



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AS THE HEALTH BOARD

10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 6, 2018
Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue

A G E N D A

<u>Meeting Topics</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. Public Session	no ppr	10:30 - 10:40
2. Director/Health Officer Report	no ppr	10:40 - 11:00
3. Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) Update	1 - 2	11:00 - 11:15
• PHAB Role		
• Joint Learning Session Proposal		
4. Healthy Planning Resolution Update	3 - 10	11:15 - 11:30
5. Generations Forward Work and Future Policy Opportunities	11 - 13	11:30 - noon

BYLAWS
of the
WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Article I. Public Health Advisory Board.

1.1 Creation, purpose, and powers.

The purpose of the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) is as follows:

- A. To advise the Health Department on all issues related to public health programs including:
 - 1. Matters within its jurisdiction.
 - 2. Policies and procedures for enforcement of public health functions.
 - 3. Policies and procedures for enforcement of public health regulations.
 - 4. Review budget, consider its policy implications, and make a report to the Health Board for its review before or during budget deliberations.

- B. To advise the Health Board regarding:
 - 1. Matters within its jurisdiction.
 - 2. Policies and procedures for enforcement of public health functions.
 - 3. Policies and procedures for enforcement of public health regulations.
 - 4. Health Department annual proposed budget and policy implications.

- C. To serve as a community forum for the consideration of issues relating to the Health Department.

1.2 Number, Tenure, and Qualification.

The PHAB shall consist of nine members who are residents of Whatcom County. Eight members shall be appointed by the Executive, subject to confirmation by a majority of the County Council and one member shall be appointed by the County Council. The term of office for the members appointed by the Executive shall be four years. The term of office for the member appointed by the County Council shall be for one year, from the time of the Council's reorganization meeting in January to the next such meeting the following year. The PHAB shall be broadly representative of the demographic character of the County and consist of persons who are representative of consumers and professionals in the various public health programs under public health

Reviewed and approved 2/10/2010

1.2 Number, Tenure, and Qualification.(Continued)

jurisdiction. However, the advisory board's composition shall also be comprised of the following areas of expertise/experience:

- (1) Health Board
- (1) Natural Science
- (1) Physician
- (1) Business/Industry
- (1) Tribal member or a representative from an ethnic minority.
- (1) Education
- (2) Members from, but not limited to the following: Administration/Fiscal, Nursing, or Hospital affiliation.
- (1) Citizen-at-large

1.3 Regular Meetings.

The PHAB shall meet monthly with the department and annually with the Health Board at such time and place as the PHAB shall select. The PHAB shall provide for additional regular meetings by motion.

1.4 Special Meetings.

Any three members may call special meetings of the PHAB.

1.5 Quorum.

Five members shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum is required, for the transaction of business.

1.6 Voting.

The PHAB requires a simple majority of those present for approval.

1.7 Public Hearings.

- A. All meetings of the PHAB, unless conducted in executive session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.110), are public meetings; not all are public hearings. Recognizing that the PHAB has a limited time to conduct its business, the Chairperson may restrict public comment at a PHAB meeting to an "open session" time, or may restrict public comment within such limits as seems appropriate. Comments and questions made by the public shall be addressed to the Chairperson.
- B. Public hearings conducted by the PHAB under authority of the Health Board shall be publicized as if such hearings were conducted directly by the Health Board.

1.8 Vacancies.

Any vacancy occurring on the PHAB shall be filled by the same procedure as the original appointment of the

Reviewed and approved 2/10/2010



HEALTH BOARD Discussion Form

March 6, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 2: Healthy Planning Progress Update

PRESENTER: Astrid Newell/Chris Elder, County Planning

BOARD ACTION:	Action Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	FYI - Only
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SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2015, the Whatcom County Health Board adopted the Healthy Planning Resolution wherein the board resolved that *“it shall be the policy of Whatcom County to apply a “Healthy Planning” approach to Whatcom County’s community planning processes and decision-making, including but not limited to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.”*

The resolution also establishes that *(Public Health Advisory Board) “PHAB working with Whatcom County Health Department (WCHD) and other city and county departments will identify and recommend tools, processes and opportunities to integrate a health perspective in community planning processes and decision-making”, and that the “Health Board will review this policy on an annual basis”.* The last review was done in late 2016.

