



Snohomish County Council

Committee: LJHS
ECAF: 22-0752
Proposal: Ord. 22-030

Analyst: Heidi Beazizo
Date: August 4, 2022

Consideration

The Executive's Office requests Council consider approving proposed Ordinance 22-030 which would approve and authorize

Background

There have been multiple times since the creation of the Snohomish Health District in 1959 where the County and the health district have worked together to collaboratively address issues of public health.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided another opportunity for the Health District and the County to collaborate and the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Health District established a unified incident command to establish protocols for isolation and quarantine, coordinate advanced planning for personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution, medical-surge operations and community care coordination.

With the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Health District and the Snohomish County Vaccine Task Force worked in close collaboration to plan, execute and maintain at least seven (7) mass vaccination sites and dozens of mobile vaccination clinics.

On May 25th, Council received and discussed a memo¹ describing the possible integration of the Snohomish Health District and Snohomish County, including benefits, governance, structure and staff, possible risks and the process required for integration.

On May 31, 2022, the Snohomish Health District Board of Health unanimously passed a resolution supporting integration of the Health District and Snohomish County.²

On June 8, 2022, the Snohomish County Council approved Motion 22-248³ indicating the County's intent to withdraw from the Snohomish Health District effective December 31, 2022 and immediately thereupon, establish a county health department as required by RCW; the process of integration is under way with county and health district staff working collaboratively on the transition of public health services, assets, employment contracts and other related matters to Snohomish County government.

Snohomish County and Snohomish Health District have a need to share information, including information that is privileged from disclosure to third parties as a result of the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work product doctrine, the work product doctrine, the joint defense privilege, the common interest doctrine, and other laws regarding confidentiality, privileges or immunities.

¹ [2022-0570 - Memorandum \(legistar.com\)](#)

² [Coversheet \(novusagenda.com\)](#)

³ [Snohomish County Council - File #: 2022-0600 \(legistar.com\)](#)

Current Proposal

Scope: Ordinance 22-030 approves and authorizes the county executive, or designee, to execute a common interest, non-disclosure and joint defense agreement with Snohomish Health District.

Exhibit A discusses the details of the scope that covers all currently filed and potential actions related to the open sharing of information to allow for successful planning to meet the commitment to move the Health District, as a whole, to a new Snohomish County Department.

Duration: N/A

Fiscal Implications: N/A

2022 Budget: N/A

Future Budget Impacts: N/A

Handling: URGENT

Approved-as-to-form: YES

Risk Management: YES

Executive Recommendation: APPROVE

Request: Assign to COW at Admin on August 9 for Council to consider setting a public hearing for August 24, 2022 at 10:30 AM.

Following the receipt of Public Comment at the public hearing, consider taking action on Ordinance 22-030.