



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Public Health Advisory Council

1601 E Fourth Plain Boulevard
Building 17 – Third Floor
PO Box 9825
Vancouver, WA 98666-8825



May 18, 2016

Dear Councilors,

A key function of the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) is to advise the Clark County Board of Health, whose members also serve as the Board of Clark County Councilors, on issues related to the health of our community. In this role, we wish to share with the County Councilors our strong belief that language from the Growing Healthier Report should be included in the update to the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. With this letter, we respectfully request the inclusion of this language in the plan.

An increasing awareness of the influence of the built environment on health led the PHAC to examine best practices and current conditions in Clark County starting in 2010. Working with the Public Health and Community Planning Departments, the PHAC issued the Growing Healthier Report, which contains research based recommendations on how health-promoting policies can be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan.

The Growing Healthier Report was created to address the many ways that the built environment impacts health. This includes chronic diseases that are influenced by physical activity and diet, such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Obesity is a risk factor for all of these diseases and, like the rest of the country, Clark County is experiencing an epidemic of obesity. About one in four tenth graders and two in three adults in Clark County are overweight or obese. These risks have a high cost in quality of life and in medical care. The estimated direct medical cost of obesity in Clark County is about \$111 million dollars annually.

Built environments and land uses that encourage active transportation, healthy eating, economic opportunity, healthy environments, and social connections can help prevent the leading causes of death in Clark County. The Growing Healthier report addresses these topics as well as others that affect our community's health and well-being, such as affordable and quality housing, health-related impacts of climate change, and parks and open spaces.

In June, 2012, the Board of Clark County Commissioners approved a motion to incorporate language from the Growing Healthier Report into the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. We ask that the current Board follow this precedent and allow the inclusion of language into the Comprehensive Plan that ensures that health considerations play a key role in the decisions that affect the way our county grows.

Sincerely,

Mark Collier, Chair, on behalf of the Public Health Advisory Council

CC: Dr. Alan Melnick
Public Health Advisory Council

Enc: PHAC membership



Advisory Council

Membership	Representing
Becker, Steve	Consumer of public health services
Bishop-Smith, Amy	Youth representative
Caley, Joan	Non-elected representative for the city of Vancouver
Childers, Paul	Clark County Restaurant Association
Collier, Mark	Clark County septic contractors
Espinoza, Kelly	Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital
Eussen, Remy	Clark County Dental Society
Vacant	Clark County social/human services
Fairbanks, Adrienne	Doctor of veterinary medicine practicing in Clark County
Linares, Adriana	Medical doctor practicing in Clark County
Mathewson, Sandra	Clark County educational community
Melnick, Alan	Health Officer, <i>ex-officio</i>
Noelck, Gregory	Consumer of public health services
Pendergrass, Anna	CRESA (Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency)
Richardson, Bob	Clark County law enforcement community
Roberts, Alden	PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center
Roise-Yamashita, Stephanie	Nursing representative
Roth, John	Clark County water utility
Rude, Tracy	Consumer of public health services
Scott, David	Non-elected representative of Clark County cities other than the city of Vancouver

Schroader, Kathy

From: Anderson, Colete
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 7:08 AM
To: Tilton, Rebecca; Wisner, Sonja
Cc: Orjiako, Oliver; Schroader, Kathy; Kamp, Jacqueline
Subject: Comp Plan testimony - Commission on Aging

Good Morning!

Attached is a letter from Bill Ritchie, Chair of the Commission on Aging for tonight's hearing.

Thank you.

Colete



Comp Plan Testimony - C...