Subsequent to the Healthy Planning resolution, the Council adopted many of the health recommendations put forth by WCHD in collaboration with PHAB and community partners in the August 2016 Comprehensive Plan update . The Council also adopted a new section 7-L of the Economics Chapter (attached) focused on the local food system, with a goal to strengthen the local food system and take steps to improve conditions for a healthy, resilient, and prosperous economy. Within this section, the approved language includes Policy 7L-8: *Support establishment of community-wide food system development plans.* Over the past year, WCHD staff and other members of the Whatcom Food Network (WFN) have been participating in discussions about the development of a Whatcom Food System Plan (see draft plan outline). Representatives from the WFN Food System Plan Workgroup will discuss the steps taken to date and request endorsement and support from the Health Board to advance this effort.

Additional opportunities to advance a Healthy Planning approach will be forthcoming with the hiring of a new WCHD Healthy Communities Program Specialist within the next 1-2 months.

BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED

- Health Board endorsement and recommendations for advancing Whatcom Food System Plan development
- Input on other areas of Health Board interest in relation to Healthy Planning Resolution

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Healthy Planning Resolution (October 2015)
- Comprehensive Plan Economics Chapter, Section 7-L (August 2016)
- Draft Food System Plan Outline, Whatcom Food Network



RESOLUTION NO. 2015-038

COMMITTING WHATCOM COUNTY TO ADOPT A “HEALTHY PLANNING” APPROACH

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the residents of Whatcom County are critical for a prosperous and sustainable Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, health starts—long before illness—in our families, neighborhoods, schools, and jobs; and

WHEREAS, there is growing awareness that health is influenced by the interaction of many factors, and not simply by genetics, individual behavior, or access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, it is now widely accepted that health is also determined by social and economic factors and opportunities including the availability of resources and supports in homes, neighborhoods, and communities-at-large; and

WHEREAS, all people in Whatcom County should have the opportunities to make the choices that allow them to live long, healthy, and productive lives regardless of their income, education, or ethnic background; and

WHEREAS, data show that people living in poverty, or who have limited education, or who live in isolated areas in Whatcom County, or who experience racial or ethnic discrimination or other social stresses are more likely to report poor health status and have lower life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, data also show that people who have greater access to economic resources, social supports, and healthy community amenities such as quality affordable housing, safe places to walk, bike, play, and connect, and places to get affordable healthy foods for their families are more likely to experience good health status; and

WHEREAS, plans and policies implemented by Whatcom County outside of the traditional health sector significantly affect access to health opportunities; and

WHEREAS, these plans and policies include those related to land use, food access, housing, transportation, public safety, education, parks and recreation, water and air quality, criminal justice, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, increasing health opportunities can lead to improved health, reduced health disparities, reduced health care costs, and reduced criminal justice costs; and

WHEREAS, a “Healthy Planning” approach involves inclusion of health criteria in the development and adoption of community plans and policies; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a "Healthy Planning" approach, Whatcom County demonstrates its commitment to address health as a community priority and increase health opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Health Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity to the Health Board and to the Whatcom County Health Department; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of Whatcom County to apply a "Healthy Planning" approach to Whatcom County's community planning processes and decision-making, including but not limited to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Public Health Advisory Board, working with the Whatcom County Health Department and other city and county departments, will identify and recommend tools, processes, and opportunities to integrate a health perspective in community planning processes and decision-making; and

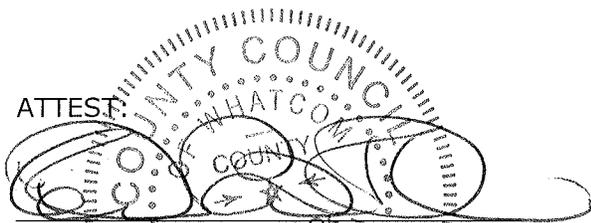
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that topics of consideration in community planning may include, but are not limited to, access to health care services; affordable, safe, and healthy housing; active living and transportation; access to healthy food; clean air, water, and soil; parks, recreation, and green spaces; economic opportunity; safety and violence prevention; and support for children, families, and other vulnerable populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Health Advisory Board will make initial recommendations to the Health Board regarding a "Healthy Planning" approach on or before January 31, 2016; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Health Board will review this policy on an annual basis to evaluate progress.

