoon, after The Rule Review Update)*

Michelle Davis, Executive Director, directed the Board to the draft 2016 State Health Report. State law directs the Board to develop the report, which must include suggestions for public health priorities for the following biennium. She noted that this year's report included recommendations on Foundational Public Health Services; an endorsement of the Council's work to eliminate disparities in adverse birth outcomes and promote equity in state policy and program development; increased capacity for health impact reviews, funding for near vision screening devices and school

environmental health and safety rules implementation. She said the topic areas reflected board conversations from the April meeting.

Vice Chair Pendergrass identified a picture as within the draft report as one that was not clear and could be misinterpreted. Kelie Kahler, Board Staff described the intent of the images utilized within the report. She indicated the goal of the image selection was to assure that they were relatable and reflected the population engaged in a variety of activities. The intent was to modernize the report and help the reader engage with photos as well as the text.

Vice Chair Pendergrass suggested the photo should be more reflective of topics related food safety, HIRs or School safety. Member Yu agreed and expressed her appreciation for the first two images in the report, and suggested that perhaps a school safety image might be more appropriate.

***Motion:** The Board directs staff to develop a final 2016 State Health Report in close consultation with the Chair. The Chair is authorized to approve a final report for transmittal to the Governor by June 30, 2016.*

***Motion/Second:** Pendergrass/Sledge. Approved unanimously*

**8. BRIEFING- 2014 AND 2015 ANNUAL NEWBORN SCREENING REPORTS** *(Note-The Chair moved this item up after Public Testimony)*

Member Yu, introduced Dr. John Thompson, the newly appointed Director of the Washington State Department of Health Newborn Screening Program. Dr. Thompson said that the Board's rules require the Department of Health to report annually to the Board about test costs, test results by category, county of birth and ethnic group, as well as follow up procedures and the results of the procedures. In 2014 legislation passed that requires the Department to write an annual report that identifies the compliance rates of hospitals in meeting screening deadlines, and performance data and information about health care providers' efforts to promptly inform parents and guardians about abnormal screening results. The Department has combined these two reports and will send the final report to the Board early this summer.

Dr. Thompson indicated that the 2014 legislation mandated earlier specimen collection and quicker delivery to testing labs. He reported that collection compliance was at 98% for collection compliance and transit compliance was at about 85%. He said that timing and transport is critical to save babies lives; and shared two success stories about children identified through the newborn screening program. These children are now adolescents and are thriving today due to early identification and intervention. He thanked the Board for its support over the years.

Member Yu inquired about the differences between clinics and labs as opposed to other designators. Dr. Thompson said that almost every baby gets two screens, and the second screen often comes from from clinics and labs. Member Jeffords inquired whether the data includes out of state births and whether those families get timely results. Dr. Thompson said the data reflects only Washington births, and could not speak to the timeliness of results for Washington children born out of state. He noted that the families should receive reports because the system is similar in neighboring states. Member Kutz inquired about the demographic errors. Dr. Thompson said that if a specimen comes without complete saturation, the Lab still tests the blood spot and uses the results to save lives. However, the results do not count as complete or final. He said that the department had started sending quarterly reports to all submitters to give quicker feedback on the demographic deficiencies.

Member Yu inquired whether Madigan Hospital was included in the data. Dr. Thompson responded that Madigan is. In the past, Naval hospitals have used private contractors, but a new contract is in place for naval births on future reports. Member Yu asked whether families of border babies get proper notification. Dr. Thompson indicated that follow up is conducted on a case by case basis. He said if babies need life-saving treatment, the state asks that the blood spot is taken prior to treatment. He noted that new tests are improving. Vice Chair Pendergrass asked about the ease of testing and impact of additional testing. Dr. Thompson indicated that there are plans for future lab expansion, and that expanding the newborn screen to ALD would require new equipment. Dr. Thompson announced the department had submitted a fee increase request to the governor. If approved by the legislature, he hoped to start ALD testing next year. He noted that other conditions, like Pompe, if approved by the Board would require new instruments to meet the volume of testing requirements.

*The Board recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.*

## **9. REVIEW-GOVERNOR'S DIRECTIVE 16-06 LEAD IN WATER SYSTEMS**

Chair Grellner, asked Member Halvorson to describe the Governor's Directive 16-06 (on file). Member Halvorson provided a brief overview of the Directive and described the seven workgroups and their task this summer. He outlined the next steps for carrying out the Directive and said that a final report is due to the Governor October 2016.

