

Final Minutes of the State Board of Health November 13, 2024

Hybrid Meeting ASL (or CART) and Spanish interpretation available WA Department of Labor & Industries (Auditorium) 7273 Linderson Way SW Tumwater, WA 98501-5414 Virtual meeting: ZOOM Webinar

State Board of Health Members present:

Patty Hayes, RN, MSN, Chair Kelly Oshiro, JD, Vice Chair Kate Dean, MPA Socia Love, MD Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH, Secretary's Designee Mindy Flores, MHCM

State Board of Health Members absent:

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH Paj Nandi, MPH Stephen Kutz, BSN, MPH

State Board of Health staff present:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant Michelle Larson, Communications Manager Anna Burns, Communications Consultant Molly Dinardo, Health Policy Advisor Shay Bauman, Health Policy Advisor Jo-Ann Huynh, Administrative Assistant Eric Sonju, Assistant Attorney General Hannah Haag, Community Engagement Coordinator Ashley Bell, Deputy Director Cait Lang-Perez, Health Policy Analyst Lindsay Herendeen, Health Policy Analyst Miranda Calmjoy, Health Policy Analyst Andrew Kamali, School Rules Project Manager Communications Consultant Kelly Kramer, Newborn Screening Project Policy Advisor

Guests and other participants:

Dr. Jen Freiheit, Interim Director of Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Claire Nitsche, Department of Health Barbara Morrissey, Department of Health Holly Davies, Department of Health Marissa Smith, Department of Ecology Bonie Brooks, Department of Ecology Danielle Toepelt, Department of Health <u>Patty Hayes, Board Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).</u>

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve November 13, 2024 agenda Motion/Second: Vice Chair Oshiro/Member Flores. Approved as amended unanimously

ADOPTION OF OCTOBER 8, 2024 MEETING MINUTES Motion: Approve the October 8, 2024 minutes Motion/Second: Vice Chair Oshiro/Member Abdelmalek. Approved unanimously

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

<u>Patty Hayes, Board Chair</u>, opened the meeting for public comment and read from a prepared statement (on file), allowing three minutes per person.

<u>Bill Osmunson</u>, quoted RCW 43.20.050 and commented on the State Board of Health (Board) authority to provide a forum for public health policy development in Washington state, and the state's role to ensure water safety, not to address benefits, which falls under the Food and Drug Administration. B. Osmunson talked about the absence of fluoride safety studies on the human brain from major manufacturers.

<u>Gerald Braude</u>, highlighted injuries from the COVID-19 vaccination, and said Department of Health (Department) leadership has the numbers wrong. G. Braude quoted 238 deaths in Washington and 24,111 reported injuries including, cardiac arrest, Bell's palsy, anaphylactic reactions, myocarditis, irregular menstrual bleeding, spontaneous abortions, and more.

<u>Emilia Wilburn</u>, spoke about metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD), a rare genetic disorder. E. Wilburn emphasized that substantial evidence supports early detection through Newborn Screening (NBS), which offers families a future with their child. E. Wilburn said they will await the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel decision in May. If the outcome is positive, Washington will begin its automatic review process with the Board, following a two-year timeline.

<u>Erin Harnish</u>, spoke in support of fluoridation and the safety of children. E. Harnish talked about safe fluoride levels in water to strengthen teeth and prevent cavities and how recent reports shed light on IQ in children.

<u>Natalie Chavez</u>, discussed lawsuits and outcomes regarding COVID-19. N. Chavez referenced the website React19.org, saying injections do not stop infection or transmission. N. Chavez said that on October 22, the SW District Health Board in Idaho became the first local health department to remove COVID-19 vaccines after 300 community members urged the board to stop injections during the public comment period.

<u>Lisa Templeton</u>, talked about inaccurate COVID data, and referenced a peer-reviewed article on challenges in public health. L. Templeton discussed Department data errors

and how the article shows how Washington differs from other states. L. Templeton said the article should be the cause for further investigation. L. Templeton said restrictive measures were ineffective and problematic, causing more harm.

