

SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22-16

RESOLUTION SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES BEING CONSOLIDATED WITHIN SNOHOMISH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the Snohomish Health District (District) was incorporated in 1959 as an independent special purpose district responsible for public health in Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, since its formation, the District and Snohomish County (County) have worked together in a collaborative manner to address public health issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the District, working in collaboration with the County and other partners, responded to hundreds of H1N1 cases and ultimately vaccinated over 26,000 people; and

WHEREAS, during the State Route 530 landslide event in 2014, District staff worked with the County to provide support to the medical examiner's office, assess environmental health concerns such as water contamination, and ensure responder safety, hygiene, and decontamination; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the District participated in a collaborative effort with representatives of the County Executive's Office, County Council, and Sheriff's Office to address the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2020, the District quickly activated unified incident command in collaboration with the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) upon notification of the first confirmed COVID-19 case in the United States; and

WHEREAS, through Unified Command, the District and DEM established protocols for isolation and quarantine, coordinated advanced planning for personal protective equipment distribution, medical-surge operations, and community-care coordination; and

WHEREAS, the District, working in close and continuous collaboration with the Snohomish County Vaccine Task Force, planned, executed, and maintained no less than seven mass-vaccination sites, coordinated dozens of mobile vaccination clinics focused on residents adversely impacted by COVID-19 due to various racial, ethnic, transportation, mobility, and technological factors. This effort ultimately resulted in more than 1,000,000 doses being administered; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 20-17 reaffirms the Board of Health's commitment to ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in public health through actions in the areas of community engagement, policy, responsible budgeting, and equity-focused staff and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, by working together as one, the County and public health professionals have increased opportunities to:

- Obtain resources to address the effects of climate change, water quality, and the built environment on public health-related outcomes in Snohomish County and the surrounding region,

- Commit to modernizing all applicable regulatory codes and policies governing environmental health practices,
- Restore needed clinical and non-clinical services improving access to care for the residents of Snohomish County,
- Obtain resources for local public health and have unity of purpose to improve health-related outcomes in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Executive memorandum dated May 24, 2022, commits to moving the Health District in whole, retaining its independence, and strengthening the health of all Snohomish County residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 70.05.130 the County is responsible for expenses required for local public health services.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Health for the Snohomish Health District as follows:

The Board of Health supports a Snohomish County Council motion withdrawing the County from the Snohomish Health District pursuant to RCW 70.46.090 and commits to partnering over the remainder of the year to transition all public health services, assets, employment contracts, and related matters to the County in the form of a County Health Department consistent with the requirements of law.

ADOPTED this 31st day of May 2022.

Stephanie Wright, Chair
Board of Health

ATTEST:

Approved as to Form Only

Shawn Frederick, MBA
Administrative Officer

Grant K. Weed
Attorney for Snohomish Health District

CERTIFICATION

I, Sarah de Jong, duly appointed and Clerk of the Board of Snohomish Health District do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and approved by the Board of Health for the Snohomish Health District on the 31st day of May 2022.

Date: _____

Sarah de Jong, Clerk of the Board