Ms. Davis, provided a brief history of the school environmental health and safety rules. She noted that there has been some form of school rule since 1960. She said that the Board initiated rule development in 2004 after receiving significant public comment from teachers, students and parents who were concerned about drinking water and air quality in schools. She said that the Board adopted a modern rule in 2009 but the legislature suspended implementation through a budget proviso that same year. She said that the budget proviso has appeared in each subsequent budget, and prohibits implementation of any new or amended school rule. She noted that the Board has had to take action to delay the effective date of the rules on several occasions, and that the current effective date is July 1, 2017. If the legislature retains the proviso in the 2017- 18 biennial budget, the Board will have to take action in the spring to delay the effective date once again. Donna Wright, Board Member commented that her recollection was that much of the early public testimony focused primarily on air quality and toxic mold in schools.

Dave DeLong, Board Staff, presented an "at a glance document" (on file) that compared the current rule, Chapter 246-366 WAC to the suspended rule Chapter 246-366A WAC.

Member Yu commented that the estimated 25% level of high risk for lead poisoning is not representative of the actual problem. Vice Chair Pendergrass commented that rather than testing 25% of children in WA State, he recommends focusing testing on high-risk populations. Ms. Davis indicated that the department was trying to improve the testing of high-risk populations, but was not seeking a mandate for universal screening. Member Halvorson stated that the Governor's Directive focus is on screening the highest-risk children. He confirmed there was no intention for this to be a universal screening process. Chair Grellner indicated that data shows that drinking water is not the source or most prevalent exposure pathway for lead in Washington.

Member Halvorson indicated that the Directive intends to encourage the legislature to dedicate funding to screening for lead in drinking water, and that a decision package may result in increased resources to local health to help address this problem. Ms. Davis noted that she was leading the

effort to estimate the cost to implement this rule. Vice Chair Pendergrass expressed concern that that Governor’s Directive focuses on lead, and that the school rule has a much broader focus. Member Halvorson clarified that Secretary Weisman plans to focus on the entire school rule rather than just the problem of lead. Member Kutz expressed concern that local health jurisdictions do have capacity to implement the new school rule.

**10. UPDATE-STATE BOARD OF HEALTH STRATEGIC PLANNING** *(Note- The Chair moved this item down, after the State Health Report)*

Chair Grellner, directed the Board to agenda item 10, strategic planning and the draft materials for the Board’s consideration. He said that the Steering committee had met a couple times since the last Board discussion regarding strategic planning and was bringing forward changes to the Goals and some objectives for the Board’s consideration. Ms. Davis reviewed Goals 2, 3, and 4 and asked members for their comments. Vice Chair Pendergrass suggested clarifying language regarding climate change. Member Halvorson suggested “Work to prevent and adapt to the health impacts of climate change.” Vice Chair Pendergrass tied it to the Cascadia rising exercise, when these things happen we need to adjust to them. Member Kutz inquired about the role of private schools, and Ms. Davis responded that the school rules apply to private and public schools. She then summarized next steps in the process, and noted that part of August’s agenda will be focused brainstorming those activities that will be added to the plan.

***Motion:** The Board approves and adopts the recommended revisions to Strategic Plan Goals 2, 3 and 4.*

***Motion/Second:** Pendergrass/Bessermin. Approved unanimously*

**11. UPDATE - RULE REVIEW** *(Note- The Chair moved this item up on the agenda after the Governor’s Directive)*

Tami Thompson, Department of Health, reported that the Department must review the rules in Title 246 WAC on a five-year cycle as the result of recent legislation. Ms. Thompson noted that the purpose of the rule review is to assure the rules are clear, simplify regulatory processes, and decrease the time for permitting processes. She referenced a summary sheet (on file) listing the current status of rule reviews. She noted that a preliminary review of Chapter 246-100 WAC is underway and the Department is creating a prioritized list for this major project. She indicated that the Department would be recommending elimination of the sewage tank rules, due to duplication with another chapter of rules. Vice Chair Pendergrass noted that the Board may need to adjust its work plan due to current activities.

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Keith Grellner, Board Chair

Tom Pendergrass, Vice Chair

Jim Sledge, Board Member

The Honorable James Jeffords, Board Member

The Honorable Donna Wright, Board Member

Fran Bessermin, Board Member

Clark Halvorson, Secretary’s Designee

Diana T. Yu, Board Member

Stephen Kutz, Board Member

Angel Reyna, Board Member

Member Wright thanked everyone for coming to Snohomish Health District and listening to Dr. Goldbaum. Ms. Davis thanked Member Wright for arranging our meeting in Snohomish County. Melanie Hisaw, Board

Staff, acknowledged and thanked Kelly Grimsley and Linda Carl, Snohomish Health District, for all of their exceptional help with the meeting logistics.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Keith Grellner, Board Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

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, Chair