

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Health Promotion Committee

When: February 23, 2022

Participating via Zoom: Board members Dr. Thomas Pendergrass, Patty Hayes, Temple Lentz, and Dr. Bob Lutz; Board staff Sam Pskowski, Kaitlyn Donahoe, Michelle Davis, Melanie Hisaw, and Kelie Kahler; Department of Health staff; and approximately 100 members of the public.

Summary Notes:

Rulemaking Update: Local Board of Health Composition, chapter 246-90 WAC

- Ms. Donahoe discussed the authorizing legislation for the Local Board of Health Composition rule project and discussed rulemaking activities to date, including filing a CR-101 and drafting proposed rules in close concert with interested parties. Ms. Pskowski updated the committee on recent community engagement activities for this work, and described feedback received on the proposed rules and associated guidance.
- Dr. Pendergrass asked whether the Board's rules could address small local health jurisdictions' ability to successfully incentivize and recruit their constituents for the seats held by non-elected officials. Ms. Pskowski noted that this topic falls outside of the Board's rulemaking authority, but that Board staff are working with community groups to develop guidance on best practices for recruitment and retention of non-elected members of local boards of health.
- Member Hayes asked for clarification on the due dates set in statute and the venue for answering questions about this work in the future. Ms. Pskowski said that guidance documents provided by the Board and continued relationships with partners such as the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials, Washington State Association of Counties, and community groups should help provide answers to ongoing implementation questions.

Rulemaking Update: Notifiable Conditions, chapter 246-101 WAC

- Ms. Donahoe reminded committee members of the Board's statutory authority regarding public health surveillance through the Notifiable Conditions chapter, and the history of the Board's adoption of emergency rules to designate COVID-19 as a notifiable condition. She said the Board will consider adoption of a

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seventh emergency rule at their March meeting to continue COVID-19 reporting requirements for another 120 days.

- Dr. Pendergrass and Member Hayes discussed the importance of collecting accurate, disaggregated demographic data through notifiable conditions reporting to better aid community groups and local health jurisdictions' work.
- Ms. Donahoe reminded the committee of permanent rulemaking activity for this chapter and anticipated future discussion regarding COVID-19 surveillance.

Update: Technical advisory group to consider COVID-19 for inclusion in chapter 246-105 WAC, Meetings 1 and 2 Recap

- Dr. Pendergrass and Ms. Pskowski reminded the committee of the scope and purpose of the TAG as well as the process for reviewing a vaccine against the established criteria to make a recommendation to the State Board of Health regarding required immunizations for school entry. Ms. Pskowski described the work of the TAG to date, including presentations given and criteria discussed in their first two meetings. At the conclusion of the two meetings, the TAG voted affirmatively regarding the criteria discussed at each meeting. The TAG's final meeting will include presentations, discussion, and a vote on the remaining criteria, as well as a vote regarding a recommendation to the State Board of Health.
- Dr. Pendergrass discussed the public interest in this topic and noted the high volume of comments received from the public in recent months. He said that public comments are reviewed by Board members prior to their meetings and requested that the public refrain from using threatening or inappropriate language when expressing their opinions.

Staff Updates and Announcements

- Ms. Pskowski said that there will likely be a March meeting of the Health Promotion Committee to prepare for the Board's April 13 meeting.

Committee Member comments, questions, and next steps

- Dr. Pendergrass noted his appreciation for Board staff in preparation for the TAG meetings.

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