## Agenda

**Meeting Topics** | **Pages** | **Time**
---|---|---
1. Public Session | no ppr | 10:30-10:40
2. Director/Health Officer Report | no ppr | 10:40-11:00
3. North Sound Accountable Community of Health | 1 | 11:00-11:30
4. Child and Family PHAB and Policy Update | 2 - 3 | 11:30-noon
AGENDA ITEM #3:  North Sound Accountable Community of Health

PRESENTER:   Liz Baxter, MPH   North Sound ACH Executive Director

BOARD ACTION:   Action Item  ✔ Discussion  FYI - Only

SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
At the January 2017 Health Board meeting the board was provided with background information about the role of Accountable Communities of Health (ACH's) in Washington State's Healthier Washington Initiative, and more specifically about the role ACHs will play in the Medicaid Transformation Waiver implementation. The North Sound ACH will lead health system transformation efforts across Island, San Juan, Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties. Liz Baxter, the North Sound ACH Executive Director, will discuss the ACH’s purpose and structure, and provide information about:

- North Sound ACH’s role in the Medicaid Demonstration Project selection
- North Sound ACH’s relationship to the five counties and the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization
- The role of Public Health and other key partners in the North Sound ACH
- Opportunities and plans for county and local community input

BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED
- Understand the relationship between North Sound ACH and Health Board/County
- Discuss opportunity to nominate local leaders to sit on the North Sound ACH Board
- Provide ideas to assure local community input on priority health issues

ATTACHMENT(S)
AGENDA ITEM #4: Update on Young Children and Families Focus

PRESENTER: Rachel Lucy, Public Health Advisory Board Chair
Astrid Newell, Community Health Manager

BOARD ACTION: Action Item ☑ Discussion FYI - Only

SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2016, the Health Board adopted a 2017 focus on enhancing the well-being of young children and families. The purpose of adopting this focus was to bring greater attention to the needs of this population and to proactively identify policy and program strategies to address those needs. Over the last several months, the Health Board’s interest and commitment to young children and families has leveraged a number of key opportunities.

1) Opportunities to increase community resources and commitment to young children and families in Whatcom County

- With the Health Board’s support, the Health Department is now on track to expand the Nurse-Family Partnership program with plans to hire a new nurse in early July 2017.

- The Health Board’s declared interest in young children and families has been a valuable tool to engage community partners. Health Department staff is now working with partners to plan and host a Future Search conference focused on young children and families later this summer. This conference is an intentional process to bring together diverse sectors and stakeholders over several days, resulting in collective agreements about priorities and an action-oriented plan to better meet the needs of young children and families. Government and elected officials are a key stakeholder group that will be included in this event.
2) Opportunities to incorporate focus on young children and families into workplace policies

- The Health Board has expressed significant interest in workplace policies that support employees with new babies or those caring for young children. This interest has resulted in concrete steps within County Human Resources (HR). HR is actively working to highlight family-friendly workplace policies on the County website and has launched a new “Infant at Work” policy that is now being piloted at the Health Department (as of April 1, 2017). Highlights of this work will be shared with Health Board in the Fall, 2017.

3) Opportunities to address key stressors for young children and families through policy and program approaches

- Health Department staff and Public Health Advisory Board members explored an opportunity to incorporate a new policy goal in a proposed revision of the Behavioral Health Sales Tax ordinance, which was introduced on April 4th, with public hearing scheduled on April 18th. The new policy goal would add focus on early intervention and behavioral health promotion for young children and families as a part of the Behavioral Health Program Fund.

- Health Department staff is working to reclassify an existing vacant position to focus on health equity and policy development. A portion of this staff’s time would be dedicated to advancing policy efforts focused on young children and families, as well as the Health Board’s healthy planning interests.

In addition to the opportunities above, the following two issues have been identified as key concerns that are currently impacting the well-being of young children and families in Whatcom County:

- Lack of quality affordable child care to meet the needs of working families, especially those with infants and toddlers.
- High levels of stress currently experienced by immigrant families with young children.

**BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED**

- Discuss board interest in having future presentations, discussion, and exploration of policy options related to child care and/or immigration concerns.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

- None