<u>Bob Runnels</u>, expressed support for any change to the fluoridation rules, including the petition to prevent chemicals in drinking water. B. Runnels said ingesting fluoride is no way to target fluoride treatment for the teeth. B. Runnels also advocated for support of a forum to review fluoridation.

<u>Hillary Norris</u>, opposed the petition for rulemaking on drinking water, stating that health care providers support fluoridation to prevent tooth decay and minimize health risks. H. Norris said that evidence supports fluoridation as an effective measure to prevent tooth decay.

<u>Carolina Summer</u>, highlighted the importance of improving the Newborn Screening (NBS) process for timely diagnosis that saves lives. C. Summer thanked the Board and Department for their progress and timeline. C. Summer said there are 10,000 rare diseases and 240 new diseases each year, and we are committed to reducing the time it takes to add a rare condition to the NBS panel. Research shows that financial and social improvement significantly reduces health care costs. C. Summer hopes for sustained funding to support early detection and said with over 3000 new gene therapies, diagnoses are so important.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BOARD BUSINESS

<u>Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director,</u> thanked Member Dean and Member Love for joining virtually and stated that Member Nandi and Member Kutz sent their regrets.

Executive Director Davis provided staffing updates. Ashley Bell started as Deputy Director on November 1 and will continue as a Tribal liaison. Ashley B. will also wrap up the Pro-Equity Anti-Racism plan and recruit an Administrative Assistant 3 and an Equity and Engagement Manager. On November 16, Ashley Noble will join the team as the Board's new Policy Advisor. Ashley N.'s portfolio will include water recreation, food safety, and notifiable conditions.

Executive Director Davis shared updates on rulemaking work. Board staff is working with the Department of Health (Department) to host workshops with shellfish growers to get feedback on the rules. The first two hybrid meetings are on December 5 and 10 in Olympia.

Executive Director Davis shared that the Board and Council staff will give an overview of the Board at an Epi Lunch & Learn in December. Executive Director Davis also said that Chair Hayes will meet with local health administrators engaged in policy and leadership development through the Washington State Association for Local Public Health Officials to discuss the Board and policy development.

Executive Director Davis provided an update on the Health Impact Review (HIR) team. The HIR team is working on outreach to legislators and will introduce two outreach toolkits during the January Board meeting. Executive Director Davis reviewed the Board's recent correspondence and other materials, which include the approved Yakima and Cheney water recreation variances, and the CR-103 filed on October 27 for the per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) emergency rule. It also includes a letter submitted to the Washington Pharmacy Commission on their proposed rules for prescription drug label accessibility standards.

Executive Director Davis asked Board Members to send concepts for the legislative statement that Executive Director Davis can bring to the Board in January.

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, appreciated the reminder about legislative priorities.

Note: Agenda Item 6 was moved here. See notes below.

5. LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION UPDATE – THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

<u>Ashley Bell, Board staff</u>, introduced Dr. Jen Freiheit, Interim Director of Thurston County Public Health & Social Services. Ashley B. highlighted Dr. Freiheit's deep commitment to public health practice and role in Thurston County.

Jen Freiheit, PhD, MCHES, Interim Director, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, discussed internal challenges such as workforce retention, leadership turnover, and burnout due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Freiheit emphasized the need for a "reset" in public health, focusing on improving staff retention and capacity. Dr. Freiheit noted the increasing need for public health to adapt to modern challenges and evolving community needs. To address the internal challenges, the county is developing an 18-month onboarding and mentorship program. The county is also prioritizing language accessibility to ensure inclusivity. Dr. Freiheit also expressed gratitude for Federal Public Health Services (FPHS) funding, which helped hire over 28 new positions.

Dr. Freiheit shared that the Thurston County Local Board of Health (LBOH) is considering declaring social isolation and loneliness as a public health crisis. This proclamation follows a federal announcement from the Surgeon General's recent announcement. Thurston County is working with United Way, YMCA, and local library systems to launch a campaign addressing social isolation across all age groups. If approved, Thurston will become the first county in Washington state to officially declare loneliness a public health crisis.

Dr. Freiheit highlighted ongoing strategic planning efforts. This includes the hiring of a new epidemiologist to focus on data equity and the communications team working on a health equity report. Thurston County LBOH is also considering new subcommittees focused on policy review, education, and data.