APPROVED this 6th day of October 2015.

ATTEST:



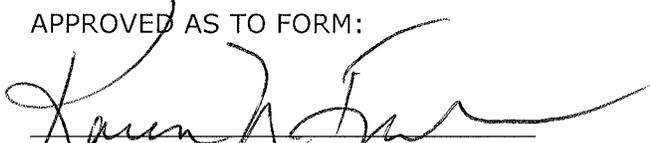
Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Board

WHATCOM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Carl Weimer, Health Board Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Karen Frakes, Civil Deputy Prosecutor

- that does not disrupt the Guide's regional transportation function.
- Policy 7K-4: Encourage resource and tourism based recreational, commercial, and cottage industry uses to create economic opportunity in the rural areas of the county.
- Policy 7K-5: Support the implementation of land use concepts as defined in Chapter Two by seeking grants to provide technical support and complete necessary programmatic environmental analysis to facilitate reduced time frames and duplication in the SEPA process.
- Policy 7K-6: Support long-term employment efforts in the unincorporated areas of the county, such as those stated in the Point Roberts, Birch Bay, and east County Economic Development Plans and Subarea Plans.
- Policy 7K-7: Support agriculture, agricultural processing, and manufacturing as a high priority in future allocations of water rights.
- Policy 7K-8: Within urban growth areas, balance areas planned for housing and jobs to potentially shorten commute times.
- Policy 7K-9: Recognize high speed Internet and cellular coverage is essential for all regions of our economy to succeed.
- Policy 7K-10: Encourage, and if necessary provide incentives, for high speed Internet and cellular infrastructure to be deployed in areas of the County such as the Columbia Valley.

Local Food System

Whatcom County is home to a robust agricultural production industry, marine harvest industry, as well as an associated local consumption industry. To maintain and advance the quality and quantity of food produced in Whatcom County, consideration must be given to interconnected sectors which support a thriving food system, including land, water, fishing, farming, labor, processing, transportation, consumption, aquaculture and waste. A vibrant local food system is a community asset to be protected, strengthened, planned for and celebrated.

Goal 7L: Strengthen the local food system and take steps to improve conditions for a healthy, resilient, and prosperous food economy.

- Policy 7L-1: Encourage government, institutions, and local businesses to purchase food produced within Whatcom County when available.
- Policy 7L-2: Encourage local farmers and producers to sell their products to local markets.
- Policy 7L-3: Support development plans and zoning changes that increase access to healthy and locally grown food products.

- Policy 7L-4: Support food outlets such as grocery stores, convenience stores, and local food markets that provide fresh, healthy foods, especially in underserved areas.
- Policy 7L-5: Support efforts and/or organizations seeking to achieve economic diversity within the food system such as:
- Niche markets for local agricultural products;
 - Technical assistance or educational programs.
 - Farmer’s markets;
 - Value-added or innovative agricultural products or services;
 - Farm-to-school and farm-to-institution;
 - Agricultural diversity;
 - Food access and affordability; and
 - Community gardens, education, and information dissemination.
- Policy 7L-6: Support efforts to protect water quality and quantity, soil health, and best management practices as related to the food system.
- Policy 7L-7: Encourage communication and collaboration across and within all sectors of the food system and support efforts/organizations working to build common understanding and to facilitate better collaborative effort toward an equitable, sustainable, and healthy food system for all.
- Policy 7L-8: Support establishment of communitywide food system development plans.
- Policy 7L-9: Support healthy and safe working conditions as well as healthy and safe living conditions for farmworkers.
- Policy 7L-10: Support organizations that provide technical assistance, educational programs, and general support to people and businesses within the local food system.
- Policy 7L:-11: Consider food waste systems that reduce food waste and capture food waste nutrients.



Food System Plan Proposal

Why a food system plan?

A vibrant local food system is a community asset to be protected, strengthened, planned for and celebrated. Whatcom County is home to a robust agricultural production industry, marine harvest industry, and an associated local consumption industry.

