



# CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES of May 16, 2023 @ 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Clallam County Courthouse

Board of Commissioners Meeting Room 160

223 E. 4<sup>th</sup> 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; Vice-Chair, