



Health and Community Services

Cynthia Foley

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

ECAF: 2024-0818

Motion: 24-201

Type:

- Contract
- Board Appt.
- Code Amendment
- Budget Action
- Other

Requested Handling:

- Normal
- Expedite
- Urgent

Fund Source:

- General Fund
- Other
- N/A

Executive Rec:

- Approve
- Do Not Approve
- N/A

Approved as to

Form:

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Subject: Appointment of Dr. Herbert Duber as Acting Local Health Officer

Scope: Motion 24-201 authorizes the County Executive appoint Dr. Herbert Duber as acting local health officer (LHO) when the LHO is absent or incapacitated.

Dr. Herbert Duber is a Regional Medical Officer with Washington State Department of Health (DOH) in Region 4, which includes Snohomish County. DOH requires Regional Medical Officers¹ to meet the same qualifications as LHOs as established in RCW 70.0².

The acting LHO has the same duties, powers, and authority as a regularly appointed LHO and will act in accordance with applicable law and under the direction of the Board of Health.

State law requires the acting local health officer to be appointed using the same method that is used to appoint the health officer. Pursuant to RCW 70.05.080³ and SCC 2.300.080⁴, an acting health officer may be appointed by the Snohomish County Executive with the consent of Council. Acting LHOs are approved by Council by motion.

Duration: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Current Year Future-Year N/A

Authority Granted: Motion 24-201 authorizes the County Executive to appoint Herbert Duber, MD, as acting local health officer.

Background: On April 24, 2024, Council approved Ordinance 24-019⁵, authorizing the Executive to sign an interlocal agreement the Washington State Department of Health for health officer coverage.

Requested Action: Move to GLS agenda on May 22, 2024, for Council consideration.

¹ [822-043 Regional Health Office 2023 Report \(waportal.org\)](https://waportal.org)

² [Title 70 RCW: PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY \(wa.gov\)](https://wa.gov)

³ [RCW 70.05.080: Local health officer—Failure to appoint—Procedure. \(wa.gov\)](https://wa.gov)

⁴ [ch. 2.300 Health Department | Snohomish County Code](https://wa.gov)

⁵ [SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL \(legistar.com\)](https://legistar.com)