

PH Study Session Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2022  
10:00 AM  
In-Person/Webex Meeting

**Attendees**

Brett Wachsmith, Cory Wright, Tristen Lamb, Chelsey Loeffers, Dr. Mark Larson, Erin Moore, Andrew Lyons, Heather Burfeind, Stephanie Hartung, Robin Read

**Department Business**

Director Tristen Lamb discussed the purpose of today's meeting and introduced the BOHAC members on the Special Purpose Committee (SPC) that was convened to interview and recommend a candidate for the Board of Health.

Heather Burfeind presented on behalf of the SPC the recommendation that James Donaldson be the new BOH member. He met the required criteria under ESSB 1152 for being an underrepresented part of the population. She elaborated that she appreciated his ability to understand health equities, has expertise in government administration and can contribute a unique perspective on mental health issues.

SPC member Andrew Lyons echoed Heather's recommendation and added that Mr. Donaldson is relatively new to the community but has been significantly engaged since moving to Ellensburg. He has a long history of service to whatever community he is a part of.

SPC member Robin Read added to the conversation about why she thought Mr. Donaldson was the best candidate. She echoed the reasons previously given.

Commissioner Wachsmith thanked the SPC for their time and thanked them for committing to interviewing many great candidates and asked a little bit about how the process worked.

Director Lamb discussed the process of interviewing candidates.

There was further discussion about Mr. Donaldson's criteria qualifications according to ESSB 1152.

There was discussion whether to appoint Mr. Donaldson at this meeting or wait until February 1, 2022 when the entire BOCC could be present to vote. Commissioner Wachsmith and Commissioner Cory Wright decided to postpone appointment for future meeting.

Director Tristen Lamb introduced the next agenda item and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Stephanie Hartung presented the ESSB 1152 Implementation MEMO.

DPA Hartung discussed discrepancies in the 1152 and how she recommended they be addressed. DPA suggested that we need to create a process in the local bylaws on how to hire and fire the Health Officer.

APPROVED  
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There was discussion about the different types of agencies that do public health work (health departments, single county health districts, and multicounty health districts) in the context of addressing the local issues with ESSB 1152.

There was discussion about how public health agencies are operating in other Washington counties. DPA Hartung Stephanie discussed the other options and details involved in each option.

Director Tristen Lamb supplemented DPA Hartung's presentation to help clarify some questions she anticipated the BOCC might have.

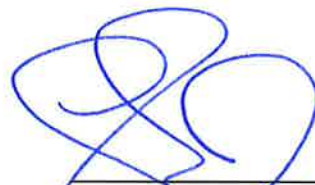
There were questions and discussion about the health department's, single county health districts, and multicounty health districts.

Dr. Mark Larson added to the discussion about how each of the different types of public health agencies interact with other county departments. He celebrated that no other county had as successful as a partnership with their other county departments in the last 2 years than KCPHD did.

There were questions and discussion about the financial structure of the different options.

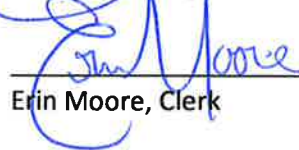
Commissioner Brett Wachsmith and Commissioner Cory Wright gave direction to staff to explore the different options. Commissioner Brett Wachsmith suggested we have participation from other groups, possibly the Health Network or BOHAC.

Meeting adjourned-10:52 am



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Laura Osiadacz, BOCC Chair



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Erin Moore, Clerk