

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on **Thursday, March 30, 2023** was called to order by Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair, at 12:52 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair  
Commissioner Josh Kerns, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Mary Kuney  
Commissioner Amber Waldref (*departed at 2:43 p.m.*)  
Board Member Christopher Patterson  
Board Member Alycia Policani, ND (*departed at 3:04 p.m.*)

**ABSENT**

Board Member Charlie Duranona

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Citizen input was received and entered into the record.

**BOARD REPORTS**

- The advertisement for the Administrative Officer position will be open until the end of April. The internal and external stakeholder meetings have been completed. The Board Chair and attorney will determine how best to share the feedback with Board members. When a pool of candidates has been established, the Board will determine the format for interviews.
- A copy of the draft Administrative Officer position description and the document identifying Board and SRHD roles and responsibilities will be shared with Board members.
- There was no report from the Board Executive Committee.
- The BOH Budget & Finance Committee reviewed the February vouchers and recommend approval.
- There was no report from the BOH Policy & Education Committee.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Consists of items considered routine, which are approved as a group. Any member of the Board may request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately.

Meeting Minutes: February 23, 2023

2023 Vouchers paid: February 1-28, 2023

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Voucher Numbers:	#261012 - #261218	\$ 2,311,407.95
Advice Numbers:	#DD75001 - #DD75250	\$1,150,168.76
Payroll Warrants:	#1139653 - #1139656	
Advice Numbers:	#DD75251 - #DD75498	\$1,044,562.64
Payroll Warrants:	#1140321 - #1140331	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,506,139.35</b>

**Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Kuney/Waldref

**Approved:** Unanimously

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board adjourned at 1:02 p.m. for 30 minutes for an executive session pursuant to RCW §42.30.110(1)(g) and RCW §42.30.110(1)(i). Legal counsel was asked to be present at the executive session. Board Member Policani was excused from the discussion associated with RCW §42.30.110(1)(g) due to a conflict of interest related to

her spouse being employed by SRHD. At 1:32 p.m., the BOH chair requested an extension of the executive session for an additional 20 minutes. At 1:52 p.m., the BOH Chair requested an extension of the executive session for an additional 15 minutes.

## **MEETING RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened at 2:07 p.m. No action was taken.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Resolution #23-01 Authorizing the SRHD to Enter into an Agreement with Sam Artzis, MD for Short-Term Back-Up Health Officer Services During Absences of the SRHD Health Officer – Kari Grytdal, SRHD Procurement & Contracts

**Motion:** To approve Resolution #23-01 as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Waldref/Policani

**Approved:** Unanimously

SRHD Board of Health Bylaws Update to Clarify Board Member Performance Expectations and Authority of SRHD Board of Health to Appoint SRHD Administrative Officer and Health Officer – Mayor Kevin Freeman, Board Chair

**Motion:** To approve the SRHD Board of Health bylaws update as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Kuney/Kerns

**Approved:** Unanimously

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Brandon Bannister, Government Affairs**

- Bills related to the 2023 BOH legislative agenda still active in the 2023 legislative session are: SB5022, SB5365, HB1004, SB5580, HB1006, SB5367, and HB 1255.
- Brandon Bannister attended the WSPHA and WSALPHO 2023 Legislative Education Day and met with Representatives Riccelli, Ormsby and Senator Billig.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT – Kim Kramarz, Controller**

- Agency revenues are at 14.7% and expenses are under \$4 million. Unassigned reserves are \$12.2 million, which is above the 20% agency goal.
- The 2022 financial report is being completed and shared with the Board next month. With the Board of Health structure change, the report must be shared with the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners. The State Auditor deadline for financial reports is due May 31.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Lola Phillips, Deputy Administrative Officer**

- Staff members Kyle Richardson, Tammy Meyers, Jackie Post, Amy Jennings, Eric Meyer, Julibeth Montiel, Marisol Najera, and Tristan Parker were recognized for their work at SRHD.
- National Public Health Week is April 3 – 9, 2023. SRHD will host a public health panel to discuss agency programs that actively assist the community. There will be NPHW proclamations from the City of Spokane and Spokane County, various recognition throughout the community and activities for SRHD staff.
- A WSALPHO local boards of health training is available May 2-4, 2023. The recording secretary will share training information with the Board after the meeting.

## **HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Francisco Velázquez, MD, SM, FCAP, Health Officer**

- The spring meeting with school superintendents focused on a broad range of topics. Meeting materials are available if Board members would like to review.
- COVID-19 is still present worldwide and is expected to decline but not expected to go away. Washington State masking requirements will be rescinded April 3. SRHD is meeting with local partners to discuss masking consistency in the community.

- SRHD is working with WSU and other community partners to test Spokane County wastewater for three months beginning in April to determine if there are significant advantages of testing for disease prevention.
- Fentanyl overdoses in Spokane County have been increased 186%. The highest risk group for overdose is 14-18 years of age. SRHD staff are working with local schools to address the situation.
- Over the last few months, there has been an increase in Fentanyl pills that contain Xylazine. Xylazine positive overdoses are not reversible with Narcan. SRHD is working with partners to test pills in the community.
- Currently, one in seven high school students vape in the U.S. There is a higher percentage of those who vape in Spokane County (30%) versus the U.S (20%).
- SRHD has worked to stock local schools with a supply of Epinephrine pens under the health officer license. Nurses are certified to use pens as part of their training.

**BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN**

There was no Board check-in.

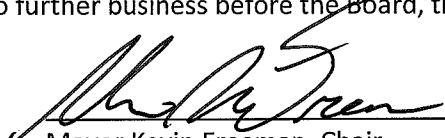
**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on April 27, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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 Mayor Kevin Freeman, Chair

Date: 4/27/2023



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 Ann Pitsnogle, Recording Secretary