Dr. Freiheit outlined the work of the Behavioral Health Unit and collaborating with the Veterans Assistance Board to develop a veterans resource hub in Lacey. This hub will help address Social Determinants of Health. Dr. Freiheit discussed the hiring of a new nursing supervisor to help streamline operations and improve procedures. The county is also working to improve violence and suicide prevention programs and expand services

for the aging population. The Environmental Health Team is revising its fee schedule, while the Fiscal and HR Teams are enhancing internal systems and processes.

<u>Tao Kwan-Gett, Secretary's Designee</u>, thanked Dr. Freiheit for their leadership and the community work in Thurston County. <u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> acknowledged the collective impact approach and noted that at the Department, social connection is also a priority through the Be Well WA Initiative. <u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> offered to explore collaboration opportunities with Thurston County.

Dr. Freiheit expressed interest in learning more about Be Well WA and exploring potential collaboration opportunities.

<u>Kate Dean, Board Member</u>, praised the work in Thurston County and inquired about the impacts of reproductive health and obstetrics challenges, particularly in rural areas, and whether Thurston County is addressing these issues.

Dr. Freiheit acknowledged that reproductive health is a gap in Thurston County. Their Nurse-Family Partnership program includes reproductive care in home visits and there are ongoing efforts to expand services. Thurston is also exploring barriers to access and the involvement of community partners in improving reproductive health care.

The Board took a break at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

6. 2025 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE (moved to before agenda item 5)

<u>Michelle Davis, Executive Director,</u> reviewed the proposed 2025 Board meeting schedule and requested that Board Members share any suggestions for future meeting locations. Executive Director Davis highlighted that the August and November dates were shifted from the typical cadence of the second Wednesday in the month to the third Wednesday.

<u>Patty Hayes, Board Chair,</u> noted the Board will meet on the second Wednesday in October and that WSPHA has shifted their annual meeting to the end of October. <u>Chair</u> <u>Hayes</u> talked about the School Rules Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, and that the Board and TAC will co-locate at the April Board meeting.

Motion: The Board approves the proposed 2025 meeting schedule. **Motion/Second:** Member Flores/Member Abdelmalek. Approved unanimously.

7. PANEL – STATE AGENCY RESPONSE TO PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

<u>Shay Bauman, Board staff</u>, introduced panelists and gave a brief history of Board work on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Panelists: Claire Nitsche, Department of Health; Barbara Morrissey, Department of Health; Holly Davies, Department of Health; Marissa Smith, Department of Ecology; Bonie Brooks, Department of Ecology (multiple presentations on file).

<u>Patty Hayes, Board Chair,</u> asked about improvements in nonstick pans. Panelists responded that the Department is prioritizing this issue. They have seen a shift away from the most common PFAS in cookware, and more PFAS-free options are becoming

available. Panelists also mentioned ongoing efforts to research these processes and implement rulemaking to require PFAS reporting in pans.

<u>Socia Love, Board Member</u>, asked if there is a market already for PFAS free firefighting foam. Panelists answered that PFAS was restricted in Washington in 2018. There is a foam collection program as well.

<u>Kate Dean, Board Member</u>, asked what the panelists perceive as the greatest risk as far as various sources of PFAS exposure. The panel thinks that drinking water and food are the primary sources of exposure. Beyond that, other elements can be a significant exposure depending on the products you're using. They are also thinking about looking upstream at what is putting the PFAS into our food and water.

<u>Member Dean</u> asked if they looked at specific impacts for Tribal communities. Panelists said they are having conversations about looking at levels in Elk and traditionally consumed plants.

<u>Tao Kwan-Gett, Secretary's Designee,</u> asked about the roles of the various levels of government (local, state, federal), and asked for an overview of this. Panelist Brooks answered that for Department of Defense sites, the military is the lead agency and provided examples of other site-specific arrangements.

<u>Dimyana Abdemalek, Board Member,</u> asked panelists how local health jurisdictions could employ these methods and if the community had shared preferences for communication methods. Panelists stressed the need to work with trusted community messengers to share the message, noting that preferred methods vary by community.

