Two New Members Join the State Board of Health

OLYMPIA –Gov. Inslee has appointed two new members to the Washington State Board of Health. Dr. Chris Frank, a resident of Port Angeles, fills the position of local health officer, which represents state local health jurisdictions. He is the health officer of Clallam County, and is also a practicing family physician. Kurt Hilt, a resident and City Councilmember of Lake Stevens, fills the position of an elected city official who is also a member of a local board of health. He serves on the Snohomish County Health District Board of Health, and is a firefighter and paramedic in the Seattle area.

As a local health officer, Frank has a strong interest in communicable diseases and environmental health. He is an innovative leader who incorporates data and evidence-based practices to reduce inequity, address the social determinants of health, and improve population health and wellness in the community. He has extensive experience in addressing the opioid epidemic, and made Clallam County the first county in Washington to mandate reporting of non-fatal opioid overdoses.

As a city councilmember, Hilt led the effort to establish a Veterans Commission in Lake Stevens, the first municipal-level commission of its kind in Washington. As a peer appointee to the Snohomish Health District Board of Health, he supported the Pharmaceutical Take Back Program that targets opioid abuse in the Snohomish region. Hilt also founded the Disaster Medicine Project, an initiative that prepares healthcare providers and facilities for emergencies.

“Dr. Frank and Mr. Hilt bring an important level of experience and expertise to the Board,” said Michelle Davis, executive director of the Board. “They share a strong commitment to public service, and have significant experience engaging the public on critical public health issues such as opioid abuse and emergency preparedness. As community leaders they are focused on helping protect and improve the public’s health.”

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