

# Public Health Advisory Committee

## Minutes of Meeting

**Meeting:** Tuesday 23 April 2024, 9:30am to 4:30pm

**Location/platform:** Microsoft Teams

### Attendees

PHAC Members: Kevin Hague (Chair), Associate Professor Jason Gurney, Associate Professor Ruth Cunningham and Beverly Te Huia.

Secretariat: Rebecca O'Connell, Sally Stewart, Anna Jackson and Kima Costelloe, and Patience Davis for Social Determinants of Health item.

Guests: None.

Apologies: Professor Peter Crampton.

### Opening of meeting

1. Opening karakia by Jason Gurney
2. Members asked to update declarations of interest. No updates were reported.
3. Members agreed the minutes from the Public Health Advisory Committee's (PHAC) meeting on 26 March 2024 were accurate and correct.
4. The Secretariat advised that they had no updates from the Ministry regarding appointment of new members to the PHAC.
5. The Chair reported back on the webinar he attended for Te Whatu Ora's New Zealand Health Plan | Te Pae Waenga (2024-2027). The Chair reported that he will follow up with the lead of this work offering PHAC's ongoing support.
6. The Chair reported on the Public Health Association conference, which he attended virtually as weather disruptions prevented his ability to attend in person. The Chair reported that he had received positive feedback on his presentation, which he presented via Zoom.
7. The Chair noted he has been invited to speak at a Healthy Housing conference in September.

8. The PHAC were informed about upcoming changes to the Secretariat, as Kima Costelloe has resigned from her position and will hand over to Patience Davis to support the Secretariat.

**Actions:**

- 26 March 2024 minutes and agenda to be published to PHAC website.
- Secretariat to follow up with Ministry regarding appointments to the PHAC.
- Secretariat to draft letter to Minister offering to provide him with advice on the Government Policy Statement and New Zealand Health Plan, and a letter to Te Whatu Ora to say the PHAC would like to continue to be involved in the development of the Health Plan.

### **Food Environments report**

9. The Chair noted that the Minister's Office has requested a delay in publication of the Food Environments report in order to prepare a response across agencies.
10. The Chair noted that he was pleased with how the final document had landed, and that it covers off some complex issues quite well.

**Actions:**

- Kevin to confirm the new publication date of 15 May with the PHA and inform newsroom. Secretariat to inform the Publications and Web teams. Media release and emails to be updated.

### **Debrief on Food Environments Report process**

11. The PHAC reflected on the process that had been undertaken to develop the Food Environments document and had the following learnings for their next project:
  - one principal author of a report with a single committee member who acts as a sponsor for the project.
  - the Secretariat should have access to Endnote to ensure efficient referencing throughout drafting of the report
  - Be more deliberate on the purpose of stakeholder engagement.
12. The PHAC reflected on how they should continue to shape their work programme and socialise it with the Minister and other key stakeholders.
13. A member suggested that the formatting template for the Food Environments report could be used for the next report.

14. The Chair noted the value in the work of Synergia and The Workshop in the Food Environments report. It was noted that the committee could take learnings about framing of issues into the next project – for instance talking about determinants as building blocks, and using metaphors of balance. The Chair also highlighted the rights perspective used in the food report.
15. The Secretariat reflected on the amount of work required to review and incorporate feedback from those being consulted on a final draft and noted it would be beneficial to plan review earlier in future projects.

### **Social determinants of health**

16. The Secretariat presented on social determinants of health, sharing reflections on working on determinants in a policy setting.
17. The PHAC thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and discussed the implications for their next project. Key points were:
  - i. the work should focus on upstream determinants of health and take a deliberate Aotearoa / New Zealand focus in selecting relevant determinants
  - ii. Include a discussion on common terms used to describe determinants of health
  - iii. include intervention logic / processes by which determinants of health impact on risk factors and therefore health outcomes
  - iv. identify obstacles and enablers for taking cross-government action on determinants of health
  - v. identify examples / case studies to demonstrate value of addressing determinants of health, including downstream savings
  - vi. socialise the work with key stakeholders so this work is not duplicating work of other groups.
  - vii. identify a small number of key people to engage with on interpreting the evidence; broad consultation unnecessary
  - viii. use the food report template for consistent style
  - ix. draft an outline of the report for consideration at the next meeting
  - x. Peter to sponsor project (Kevin will sponsor until Peter returns)
  - xi. decision made about who to hold the pen for this project.
18. The PHAC discussed whether the work should include development and measurement of indicators or just identify useful indicators where they exist, given the specialised and time-consuming nature of indicator development.

19. The PHAC provided feedback on the draft research questions and the draft project brief.

**Actions:**

- Secretariat to update project brief to reflect discussion and to initiate the work.
- Secretariat to draft an outline of the report for consideration at the next meeting.
- Secretariat to create a shared folder for committee members to add literature to.

**Percent Vote health**

20. The Secretariat presented on the proportion of Vote Health spent on prevention.

21. The Chair agreed that there are challenges in comparisons with OECD data and noted that in many countries overseas local government has more of a role in public health and prevention.

22. A member suggested that the PHAC could give advice on the methodology for analysis of the data to support the work Te Whatu Ora and the Public Health Agency are currently undertaking on this topic.

23. The Chair noted that the Minister has asked good questions on this issue, and the PHAC may be able to propose ways forward to value add on this issue.

24. The Chair noted he may write to Margie Apa and Diana Sarfati to reach an agreement on who is co-ordinating and leading this work from health agencies, and to confirm how the PHAC should contribute.

**Actions:**

- Secretariat to follow up with health entities on this piece of work, and to draft letter for the Chair if needed.

**Next meeting**

25. The next PHAC meeting will be held in person on Thursday 23 May 2024.

26. Closing karakia by Beverly Te Huia.