<u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> asked how PFAS regulation compliance is monitored and enforced. Panelists responded that they do spot testing on various products and then reach out to manufacturers and give them the tools they need to comply.

<u>Member Abdelmalek</u> asked how they connect manufacturers. Panelists explained that they typically initiate contact with manufacturers and have the authority to order the release of information from them.

<u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> asked if there are other products besides cosmetics that they are looking at for a toxic-free approach. Panelists responded that they are now looking at restricting multiple chemicals that will hopefully give a more wholistically safe product.

<u>Member Dean</u> asked what is the difference between reporting and restriction; how do you get from one to the other? Panelists responded that they can only propose restrictions if they can prove that safer alternatives are available. Reporting requirements help them see where PFAS are still being used so they can see where to prioritize their work. Reporting requirements also help manufacturers learn more about what chemicals are in their products.

<u>Mindy Flores, Board Member</u>, asked how panelists are addressing PFAS fatigue in the community. Panelists responded that PFAS fatigue is real and shared that they are using positively framed messaging, highlighting that any improvement is valuable. This

approach helps people focus on progress, emphasizing that while PFAS remains in the environment, it doesn't have to stay in our bodies.

Chair Hayes requested that we continue to stay linked together on this work.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:46 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

8. PETITION FOR RULEMAKING <u>WAC 246-290-220</u>, DRINKING WATER MATERIALS AND ADDITIVES

<u>Kate Dean, Board Member</u>, introduced the petition from Washington Action for Safe Water. <u>Shay Bauman, Board staff</u>, reviewed the petition, including background information and new materials submitted for Board Members (materials on file).

Board Members discussed timelines for the next steps from the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and clarified the Board's use of recommendations and noted that recommendations do not belong in rule. Board Members agreed that more information was needed from the EPA and other sources.

Motion: The Board declines the petition for rulemaking to amend WAC 246-290-220 for the reasons articulated by Board Members. The Board directs staff to notify the petitioner of the Board's decision.

Motion/Second: Member Dean/Member Kwan-Gett. Approved unanimously

9. NEWBORN SCREENING PROCESS AND CRITERIA REVIEW

<u>Kelly Oshiro, Board Vice Chair,</u> introduced the item. <u>Vice Chair Oshiro</u> reviewed the Board's statutory authority under RCW 70.83.050 to define and adopt rules for screening newborn infants for hereditary conditions. <u>Vice Chair Oshiro</u> said that the last time the Board reviewed its process and criteria for considering newborn screening conditions was in 2015. The Board has convened a Newborn Screening Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review and streamline the condition review process.

<u>Kelly Kramer, Board staff</u>, delivered a presentation reviewing the Newborn Screening TAC timeline, voting results from the first TAC meeting, preliminary discussions around the criteria review process, and next steps for the Board (presentation on file).

<u>Tao Kwan-Gett, Secretary's Designee</u>, thanked the TAC for their work. <u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> asked whether the 2-year timeframe to review conditions in the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) was also the cadence for reviewing conditions. Kelly said that the recommendation meant to establish a 2-year timeframe for Washington state to review new conditions added to the RUSP, not to establish a cadence for reviewing conditions.

<u>Patty Hayes, Board Chair,</u> asked about the criteria review process. Kelly said that the TAC has not begun the criteria review process yet. <u>Chair Hayes</u> asked Kelly to clarify the suggestion for Criteria #4 (Public Health Rationale) to consider available resources for rural communities. Kelly said this suggestion was brought up by a clinician working in rural eastern Washington as a part of preliminary discussions about the criteria review process. <u>Vice Chair Oshiro</u> added that the TAC wanted to tailor the criteria to Washington state, and so, they also wanted to tailor the public health rationale. <u>Vice</u>

<u>Chair Oshiro</u> said that the TAC wanted to consider resource availability in different areas of Washington. <u>Chair Hayes</u> affirmed the importance of considering rural access issues and expressed interest in seeing how this suggestion would be applied. <u>Vice</u> <u>Chair Oshiro</u> added that the TAC should consider how health equity is reflected in the criteria.

