



## **Region 1 – COVID-19 – County Response Meeting Minutes Island – San Juan – Skagit – Snohomish – Whatcom Counties**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**  
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

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**Facilitators:** Jaime Bodden, WSALPHO and Mellani McAleenan, WSAC

### **Counties/Participants in Attendance:**

#### **ISLAND COUNTY**

Treasurer Wanda Grone, Commissioner Jill Johnson, Commissioner Helen Price Johnson and Commissioner Janet St. Clair

#### **SAN JUAN COUNTY**

Councilmember Rick Hughes, Councilmember Jamie Stephens, and Director of County Health & Community Services Mark Tompkins

#### **SKAGIT COUNTY**

Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Deputy County Administrator Kayla Schott-Bresler and Commissioner Ron Wesen

#### **SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

Administrator – Snohomish Public Health Shawn Frederick and Executive Dave Somers

#### **WHATCOM COUNTY**

Councilmember Rud Browne and Councilmember Todd Donovan

#### **LEGISLATORS**

Sen. Liz Lovelett, Rep. Gary Pollet, Rep. Alex Ramel, Sen. Jesse Salomon, and Sen. Keith Wagoner

#### **LEGISLATIVE STAFF**

Mary Clogston, James Crandall, Jordan Kronen, Noha Mahgoub, Travis Sugarman, Liz Weeks and Kellen Wright

### **LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE**

#### **San Juan**

The county has been responding on COVID since January

Staff worked hard on getting the community important messaging out to the San Juan residences

Contacted with medical providers on inquiring on who was tested and to stay in contact with that isolated individuals

Big question now – “how do we reopen?”

Successful community/county wide effort in working with great community partners and great leadership with San Juan county councilmembers

## **LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE cont.**

### **Snohomish**

First county in the United States with first known case

Staff worked hard on coordinating with local partners, emergency management, technology for a unified command Center

Continued work on drive thru testing, will transition to surveillance testing for long term care facilities, county residences, as well as county staff

Challenges looking ahead are the second surge of the virus, staffing and testing

Working well with Snohomish County government

### **CHALLENGES AND LOOKING AHEAD**

- Testing
- Need for all proper equipment
- Space for isolation/quarantine – increased containment
- Look at the workforce to maintain systems
- Continue messaging to the community
- How do we pay for such expenses?

### **IMPACT ON COUNTY FUNCTIONS**

#### **Island County**

Working on response to recovery

Trying to anticipate the second wave

Public health role has increased during this pandemic

Reminder to legislators that additional investments will need to be made to fund public health

Local citizens continue to voice their concerns to the Commissioners' office

Foresee increased challenges for local businesses and county citizens.... what resources are available to them?

Local community volunteers have stepped up in helping

Moving forward, the county will continue to monitor the data, watch for clusters, as well as the second wave and

Focusing on reopening and will be aligned with the Governor's Orders

Concerns on the long-term effect on Island County

#### **San Juan County**

Staff is working remotely to slow the infection

Mental health needs are on the increase

The county is currently using funds and contracting with farmers and restaurants to provide and deliver meals to community individuals

Working Washington Funds has been helpful, other funding has been very disappointing for small businesses

Will need guidance for visitors, as well as businesses

With the lack of revenue, the level of county services will possibly need to be cut

Immense revenue loss without tourists and construction projects

San Juan is spending additional on money to keep visitors away

Requests will be made for additional regulatory relief

#### **Skagit County**

Increased expenses have surpassed \$4 million dollars

The county office is learning how to do business differently

The innovation and willingness from various departments have all come to together

Serious concerns with the mental health capacity, the county has seen the increased need for telemedicine & telehealth

With the federal funding, the smaller jurisdictions will need additional funds

Overdose deaths have increased, seeing more stress during this pandemic

Severe revenue loss of \$7 million dollars

### Snohomish County

Activated Emergency Management

County staff working remotely

With the current quarantine site will now be looking at transitioning

Issued housing vouchers for the homeless, moving forward will be a very big challenge

Coordinate requests for necessary equipment remains a challenge but will continue to work with the Governor's Office

Major concerns on how the county will recover

### Whatcom County

Would like to see WSAC strategize with the other counties on how to save money, reduce expenses and protect the cash flow

How do counties deal with the court systems backlog

Asking legislators to be aware that local governments are going to need much needed funding

## ANTICIPATED NEEDS MOVING FORWARD

### Island County

As with the other counties, there will be tremendous revenue loss

Anticipating a surge of caseloads for the courts

Has serious economic concerns – layoffs (Boeing) etc.

Will need additional funding

How do we maintain resources to respond to the pandemic moving forward?

### San Juan County

Need planning – recreation areas and construction (affordable housing project) – need contractors

Returning to work will need some guidelines

Ferry transportation – reduced/revised schedule – will need additional funding

### Skagit County

Upgrades will be required for courtrooms for court hearings

Increased public health funds will be needed

High risk homeless individuals' vouchers will expire on May 4<sup>th</sup>, additional funding is needed

Skagit County foresees major budget constraints

### Snohomish County

The county will implement a hiring freeze

The general fund forecast will see at least 70% in cuts

Will need tests kits to get back to normal

Outstanding requests, health care providers will need supplies of **EVERYTHING**, and the requests will need to be met

Moving forward with a recovery, the county will bring in businesses for discussions

Boeing back to work in Everett plant .... possible use of model/template to use for other businesses

### Whatcom County

The county will put in place a selective hiring freeze to reduce spending

Property taxes will be delayed

Sales tax revenues will be severely reduced

Will work on a plan for economic recovery

Loss of businesses, construction and tourists are all reduced. What do we do for economic recovery?