



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES of October 17, 2023 @ 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 Chair, Mike French; Commissioner Mark Ozias; Commissioner Randy Johnson; Vice-Chair, Shahida Shahrir; City Council Member Representative, Jeff Gingell; Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Paul Cunningham; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Tia Skerbeck; Consumer of Public Health, Helen Kenoyer; Health Officer, Dr. Allison Berry; HHS Director, Kevin LoPiccolo; HHS Deputy Director, Jennifer Oppelt; Environmental Health Director, Jennifer Garcelon

Members excused: Community Stakeholder, Dr. Gerald Stephanz

Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

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

ACTION TAKEN: The Board had unanimous consent to approve the agenda.

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2023

Commissioner Mark Ozias made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Commissioner Randy Johnson seconded, minutes approved.

Public Comment for Agenda Items:

Kathy Zelenka returned with updates on information about Covid-19 vaccinations.

Board of Health Hearings: None

Health Officer – Infectious Disease Update – Dr. Berry

Dr. Berry reported that we are seeing higher rates in Covid. It is plateauing for hospitalizations and there has been one more death. This is much better than before. Those hospitalized are over 70 years of age. She encourages everyone to get their updated Covid booster containing the latest variant.

RSV is taking off nationally, with no significant cases locally yet, but should see some here in a couple of weeks. The RSV vaccine is only covered by Medicare Part B and private insurance and Public Health cannot offer it.

The flu is low to minimum around the U.S. and anticipate it here in the coming months.

Dr. Berry suggests masking up in crowded indoor spaces to minimize transmission of Covid, RSV and the flu. Discussion followed.

Board of Health Presentations:

1. Clallam County Sheriff's Office – Health Needs of Incarcerated – Amy Bundy & Linsey Monaghan

Amy Bundy and Linsey Monaghan showed a presentation on how medical treatment is happening in the Clallam County Jail. Their needs are: 1) Larger exam room; 2) Large group room for treatment and mental health. Short-term needs are getting wrap around services and partnerships. They are looking into a program in Davidson County (Nashville) that has separate accommodations where individuals can start treatment and get housing before release, which reduces recidivism. Commissioner Ozias would like more cost information, in detail. Discussion followed.

2. Environmental Health Food Program/Safety –Jessica Pankey

Jess Pankey spoke about the food safety program and how outbreaks and litigation over illnesses have changed the food industry. Discussion followed.

Discussion Items:

None.

Old Business and Information Items:

None.

Environmental Health Director - Jennifer Garcelon

Environmental Health staff is working on draft policies for the Onsite program. Fees were brought to the forefront to replace state grant funding that wasn't renewed. The CFO looked at the budget and wants to recoup some of the general funds by increasing and restructuring fees and implementing them as soon as possible. Discussion followed.

Staffing changes have occurred with the departure of one on-site septic employee. There is a vacant position in the OSS permitting side for someone that likes to play in the dirt. The recently filled Customer Service person went to the Water Lab, so there are two openings.

HHS Director- Kevin LoPiccolo

HRHC (Harm Reduction Health Center) opened their doors on October 16th at 325-1/2 W 2nd Street. Kevin would like to invite the Board of Health and Board/County Commissioners to the open house, date to be determined.

Kevin asked the board if they wished to cancel the November meeting as it is the week of Thanksgiving. The board voted unanimously to cancel the November 21, 2023, meeting. Resume meetings in December 2023.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

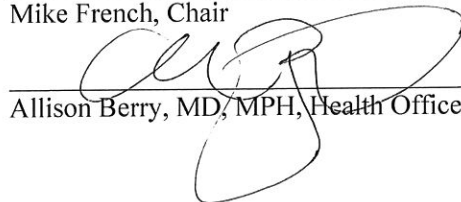
Next Meeting – December 19, 2023

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of JANUARY, 2024

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

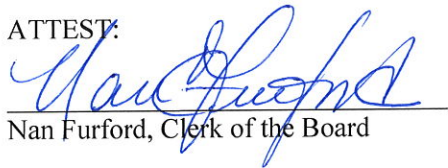


Mike French, Chair



Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:



Nan Furford, Clerk of the Board