To maintain and advance the economic, social, and environmental health of our food system consideration must be given to its interconnected sectors; including land, water, fishing, farming, labor, processing, transportation, consumption, aquaculture and waste. Currently, food plans are being created for cities and counties all over the state. In 2010 former Governor Christine Gregoire issued Executive Order 10-02, directing state agencies to examine state food policy, food-related programs, and food-related issues. This Order recommended formation of a roundtable like group to develop a 25-year vision for the state's food system. An initial roundtable was convened and created a draft food system plan for the state. A second effort entitled the Washington State Food Policy Forum is currently underway and will be making regular updates to the State Legislature.

This, along with the new food system section added to the Economics Chapter of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, makes it the perfect time for Whatcom to develop its own food system plan in order to support and foster a vibrant local food system locally.

What would a food system plan accomplish?

Currently:

- An estimated 30,000 individuals in Whatcom County experience food insecurity
- Market pressures make it increasingly difficult for farmers and food system workers to earn a living wage
- 61% of Washington adults are either obese or overweight due in part to the type of food consumed
- Farmland has decreased by roughly 1.02 million acres in WA since 1950

A robust Whatcom food system plan would be instrumental in addressing the root causes of these challenges and others, as well as:

- Identifying and ensuring stewardship of a long term food system vision for Whatcom County
- Serving as a key resource with action items for food system issues
- Addressing deficiencies in the food system
- Facilitating effective collaboration, problem solving, and shared learning across all food system and community stakeholders

What could a food system plan look like?

We propose that the Whatcom County food system plan take advantage of the considerable amount of work that has already been done and pattern it after the State plan. This would align Whatcom County with the larger statewide effort and streamline plan creation.

The four key action areas, outlined in the State plan, and for a Whatcom Food System Plan could be:

1) **Healthy People:** where everyone has access to nutritious local food and hunger is eliminated. Where all farmers, workers, and consumers are fully supported in addressing health impacts across the food system.

2) **Strong Local Economies:** where our food system maintains and strengthens local economic development. It supports diversity in size and scale and builds the economic viability of local food systems. Our farmers and food system workers earn a living wage.

3) **Environmental Sustainability:** where our land, soil, air, water and biodiversity are conserved, protected and restored. We address challenges such as climate change and limited water supply while maintaining our commitment to thriving local businesses.

4) **Valued Workforce:** where all farmers, workers and consumers are treated with fairness and respect. A diversity of cultures is appreciated and supported.

Within each of these key action areas the plan would address:

- Key area challenges & opportunities
- Current programs in place
- Food system goals & strategies to achieve goals
- Action items for the next 3 years for the variety of sectors within each action area

What are the next steps and how do I get involved?

To keep the conversation and momentum moving forward the Whatcom Food Network is currently looking for others interested in participating and is actively seeking feedback from stakeholders. We would greatly appreciate your feedback and participation.

To provide written feedback, or be added to the Whatcom Food Network Listserv (where we will keep everyone apprised) please email WhatcomCommunityFoodNetwork@gmail.com.

Process:





HEALTH BOARD Discussion Form

March 6, 2018

AGENDA ITEM #5: Focus on Young Children and Families: Generations Forward Initiative

PRESENTER: Astrid Newell/Rachel Lucy

BOARD ACTION: Action Item Discussion FYI - Only

SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout 2017, the Public Health Advisory Board in collaboration with Health Department staff embraced the Health Board's 2017 focus on young children and families. Areas of progress included: adding staffing capacity in the evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership Program at the Health Department, enhancing visibility of the County's family-friendly workplace policies through an updated Human Resources website, piloting a successful Infant at Work policy at the Health Department, revising the County's Behavioral Health Revenue ordinance to include a policy goal focused on early intervention with young children and families, enhancing the ability of military veterans to obtain support with child care costs so they can pursue career training, and participation in the launching of a collective action initiative called *Generations Forward*.

