



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES of October 18, 2022 @ 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Clallam County Courthouse

Board of Commissioners Meeting Room 160

223 E. 4th Street Port Angeles, WA 98362

Meeting was held via Zoom (Video conference)

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present were Commissioner Johnson; Commissioner Ozias; Commissioner Peach; Chair, Shahida Shahrir; Vice-Chair, Navarra Carr; At Large, Dr. Gerald Stephanz; Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Paul Cunningham; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Christia Skerbeck; Consumer of Public Health, Helen Kenoyer; Health and Human Services represented by Dr. Alison Berry, Health Officer; HHS Director, Kevin LoPiccolo and Deputy Director, Jennifer Oppelt.

Staff Members Excused: Environmental Health Director, Jennifer Garcelon.

Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Ozias made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Johnson seconded.

ACTION TAKEN: There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda.

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2022

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the draft minutes, Commissioner Peach second.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board had unanimous consent to approve the meeting minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting.

Public Comment for Agenda Items:

Joe Kunzler, Skagit County, WA: Wanted to personally thank Dr. Berry for all of her good work.

Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay: Asked the Board if the County is going to lift or continue the Covid 19 Emergency Orders on October 31, 2022. He also thanked Clallam County Public Health for helping the VA Clinic in Port Angeles offer the Omicron booster for our veterans.

George Peterson-Sequim, WA: Commented that the County has no pathologist, and spoke to the crisis Clallam County is facing regarding opiates and fentanyl.

Chris Cardonski - Commented on the opioid fentanyl crisis.

Discussion items:

4PA-Joe Descala

Joe Descala, founder of 4PA, a non-profit organization, discussed how his organization is cleaning up illegal dumping in our public spaces, as well as helping the unsheltered find housing. In their first year, the organization has collected 30 tons of trash. In addition, he believes the volume of improperly disposed needles in our community has reached the point of being a public health risk that needs to be addressed. To date, his organization, and another volunteer team, has collected nearly 11,000 needles. Needle stick injuries are on the rise and poses a perceived threat to our community. He presented several ideas on how to reduce the needle waste in the community, while emphasizing the importance of services offered through the syringe exchange. Discussion followed.

Board of Health By-laws

Kevin discussed the proposed draft of the by-laws. The proposed changes to the bylaws were discussed with the Board of Health and they were approved as written. Shahida Shahrir made a motion, Commissioner Peach second.

ACTION TAKEN: There was unanimous consent to approve the bylaws.

November Board of Health meeting

Discussion to cancel the November 15, 2022 meeting, due to absences of the Commissioner's and Dr Berry. Discussion followed. The Board of Health voted to have a meeting in November.

Presentation: Pollution, Identification and Correction – Katie Kowal

Katie Kowal gave a presentation on Pollution, Identification and Correction projects in Clallam County.

Old Business and Information Items

None.

Health Officer - Covid 19 update – Dr. Berry

Dr. Berry gave an update on case numbers: 15,735 total cases, 433 total hospitalizations, 125 deaths. The declaration of the County emergency will end on October 31, 2022 in conjunction with the State. The federal emergency has been extended 90 days. We are transitioning to a different phase. The Omicron specific booster is available to everyone five and older and is available at local pharmacies, the Health Department, and the VA. Masks are still recommended in indoor settings. Dr. Berry voiced her concerns about a serious flu season this year. Discussion followed.

Environmental Health Director

None.

HHS Director

Kevin reported that the Community Health Assessment is online.

Discussion followed.

Public Comment

Joe Kunzler, Skagit County-Thank you to Dr. Berry

Adjournment

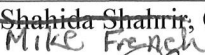
Meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Next Meeting – November 15, 2022

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of January, 2023

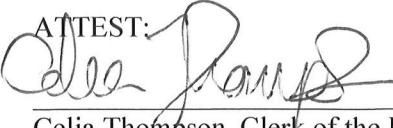
CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH


Shahida Shahrir, Chair


Mike French


Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:


Celia Thompson, Clerk of the Board