



Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

MEETING MINUTES ~ November 10, 2021

5:30 p.m. – Teams Meeting

Attendance

Commissioners present: Kati Ward-Hamer, Chair, Donna Mears, Vice Chair, Dr. Jocasta Olp, Matthew Thomas, Gabe Garcia, Stephanie Berglund

Commissioners absent: Shawn Degler (E), Sarah Slater (E), Gerry York (E)

Guest: Carla Patterson, Brooke Postl

Staff: Judy Atkins, Administrative Support, Robert McNeily, PIO

Call to Order

Chair Ward-Hamer called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. with a quorum.

Roll Call

Chair called for those present to introduce themselves and welcomed two Anchorage community members.

Comments from the Chair

Chair advised that the Mayor's Office asked for postponement of the meeting as the Director was unavailable and incoming commissioners were appointed the evening before. Chair called for a motion to continue the meeting, holding off on the voting of the resolutions. Move to approve by Vice Chair Mears, seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Following a verbal vote, **motion unanimously passed**. The meeting will move forward per the norm with items on the agenda. A discussion about setting up an additional meeting soon to allow participation from staff and new commission members will be held.

Approval of Agenda

Chair called for approval of the agenda as presented. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Mears, seconded by Commissioner Garcia. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

Chair called for approval of the September 8, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Mears, seconded by Commissioner Berglund. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Public Comment

Chair opened the floor to members of the community.

Carla Patterson, retired RN, shared that she is a homebound disabled person and is concerned about boosters for the homebound as she has been unable to secure one. She has been told to arrange a ride to get a booster however due to her disability, that is not feasible. She is also concerned that staffing shortages have forced the discontinuation of a valuable program for the vulnerable populations. Ms. Atkins will work with AHD staff to address her issue and identify a solution.

Brooke Postl, thanked us for allowing her to attend the commission meeting. She is doing graduate work and attending the meeting was part of her curriculum.

AHD Staff Report

Commission Membership Update

Old Business

Resolution supporting Public Health – Vice Chair Mears provided an updated draft for a resolution to bring recognition of the importance of public health and the benefits to all of us. The review of the resolution resulted in suggested verbiage changes and the question of whether to include enumeration of budget items was presented. Commissioner Berglund offered her concerns about how the intents of the Alcohol Sales Tax have changed with the distribution veering more towards homelessness than concerns about children and domestic violence. Our resolution supports the intent of the Alcohol Sales Tax. After further discussion, this conversation was tabled until the next meeting.

Resolution: Racism as a health factor – Commissioner Garcia presented the latest draft of the resolution: Referendum to Declare Racism as a Public Health Issue in the Municipality. The resolution contains statements address racism and how it has impacted communities of color, most notably, Alaska Native people. Additional statements were added; discussion was held on a ‘call to action’ for the Municipality and it was agreed to leave it broad.

Commissioner Garcia moved that both resolutions be presented for approval at the next meeting; seconded by Vice Chair Mears. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Following discussion and checking of calendars, the commission agreed to meet on Monday, November 15, 2021, from 5:30-7:00 via Microsoft Teams to facilitate moving forward on the resolutions. Ms. Atkins will submit public notice at the earliest convenience and send out notification to the Commission.

New Business

Commissioner Comments

Next Meeting

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Thomas; seconded by Commissioner Garcia. **Hearing no objections the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm;** the next meeting will be held Monday, November 15, 2021, Teams Meeting from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.