In October 2017, the Health Department and Opportunity Council, with funding support from Whatcom Community Foundation and Chuckanut Health Foundation, co-sponsored the 3-day *Generations Forward* Future Search Conference focusing on young children and families in Whatcom County. The event included 74 stakeholders from 8 stakeholder groups, including over 20 parents/caregivers. Since that time, the *Generations Forward* initiative has continued to grow and evolve, with an estimated 100 people attending the follow-up meeting in December and many individuals participating in one of the nine action teams that emerged from the conference.

Key areas for policy and system change have emerged from the *Generations Forward* initiative, including:

- Establish reliable public/private funding mechanisms that will allow the community to expand programs and services for young children and families.
- Focused efforts to remove family economic barriers that prevent upward mobility and stability, including ensuring gradual transition off benefits when eligibility ends, increasing access to affordable family housing throughout the county, and expanding access to quality affordable child care.

BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED

- Continue annual focus on Young Children and Families in 2018.
- Designate a Health Board member to serve as a liaison to the *Generations Forward* initiative.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- *Generations Forward* Report



Generations Forward:

Envisioning a Future Where All Whatcom County Children Thrive

Future Search Conference

October 10-12, 2017

Sponsored by the Opportunity Council and Whatcom County Health Department with funding support from Whatcom Community Foundation and Chuckanut Health Foundation

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the conference was to envision the best possible future to support the optimal health and well-being of young children and their families in Whatcom County. The conference brought together a diverse group of individuals committed to young children and their families for 3 days to discover the values, purposes, and projects they hold in common.

Conference participants included 74 community stakeholders (20+ parents), 2 facilitators and 2 support staff. The meeting was held at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal.

How it Came to Be

The Opportunity Council and Whatcom County Health Department convened a conference planning committee formed with stakeholders representing parents, educators, social services, the medical community, and community-based organizations. The committee met over a six month period to plan the conference and ensure a diverse group of participants from nine sectors including: Parents and Caregivers, Early Learning, K-12 Schools, Behavioral Health and Safety Supports, Health Care, Private Sector and Funders, Policy and Government, Family Support and Basic Needs. Community funders and sponsors provided resources to support conference facilitation, food, facility, parent stipends and child care vouchers.

The Future Search Process

A Future Search Conference is a task-focused planning effort. The process relies on the knowledge and experience of the individuals who have daily involvement in, can influence, or are affected by the conference topic, rather than "outside experts". The process focuses participants on identifying future aspirations and determining what they are ready and willing to do individually and collectively. By the end of the event, participants develop a set of strategic goals and actions they can begin to implement to work toward their shared vision.

"The well-being of our children is a barometer for the future. In one short generation, they will be the parents, workers, volunteers, leaders, and change-makers determining the social and economic vitality of Washington State. If we want a better future for all of us, we need better results for kids now."

State of Washington's Kids 2016

Over the last decade, there has been a growing awareness of the importance of early childhood. In Whatcom County, community leaders have prioritized a focus on young children and families as part of the Whatcom County Community Health Improvement process, recognizing that investing in our youngest children from the start is the most effective approach to improve health, reduce disparities, and advance health equity. Organizations, community leaders and individuals in Whatcom County have heard the call to action to invest in young children and have responded.

In October 2017, the Whatcom County Health Department released a data report of key child, family, and community indicators to provide a backdrop to the Generations Forward conference. The full report can be found on the [Whatcom County Health Department website](#). Here is a sample of the indicators found in the report:

- **Life expectancy at birth** varies considerably by local census track.
- Nearly 44% of Whatcom County families with children under 5 lived **below 200% of the federal poverty level** in 2014.
- 30% of the 2015 births in Whatcom County were to **single mothers**. Differences between dual-income and single-income families contribute significantly to the growth in income inequality.
- Young children under age 5 are more **racially and ethnically diverse** than the population of Whatcom County as a whole.
- Whatcom County lower-income kindergartners are less likely to demonstrate **social-emotional readiness** than their peers.
- The rate of **child abuse and neglect** has been consistently higher in Whatcom County than in Washington State for at least 10 years.
- Whatcom County is considered a **child care desert**, with child care slots available for only 4 out of 10 children.
- More than 56.6% of renters in Whatcom County spend more than 30% of their **income on housing** vs. 28.8% of owner-occupied households.

