

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Health Promotion Committee

When: May 13, 2021

Participating by GoToMeeting: Board members Dr. Tom Pendergrass, Vazaskia Crockrell, and Stephen Kutz; Board staff Sam Pskowski, Kaitlyn Donahoe, Michelle Davis, and Melanie Hisaw; Department of Health staff Alexandra Montañó, LinhPhung Huynh, Tami Thompson, and Sarah Keefe; and three members of the public.

Summary Notes:

Rulemaking Updates

- **Prenatal Testing, Chapter 246-680 WAC.** Ms. Pskowski provided a brief background of the Board's authority on prenatal testing as well as recent rulemaking activities updating the chapter. She reminded Committee members of the public rules hearing held in April 2021, with Board direction to staff to hold an additional rules hearing in June with an updated proposal to consider additional clarification to counseling requirements and requirements for certain tests. Ms. Pskowski discussed changes made as a result of informal public comment received in March. She said the supplemental CR-102 for the proposed rules was filed, and the formal public comment period will close on May 26, 2021. Ms. Pskowski reiterated that this rule does not require pregnant individuals to receive these tests; however, this would ensure that those seeking prenatal testing will be able to access the tests through their health care provider and insurer.
- **Emergency Rules: Notifiable Conditions, WAC 246-101-017.** Ms. Donahoe reminded committee members that the current emergency rule for COVID-19 reporting will expire on July 24, 2021, and that possible renewal of the emergency rule will be on the Board's June meeting agenda. She mentioned that Board staff is working closely with Department of Health staff to develop revisions related to reporting of COVID-19 genomic sequencing results. Ms. Donahoe said that more information and draft rule language will be provided at the Board's June meeting.

Legislative Recap

- Ms. Donahoe discussed two bills of interest to the committee: Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1152, supporting measures to create comprehensive public health districts, as well as Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1272, concerning health system transparency. She also highlighted two budget items: an investment in foundational public health services funding as well as funds via

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a budget proviso to the Department of Health to establish and support regional shared service centers.

- Ms. Pskowski highlighted a budget item creating a task force to study the use of dental therapists statewide, in addition to three bills; Second Substitute Senate Bill 5195 concerning opioid overdose medication, Engrossed House Bill 1031, concerning certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth, and Substitute House Bill 1225, concerning school based health centers.

Committee Member Areas of Interest, Comments and Questions

- Member Crockrell identified areas of interest including those that will address the health disparities in our marginalized groups, BIPOC communities, disabled population, and sexual minorities. She highlighted the importance of keeping racial equity and social justice in the forefront of the Board's work.
- Member Kutz noted that COVID-19 vaccination mandates would be an interesting topic to have with the Board before the public given the challenge of school immunization uptake. He also mentioned it might be worthwhile to have conversations with the Department of Labor and Industries about safety in the workplace, especially in the context of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Committee Chair Pendergrass identified areas of interest including children; everything from newborn testing, parent testing, etc. He also mentioned discussion of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Ms. Donahoe discussed with committee members future updates regarding implementation progress for the Board's recently adopted Notifiable Conditions rules (chapter 246-101 WAC). Committee members agreed that it would be important to receive updates at full Board meetings.

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