



John Okamoto
Seattle City Councilmember

Committee on Housing Affordability, Human Services, and Economic Resiliency

Public Health Seattle & King County Director Confirmation -- Questions

1. The King County Board of Health, which includes three Seattle City Councilmembers, and the King County and Seattle City Council adopted the Operational Master Plan and Planning for Healthy Communities Guidelines to guide public health investments and efforts. How will the Public Health Department and you work with the City to achieve the goals, and develop the policies and strategies outlined in the Plan and Guidelines?
2. How will you work with other City Departments to achieve the goals of the City and County? How about outside stakeholders? How will you ensure Public Health is being inclusive of all communities and interests in their decision-making?
3. Name some of the significant urban public health issues facing the City of Seattle and King County that the Department of Public Health needs to address. Also, the City and King County have made a commitment to ending homelessness through the ongoing work of the Committee to End Homelessness. What are some of the ways that the department is currently participating in this work and in what ways can the department contribute to these efforts in the future.
4. Eliminating health disparities based on race, income, ethnicity, immigrant/refugee status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, health insurance status, neighborhood, or level of education is a cornerstone of the Plan. Please share your thoughts on how the Department of Public Health should address disparities in health outcomes and how will you exercise your leadership to do so. How will the Department use the City and/or County's race, equity and social justice resources to assist these efforts?
5. What specific measureable outcomes should the Public Health Seattle-King County develop and implement to measure the effectiveness both of specific programs and strategies as well as the overall health of the community?
6. King County is home to one of the most diverse zip codes in the country, but not every community is visible to its government. Many immigrant and refugee communities are lumped into broad demographic categories that mask the real differences that exist in socioeconomic status, educational attainment, and health. How will your data policy address this issue?
7. Governments and public agencies at all levels have a responsibility and role in emergency/disaster preparedness and response. As the Department of Public Health Director, you will have significant responsibilities in preparedness and response pertaining to threats to public health. What will be your approach to working with other governmental entities in preparing for and responding to emergencies?

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Describe some of the roles that the Department of Public Health should play in preparedness and response.

8. Describe the kind of relationship that the Department of Public Health and you as its Director should establish with the University of Washington, other research institutions, private foundations and merging industries such as the biotech industry? What opportunities do you see?
9. What are your major goals for the Public Health Seattle-King County over the next three years? What do you see as the primary challenges facing the Public Health Seattle-King County over the next three years?
10. What is your organizational management approach? How will you review internal operations at Public Health Seattle-King County to determine if they warrant improvement? What is your leadership approach?
11. Give an example of your strategic planning abilities and describe an experience using strategic planning.
12. What experience do you have balancing budget priorities in an environment where budget reductions are necessary?
13. Public Health Seattle-King County has been plagued with budget cuts over recent years, even though the wealth of this region has grown. This is having real consequences for increasing numbers of our community members. How would you use your position to advocate for sufficient resources for public health?

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