

Technical Advisory Group to Consider COVID-19 for Inclusion in chapter 246-105 WAC SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Orientation Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group

When: December 29, 2021

Summary Notes:

Co-chairs Dr. Thomas Pendergrass (State Board of Health) and Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett (Department of Health) welcomed members of the technical advisory group (TAG). The co-chairs introduced Allegra Calder and noted she will be serving as the independent facilitator for this and future meetings. Ms. Calder facilitated introductions of present TAG members and support staff. She introduced Samantha Pskowski, Policy Advisor for the State Board of Health, to provide an overview of meeting etiquette. Ms. Pskowski provided a brief overview of the Zoom webinar platform, described the meeting structure, and informed members of the public on how to view the meeting. She noted that the TAG does not accept public comment, however the public may attend the meeting in listen-only mode and may submit comment to the Board via e-mail or regular mail.

Ms. Calder reviewed the roles and responsibilities of those staff and discussed her position as facilitator, noting that she is not a member of the TAG nor a staff member for the Board or Department. Dr. Kwan-Gett described the role of the co-chairs to help guide the group through the process. Hannah Febach, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Health, described the roles of Ms. Pskowski and herself as support staff for the group. She explained that future meetings will also include presentations by subject matter experts. Ms. Febach provided a brief overview of the Open Public Meetings Act and how it affects these meetings. She encouraged TAG members to view the training video developed by the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Pskowski provided an overview of the Board's authority and rulemaking responsibilities related to immunization requirements for child care and school children. She reviewed the statutory requirement that the Board adopt rules establishing the substantive and procedural requirements for full immunization and that the Board has adopted these rules in chapter 246-105 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). She discussed the Board's typical process for considering amending the rule, including the use of a TAG. She shared that the Board, at their October 2021 meeting, directed staff to begin the process of convening a TAG for considering the COVID-19 vaccine for inclusion in the rule. Ms. Pskowski reviewed the process the TAG will use to consider

(Continued on the next page)

the COVID-19 vaccine against nine criteria established by the Board and develop a recommendation for the Board's consideration. She reiterated that the TAG is advisory in nature and that the Board is the ultimate decision maker. There were no questions from TAG members.

Dr. Kwan-Gett emphasized that the TAG's goal is to develop a recommendation and encouraged members to ask questions throughout the process. Dr. Pendergrass emphasized the importance for TAG members to review materials in advance of future meetings and encouraged participation during the virtual meetings, while also recognizing the challenges of such platforms. The co-chairs stressed the importance of each member attending all future meetings to ensure sharing of a variety of perspectives.

Ms. Calder asked TAG members what they hope to see in future meetings. Annie Hetzel, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction representative, noted the importance of sharing information about the operation and use of the WAIS system and any technical updates that would be required for including a new immunization requirement. Kate Cranfield, Public Health Nurse representative, shared the need to be clear in the use of technical or other unique terminology. Jennifer Helseth, Department of Children, Youth, and Families representative, echoed Ms. Hetzel's comments regarding the need for easy accessibility and use of the WAIS system.

Ms. Pskowski asked TAG members to respond quickly to future communication to determine member availability regarding dates of future TAG meetings.

Drs. Pendergrass and Kwan-Gett thanked members for their time and closed the meeting.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Kelie Kahler, State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov. TTY users can dial 711

PO Box 47990, Olympia, WA 98504-7990
(360) 236-4110 • wsboh@sboh.wa.gov • sboh.wa.gov