

WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH

**HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES**

What: Health Promotion Committee

When: March 30, 2022

Participating via Zoom: Board members Dr. Thomas Pendergrass, Patty Hayes, Stephen Kutz, and Dr. Bob Lutz; Board staff Sam Pskowski, Kaitlyn Donahoe, Michelle Davis, Melanie Hisaw, and Kelie Kahler; Department of Health staff; and approximately 51 members of the public.

Summary Notes:

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

- Ms. Donahoe recapped the Board's rulemaking scope and timeline. Ms. Pskowski outlined the proposed rules by section and provided details about the rule's intended impact. Ms. Donahoe summarized public comment received on the proposed rules, including comments from the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) regarding tribal representation on local boards of health.
- Member Kutz reiterated the AIHC's position on tribal representatives and asked whether the Board is able to address tribal representation in rule. Member Hayes asked whether the Board could advocate for clarity in the statute outside of rulemaking.

Rulemaking Update: Notifiable Conditions Emergency Rule, COVID-19 Reporting, WAC 246-101-017

- Ms. Donahoe reminded Committee members of the Board's action to move the COVID-19 reporting emergency rule from its March meeting agenda to April due to updated COVID-19 reporting guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). She summarized changes in the updated guidance and said that the Board will consider adopting a seventh emergency rule for COVID-19 reporting at its April 13, 2022 meeting. Ms. Donahoe said that staff were working with subject matter experts at the Department of Health to draft proposed revisions that align with the updated HHS guidance.
- Member Kutz asked whether changes were anticipated in reporting guidance for private-sector laboratories. Ms. Donahoe said she was not aware of anticipated changes reminded Committee members that there are federal monetary penalties for laboratories that do not report COVID-19 results. Member Kutz and

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Member Lutz discussed reimbursement for laboratories that conduct COVID-19 testing.

Recap: Technical advisory group to consider COVID-19 for inclusion in chapter 246-105 WAC

- Ms. Pskowski provided an overview of the Board's scope and the TAG process. She reviewed the information the TAG received across three business meetings and the meeting discussion and the TAG's recommendation. Ms. Pskowski shared the next steps will be to bring the recommendation to the full Board at the April 13 meeting for their consideration.
- Member Kutz inquired about the content of the presentations provided to the TAG. Dr. Pendergrass responded and provided additional context regarding the information presented to the TAG and the meetings. He also noted the volume of comments received from the public on this topic. Member Hayes noted that the federal government has not approved additional funding for the COVID-19 response and that may impact the access of vaccine. Dr. Pendergrass noted other activities occurring to maintain access to vaccine. Member Kutz asked about the long-term cost of purchasing vaccine.
- Dr. Pendergrass thanked staff for their work on the TAG. Ms. Pskowski informed members that they could review all presentations to the TAG on the Board's website.

Staff Updates and Announcements

- Ms. Donahoe reminded Committee members of development of the Board's 2022 State Health Report. Committee Chair Pendergrass recommended consideration of vaping products with nicotine not derived from tobacco. Member Kutz recommended consideration of kratom products.
- Ms. Pskowski said that there will likely be a May meeting of the Health Promotion Committee to prepare for the Board's June 8 meeting.

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