

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, **December 3, 2020** virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic was called to order by Mayor Ben Wick, Chair, at 12:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Ben Wick, Chair  
Commissioner Mary Kuney, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Al French (*departed at 2:22 p.m.*)  
Commissioner Josh Kerns  
Council President Breean Beggs  
Councilmember Karen Stratton  
Councilmember Betsy Wilkerson  
Councilmember Linda Thompson  
Mayor Kevin Freeman  
Board Member Andrea Frostad (*departed 2:19 p.m.*)  
Board Member Jason Kinley, ND

**ABSENT**

Board Member Chuck Hafner

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Due to Governor Inslee’s March 24, 2020 proclamation prohibiting in-person meetings and limiting meetings to action items that are routine, necessary or in response to COVID-19 and the public health emergency, only written public comment was accepted. Written comment was sent to all Board of Health members and was entered into the record.

**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: October 29, 2020 and November 5, 2020  
Contract: QPA and Administration Renovation  
2020 Vouchers paid: October 1-31, 2020

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Voucher Numbers: #254776 - #255056	\$ 1,242,321.03
Payroll Warrants: #1090860- #1090861	
Advice Numbers: #DD59841 - #DD60128	\$1,025,389.06
Payroll Warrants: #1091966- #1091967 1092414-1092424	
Advice Numbers: #DD60129 - #DD60414	\$1,003,992.23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,271,702.32</b>

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

**Motion/Second:** *Thompson/Wilkerson*

**Approved:** *Unanimously*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board adjourned at 12:35 p.m. for 15 minutes for an executive session pursuant to RCW §42.30.110(1)(g) and RCW §42.30.110(1)(i). At 12:50 p.m., the BOH chair requested an extension of the executive session for an additional 15 minutes. At 1:06 p.m., the BOH Chair requested an extension of the executive session for an additional 5 minutes.

## MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 1:11 p.m.

## ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of a SRHD Interim Health Officer – Mayor Ben Wick, Board of Health Chair

**Motion:** To appoint Dr. Francisco Velázquez as interim health officer until a replacement is found.

**Motion/Second:** Stratton/Thompson

**Approved:** Unanimously

Resolution #20-15 Authorizing a 2020 General Fund Budget Amendment – Amelia Clark, SRHD Administrative Officer

**Motion:** To approve Resolution #20-15 as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Freeman/Kinley

**Approved:** Unanimously

Resolution #20-16 Adopting a Board of Health Legislative Agenda for the 2021 State of Washington Legislative Session – Amelia Clark, SRHD Administrative Officer

**Motion:** To approve Resolution #20-16 as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Wilkerson/Thompson

**Approved:** Unanimously

Resolution #20-17 Approval to Sign a MOA Covering 2021 and 2022 COLA and 2021 Benefits for Employees of SRHD who are Members of the Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 (PROTEC17) – Amelia Clark, SRHD Administrative Officer

**Motion:** To approve Resolution #20-17 as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Kuney/Thompson

**Approved:** Unanimously

Resolution #20-18 Approval to Provide Matching Benefits to All SRHD Non-Union Employees as Provided to Members of the PROTEC17 Covering 2021 and 2022 COLA and 2021 Benefits – Amelia Clark, SRHD Administrative Officer

**Motion:** To approve Resolution #20-18 as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Kuney/Thompson

**Approved:** Unanimously

Resolution #20-19 Adoption of a Labor Contract for Employees of SRHD who are Members of WSNA Union for the Period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022 – Amelia Clark, SRHD Administrative Officer

**Motion:** To approve Resolution #20-19 as presented.

**Motion/Second:** Thompson/Kuney

**Approved:** Unanimously

Election of 2021 SRHD Board of Health Chair – Mayor Ben Wick, SRHD BOH Chair

**Motion:** To nominate Commissioner Kuney as the 2021 SRHD Board of Health Chair.

**Motion/Second:** Kerns/Wilkerson

**Approved:** Unanimously

Election of 2021 SRHD Board of Health Vice Chair – Mayor Ben Wick, SRHD BOH Chair

**Motion:** To nominate Mayor Freeman as 2021 SRHD Board of Health Vice Chair.

**Motion/Second:** Kuney/Thompson

**Approved:** Unanimously

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – *Amelia Clark, Administrative Officer*

