

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

## HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**What:** Health Promotion Committee

**When:** October 21, 2021

**Participating via Zoom:** Board members Stephen Kutz, Temple Lentz, and Dr. Bob Lutz; Board staff Sam Pskowski, Kaitlyn Donahoe, Michelle Davis, and Melanie Hisaw; Department of Health staff Tami Thompson, LinhPhụng Huỳnh, and Sarah Keefe.

### Summary Notes:

#### **Rulemaking Update: Communicable and Certain Other Diseases, Chapter 246-100 WAC**

- Ms. Pskowski reminded committee members of the legislation prompting rule revision for this chapter (Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1551, passed during the 2020 legislative session) and provided a brief overview of proposed revisions to the communicable disease rules. Ms. Donahoe discussed comments received on the rules to date and noted the formal public comment period ends on October 28, 2021. Ms. Pskowski discussed the upcoming rules hearing at the Board's November meeting as well as the anticipated rulemaking timeline should the Board elect to adopt the rules.

#### **Rulemaking Update: COVID-19 Reporting Emergency Rule, WAC 246-101-017**

- Ms. Donahoe informed committee members that a sixth emergency rule will be brought to the Board's November meeting for possible action. She said the current emergency rule for COVID-19 reporting will expire in mid-December, and that the Board may wish to adopt a sixth emergency rule to extend these requirements for another 120 days. Ms. Donahoe said that the Board has taken steps to adopt the emergency rule provisions into permanent rule by filing a CR-101 in July. She noted that the Board will need to continue to adopt emergency rules to keep COVID-19 reporting requirements in place until permanent rules are complete, unless there is a change in federal reporting requirements.

#### **Committee Member Comments, Questions, Next Steps**

- Ms. Pskowski provided updates on two follow-up items from the Board's October meeting. She said that Board staff are working to file the CR-101 for inclusion of OTCD in the newborn screening rules, per Board direction. Ms. Pskowski also

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said Board staff have begun working with Department staff on information gathering in anticipation of forming the TAG for considering possible inclusion of COVID-19 vaccines in the school immunizations rule.

- Member Kutz highlighted the timeliness of setting up the TAG, as approval of COVID-19 vaccines for children may come soon. He asked whether schools could create their own rules around vaccine requirements.
  - Ms. Davis said the authority to require vaccination for school entry is within the State Board of Health; however, the Governor could use his emergency power to take action, or the legislature could take action during legislative session on this topic.
- Member Kutz asked if the Board should anticipate questions from the public regarding whether the Board can adopt emergency rules on vaccines.
  - Ms. Davis said that is certainly within the Board's authority; however, the current direction from the Board is to stand up the TAG to inform rulemaking for vaccines. She said we anticipate hearing more from the public on this matter as we move forward.
- Member Lutz expressed his interest in the childhood vaccinations TAG for COVID-19 as well and said the Board will likely hear from schools on this topic soon.
- Ms. Pskowski said the next Health Promotion Committee meeting will occur in December and asked committee members to respond to a Doodle poll with their availability.

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