



Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

MEETING MINUTES ~ July 14, 2021

5:30 p.m. – Teams Meeting

Attendance

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

Commissioners absent: Laura Hudson (E), Teresa Bormann (E)

Guest: Clifford Armstrong, Chief Equity Officer; Kathleen Ainsley

Staff: David Morgan, Director; Judy Atkins, Administrative Support

Call to Order

Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. with a quorum

Introductions

Chair called for those present to introduce themselves and welcomed David Morgan to the meeting as incoming AHD Director of the Health Department.

Approval of Agenda

Chair called for approval of the Agenda as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ward-Hamer, seconded by Commissioner Thomas. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

Chair called for approval of the January 13, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ward-Hamer, seconded by Commissioner Thomas. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Public Comment

AHD Staff Report – David Morgan

- The Anchorage Health Department has six items on the upcoming Assembly Agenda; a large number of contracts supporting COVID vaccinations and testing. Mr. Morgan commented that AHD has really stepped up to provide testing, vaccines and public health activities, working with different organizations and pharmacies. The age group of concern now are individuals under 30 and children. There are fifty cases of delta variant COVID in Alaska and numbers are doubling every week. The delta variant has been found

in both vaccinated and non-vaccinated with one death occurring. Anchorage is approaching 58% inoculated population.

- The Assembly recently approved seven state pass through grants.
- There has been a huge onslaught in cases with behavioral health, drug and alcohol issues. Economic costs are high at this time, STD numbers are up from a year ago, the RHC team is busy.
- The CDC is considering providing vaccinations to children under the age of 12 in emergency situations.
- Questions were asked about state and city percentages as related to COVID and was assured that a report would be forwarded to the commissioners with the information in question.
- The Emergency Operations Center has been stood down for the most part with the exception of some infrastructure. Despite a decrease in vaccines, the clinics will remain open. Vaccine inventory will be monitored, day by day, so that no vaccines are wasted.
- Mr. Morgan said that reminders to get their children vaccinated before school starts are important. He is urging the municipal administration to support the vaccine also.
- Commissioner Berglund commented on the Municipality's paid parental leave policy for full-time eligible executive and non-represented employees who have been approved for FMLA leave for a qualifying life event, such as the birth of a child or children. It was asked if the Health Commission should work on a resolution supporting this policy, making it a model for other businesses as well.

Old Business

Elections - Commissioner Mears nominated Commissioner Kati Ward-Hamer for Chair, seconded by Commissioner Garcia; Commissioner Ward-Hamer accepted the nomination. A unanimous vote in the affirmative has elected Ms. Ward-Hamer to Chair. As there were no nominations for Vice Chair, Commissioner Mears has volunteered to fill that position temporarily.

Resolution supporting public health – Chair Mears has started working on a resolution to bring recognition of the importance of public health and the benefits to all of us. The resolution will be shared upon completion. Commissioner Ward-Hamer indicated it would be a topic on the September agenda.

New Business

Commissioner Comments

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 8, 2021, Teams Meeting from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.