<u>Kate Dean, Board Member</u>, discussed remembering the Board came to a different conclusion than the RUSP about one condition. <u>Molly Dinardo, Board staff</u>, said that this happened with MPS-II, or Hunter's disease, which was recommended to the RUSP. The Board did a preliminary analysis in March 2023 to see if the condition met qualifying assumptions. At the time, the Board decided to postpone the review for two years to wait for additional data.

<u>Member Dean</u> asked who funds screenings and whether the Legislature is interested in continuing to fund screenings as more conditions are added. Molly said that Board staff are continuing to ask these questions. Molly said that the Board received guidance from the Legislature last session and that people also petition conditions for consideration through the Legislature. These discussions will continue with the Board, the Department of Health, and the Health Care Authority. <u>Chair Hayes</u> clarified that the Legislature and Governor approve the screening fee to be increased.

<u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> spoke in favor of the TAC's recommendation for updating the condition review process. <u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> said that Option 3 allows Washington state the autonomy to consider conditions aside from the RUSP, to test based on Washington's demographic makeup, and to avoid duplicative evidence review work.

<u>Dimyana Abdelmalek, Board Member</u>, asked how the criteria review process might be affected if the Board chooses Option 3 as the updated condition review process. Kelly said that the criteria are used in the next step after the condition has been selected for review.

Motion: The Board accepts the Newborn Screening Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC's) recommendation for the Board to assume that conditions on the Federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel meet the Board's qualifying assumption and directs staff to update the Board newborn screening process document accordingly. The Board also directs the TAC to continue reviewing the newborn screening criteria and provide recommendations to the Board.

Motion/Second: Member Abdelmalek/Member Kwan-Gett. Approved unanimously

<u>Mindy Flores, Board Member</u>, asked whether a 2-year timeframe might be sufficient for the Board to respond to ongoing petitions. Kelly said that Board staff think a 2-year timeframe is sufficient and that other states who follow this model have said it works well for them. Kelly added that Washington state waits for a federal review to be completed before reviewing a petition. Kelly also said that Board staff will request additional information from petitioners who have been denied by a federal review.

10. UPDATE – SCHOOL RULE REVIEW PROJECT

<u>Patty Hayes, Board Chair,</u> introduced the item. <u>Chair Hayes</u> commended the School Review Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members and staff for their work. The Board is in touch with Senator June Robinson to provide updates on their work.

<u>Andrew Kamali, Board staff,</u> updated the Board on the School Review Project TAC's progress to date. There have been six TAC meetings and two subcommittee meetings. TAC members have fully approved 11 sections of rule language and partially approved three. TAC members have six full sections and the remaining of the three partially approved sections to go. Andrew also spoke about the TAC's recent community engagement efforts with the North Thurston School District and Catholic schools in western Washington.

Andrew discussed future milestones for the TAC. The rule will mostly be ready for informal public comment in mid-December. The December 4 meeting will include a workshop with representation from the Department of Commerce and the Department of Health (Department). There will be a fiscal summit in January which will include industry, the Department, and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, after which the TAC will look into the implementation process. In April, the TAC and Board meeting will combine to discuss together school environmental health and safety.

<u>Chair Hayes</u> spoke about the TAC's report. <u>Chair Hayes</u> said that it will be an opportunity to highlight TAC Members' concerns to the Legislature, such as the potential conflict with green building standards and public health guidance. <u>Chair Hayes</u> noted that Senator Robinson was very positive about this opportunity. <u>Chair Hayes</u> said the report also presented an opportunity to do the phased implementation.

Kate Dean, Board Member, asked if Senator Robinson has given any indications regarding the Legislature's desire to fund this work and the phased implementation idea. Member Dean also asked about the TAC's outreach to rural health jurisdictions and school districts that might not have existing infrastructure to implement this rule. Chair Hayes said that Senator Robinson was interested in the TAC's recommendations, including the idea of phased implementation, but has not shared about the Legislature's capacity to fund. Chair Hayes said that overall, it seems like it will be a tight budget year. Chair Hayes said that the TAC has taken every opportunity to meet with interested parties. Local health jurisdictions are aware of their work and that the rule language is flexible for them to work together. The report will allow the TAC to highlight cost impacts to schools and local health jurisdictions.

