



**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 10, 2022**

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christina Wagar, Nancy Churchill, Sally Baughman, Cheri Petersen, Kamori Cattadoris, Dr. Leslie Waters, Mary Selecky, Wes McCart, Dr. Artzis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katie Swain, Dr. Caleb Holtzer

NETCHD STAFF PRESENT: Jeanie Beegle, Sonja Moore, Jon Ness, Matt Schanz, Molly Corvino

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Matt Schanz called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF JUNE 08, 2022: Leslie Waters moved, and Christina Wagar seconded the motion to approve the minutes of July 13, 2022. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PHAB NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Sally Baughman stated Christina Wagar was nominated for Chair and Nancy Churchill was nominated for Vice Chair.

SELECTION OF PHAB CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR: Wes McCart called for a motion to approve Christina Wagar as Chair of the Public Health Advisory Board. None opposed. Motion carries.

PHAB Chair Christina Wagar asked if there are any additional nominations for Vice Chair.

Leslie Waters nominates Mary Selecky for Vice Chair.

Nancy stated she is an active member of numerous boards in the county and is familiar with running a meeting. She feels that Stevens County dominates the Health District and thinks it is important for Ferry County to have representation within the District. She said it is especially important for a non-medical/non-health care member of the public to be in a role of responsibility on the Board.

Mary Selecky stated that working with the Health District for the past 25 years, she understands how Ferry County can feel that the other two counties are the prime focus. In addition, she noted she serves on a number of boards and is no longer working in the health care field. She stated she would help in whatever capacity was the will of the group.

Wes McCart suggested that Matt Schanz call roll for votes for the Vice Chair position. The votes proceeded as follows:

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Votes for Nancy Churchill:

Sally Baughman, Nancy Churchill, Kamori Cattadoris

Votes for Mary Selecky:

Cheri Petersen, Christina Wagar, Dr. Leslie Waters

Mary abstained from voting.

With voting tied, Wes suggested that PHAB members put this item back on the agenda until next meeting when the remaining two members will be present for a re-vote.

COVID-19 IMPACT IN NORTHEAST WA: A Covid-19 dashboard has been created on the NETCHD website with county-specific data. Transmission by county is as follows:

Ferry County:

253 per 100,000, 42% vaccination rate, and 12% hospitalization.

Pend Oreille County:

116 per 100,000, 40% vaccination rate, and 12% hospitalization.

Stevens County:

170 per 100,000, 36% vaccination rate, and 12% hospitalization.

In contrast, the state of Washington has an overall transmission rate of approximately 98 per 100,00 and a vaccination rate of 69%. Hospitalizations remain the same at around 12%.

Dr Artzis stated the Covid-19 data is reflective of other vaccine-preventable diseases as well; our counties have the lowest vaccination rates in all of Washington.

Christina noted the Covid-19 data is not entirely accurate due to our communities utilizing at-home tests for Covid-19, which are not reported unless the positive individual voluntarily reports.

Molly stated NETCHD began offering home tests beginning in November of 2021; the state also began offering the tests through the Say Yes! To Covid Test program during this time. NETCHD's Care Connect program is still available to the community members as well; it provides groceries, rent and bill pay assistance, and more to support affected individuals throughout their isolation.

Matt stated the lack of reporting from home tests has led us to utilize more accurate data through wastewater systems to detect increases in viral load. We are seeing peak viral activity similar to that experienced in January 2022.

Leslie Waters stated she has personally calculated the death rates per county and statewide. She said there have been a total of 13,772 deaths in Washington which equates to a death rate of 183 per

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100,000 throughout the pandemic. Deaths in Stevens County occurred at a rate of 342 per 100,000, 392 per 100,000 in Ferry County, and 272 per 100,000 in Pend Oreille County.

Molly will send the Covid-19 slide deck to PHAB members and stated it is also available on the NETCHD Covid-19 dashboard, available for download.

Kamori asked for data reflecting excess deaths from Covid-19, as well as data reflecting vaccine injury from Covid-19 vaccination. Kamori stated other parts of the world have seen a 40% increase in excess deaths, which she feels is reflective of Covid-19 vaccine injury in relation to comorbidities.

Leslie asked to be sent the source Kamori cited on the 40% increase in excess deaths.

Nancy also requested data NETCHD compile data for the PHAB on vaccine-related injuries.

NETCHD COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS: Sonja Moore provided an overview of NETCHD's Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) survey results. Sonja noted libraries and emergency services were the highest categories of satisfaction amongst the community members. Issues identified as areas of concern were health care, law enforcement, housing, substance use, mental health, and jobs. Focus groups will begin in-person within each county in a few weeks; participants will provide input and feedback on the areas identified in the survey. The feedback and discussion provided during the focus groups will guide NETCHD in creating improvement plans for each county.

Christina Wagar said it might be helpful for PHAB members to see the last CHNA that NETCHD completed in 2018 to see what was done to address the issues, what may have changed versus stayed the same, etc.

Matt stated NETCHD is not always the agency that addresses issues identified in the CHNA. NETCHD works with other agencies such as Rural Resources to address issues outside of its scope.

Sally Baughman asked if the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) is used, and what other systems NETCHD is using to track and report vaccine-related injuries.

Molly stated NETCHD uses VAERS, Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), and the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project for reporting and surveillance purposes. Individuals who receive vaccine, as well as clinics, NETCHD, and other providers have the ability to report adverse events related to vaccines, and can do so in the VAERS system for surveillance purposes.

Matt Schanz stated this topic will be added to the agenda for discussion at the next PHAB meeting on September 14, 2022. NETCHD will gather reports from these reporting systems to share with the PHAB prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDS FOCUS AREAS: This agenda item will be moved to the next PHAB meeting due to time constraints.

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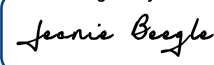
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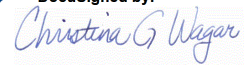
We noted the funding discussion will be an ongoing process; funding items for consideration need to be determined by September or October of this year.

Nancy requested any information that is to be presented or shared during the meeting be sent out to PHAB members prior to the meeting date so members have time to review.

Christina clarified that moving forward, any information to be presented/discussed will be provided along with the agenda, sent out on the Monday prior to each PHAB meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Christina Wagar adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am. The next meeting of the Public Health Advisory Board of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on September 14, 2022 by remote participation.

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By _____
Jeanie Beegle
Administration Office Manager

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Christina Wagar
Public Health Advisory Board Chair