- On November 21, State of Washington launched a medication and education disposal project (MedProject). The project provides a way for residents to dispose of unwanted or unused medication conveniently. The Health District will be a drop off site for medications with the Treatment Services program overseeing the project.
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for recruitment services for the health officer was posted yesterday. RFP submittals are due December 18. The BOH will consider the proposal from the recommended recruitment firm. The recruitment plan and selection committee membership will be presented to the Board of Health Executive Committee (ECBOH) in January.
- Five regular positions and one project position were eliminated in the 2021 budget. Staff can use the comparable vacancy process to apply for other positions in the district.
- Four Neighborhoods Matter positions were consolidated into two. The agency was unable to retain the positions due to local funding need.
- The Walk, Bike, Bus and Safe Routes to School programs will be reported later due to notification of a new funding source.
- The Active Falls position has been inactive since May and therefore eliminated.
- The Treatment Services program will oversee the Opioid Task Force. Funds generated by the program plus the small grant received covers the project.
- The Suicide Task Force does not have funding to support the program. It has been combined with the Fail Safe for Life program in the community. SRHD will participate in the program.
- The African American Health project was only funded as a two-year project (2019-2020). If funding becomes available, the project will be reconsidered. Councilmember Wilkerson will meet with SRHD about continuing the work of the program.

## **COVID-19 RESPONSE REPORT** – *Lyndia Wilson, Preventive Public Health Director*

- Spokane County is averaging 350 COVID-19 cases each day with most in the 20–60-year-old age groups. Currently, there are no racial groups showing higher infection rates than others.
- Weekly risk assessments are completed at the Health District and My Place. The City of Spokane performs the risk assessments for Immaculate Heart Center. There have been no safety concerns at any of the facilities. There are 40 clients in isolation between My Place and Immaculate Heart.
- Behavioral health trainings have been offered to Health District staff.
- The Health District is working with shelters to increase hand washing, social distancing and wearing masks.
- The WA Notify app is available on the SRHD website. Much of staff time has been spent implementing the information.
- The Equity Task Force is providing outreach to identified groups with vaccine hesitancy.
- SRHD has 3,000 care kits that will be given to community partners.
- There have been 15 new outbreaks in long-term care and congregate care facilities. The surveillance dashboard will be updated daily during the surge.
- A testing plan for the jail system intakes is being developed. SRHD and jail medical systems are working on a surveillance plan for the jails.
- SRHD is updating its guidance to match the revised quarantine guidance from the CDC.
- Care coordination is transitioning to Better Health Together who has received a grant from the Department of Health (DOH) to provide coordination in the five-county region.
- HIV/AIDS medical case management staff are assisting with mobile testing in the shelters.
- SRHD is supporting CHAS who is opening a testing site at the arena on December 6. Testing resources are available on the SRHD website.
- Business technical advisors have helped 3,500 business.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Dr. Francisco Velázquez, Interim Health Officer**

- There has not been a significant outbreak of influenza this year. Flu vaccination rates are lower this year than last.
- Antigen testing, which provides immediate access to results, has been selectively used in the shelters. With 365 tests given, there have been 40 positive cases that were able to have immediate isolation/quarantine. There are plans to use this testing more in the future.
- There is literature that shows tested measurable COVID-19 immunity up to six months, which is longer than first thought. Vaccination will be an important tool until it is confirmed how long immunity will last.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – Amelia Clark, Administrative Officer**

- The agency budget is at 83% of its expenses and is expected to be on target.
- Through November 16, SRHD has spent over \$6 million of the CARES funding. The agency expects to spend all \$8 million of funding in 2020.
- WSALPHO has been provided with SRHD’s 2021 pandemic response funding projections. The Administrative Officer will ask the Board to consider authorization to use additional emergency funding if no other funding is received by January or February. The pandemic response expenses are projected to be between \$11-14 million in 2021.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

No report.

**BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN**

- The BOH Chair, Mayor Wick, was thanked for his service this year especially with difficulties due to the pandemic. *(Commissioner Kuney)*
- Margaret Shield, King County Health District, who started the medicine takeback coalition, was recognized for her efforts that started ten years ago. SRHD staff were thanked for the work they are performing. *(Councilmember Thompson)*
- SRHD staff and Board members were thanked for their service. *(Commissioner Kerns)*
- Board members were thanked for their work. *(Board Member Kinley)*
- SRHD staff and the Board Chair were thanked for their service. *(Councilmember Stratton)*
- Council President Beggs shared his appreciation of SRHD staff and the leadership of the Board Chair. *(Council President Beggs)*
- Councilmember Wilkerson shared her appreciation for the level of community engagement and looks forward to reviewing the financial documents from Mayor Freeman. *(Councilmember Wilkerson)*
- Board members and the Administrative Officer were thanked for their service during a difficult year. Cathy McMorris Rodgers was congratulated in her new role as the lead Republican on a major committee. *(Mayor Wick)*

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on January 28, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

APPROVED:   
Mary L. Kuney (Feb 1, 2021 14:50 PST)  
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Commissioner Mary Kuney, Board Chair

Date: Feb 1, 2021

  
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Ann Pitsnogle, Recording Secretary






# MinutesBOH20201203

Final Audit Report

2021-02-01

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2021-02-01 - 9:27:29 PM GMT
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