<u>Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director,</u> spoke about the work of Foundational Public Health Services. There are now 19 local health jurisdictions with programs and models for shared services that can support jurisdictions with less infrastructure. Executive Director Davis spoke optimistically about the future of school environmental health and partnerships between school districts and public health.

Andrew said that staff are developing an informational document to share with local health jurisdictions regarding the impact of the rule and offering opportunities to connect.

<u>Chair Hayes</u> said that the TAC meetings have had riveting discussions and expressed joy about the work.

<u>Dimyana Abdelmalek, Board Member</u>, shared excitement that the Board is now able to do this work with the budget proviso.

The Board took a break at 2:42 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

11. REQUEST FOR DELEGATED RULEMAKING, <u>WAC 246-282-005</u> SANITARY CONTROL OF SHELLFISH MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS TO REVISE THE REFERENCE TO THE RECENTLY ADOPTED MODEL ORDINANCE Patty Hayes, Board Chair introduced the item regarding minimum performance standards of shellfish control.

<u>Danielle Toepelt, Department of Health,</u> provided background information on the rule, potential changes to WAC-246-282-005, and delegation considerations for the Board (see presentation on file).

<u>Tao Kwan-Gett, Secretary's Designee</u>, asked if there were any notable changes with the revision of the model ordinance. Danielle said the changes are editorial.

<u>Dimyana Abdelmalek, Board Member,</u> asked how the Foodborne Illness Notification System (FINS) is affecting the ordinance for shellfish, and mentioned the acute GI concerns from shellfish. Danielle said that the Department is working with the FINS team, and it will streamline when cases arise. The portal may be utilized next year.

<u>Kate Dean, Board Member,</u> asked about changes to the industry in response to the model ordinance. Danielle said the Food and Drug Administration is working on a general summary of changes. The team will send it out to the industry.

<u>Shay Bauman, Board staff</u>, said that the Board is hosting rulemaking workshops. <u>Chair Hayes</u> asked what the timeline is if the Board approves rulemaking. Shay responded that historically delegation moves quickly.

Motion: The Board moves to delegate rulemaking authority to the Department of Health to adopt by reference the newest version of the NSSP *Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish.*

Motion/Second: Member Dean/Vice Chair Oshiro. Approved unanimously

12. RECOGNIZING BOARD MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>Patty Hayes, Board Chair</u>, thanked Board Member Kate Dean for their service and leadership. <u>Chair Hayes</u> read from the resolution acknowledging Member Dean's service (material on file).

Member Dean was appointed to the Board in February 2023 to represent county officials. Member Dean's work on Environmental Health issues, onsite sewage, and water recreation was highlighted, along with 25 years of community revitalization and a tenure on the Board of Commissioners since 2017. The Board expressed deep

gratitude for Kate Dean's dedicated service, commitment to public health, and integrity in making difficult decisions for the greater good.

Motion/Second to approve Resolution: Vice Chair Oshiro/Member Abdelmalek. Approved unanimously

13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

<u>Tao Kwan-Gett, Secretary's Designee</u>, provided an update on Washington State's first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) reported in Franklin County a month ago. The cases originated from a poultry farm outbreak, with workers exposed during bird culling. There were nine confirmed and three possible cases reported that resulted in mild illness. <u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> emphasized the importance of collaboration between local, state, and federal health agencies. <u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> highlighted issues of health equity and that several exposed workers were migrant and non-English speaking. <u>Member Kwan-Gett</u> stressed the need for continued engagement with community partners supporting migrant health. The Department is monitoring human cases, especially those with severe disease or evidence of human-to-human transmission.

<u>Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director,</u> shared that Board Members received a hard copy of the 2024 State Health Report. Executive Director Davis commended Board staff Molly Dinardo, Hannah Haag, and Michelle Larson for their contributions to the writing and design of the report. The Board's Community Engagement team is spreading awareness of the finalized report to community partners.

Executive Director Davis asked the Board to keep their eyes out for upcoming recruitments and to share ideas for the Board's Legislative Statement.

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, shared compliments for the State Health Report.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Patty Hayes, Chair

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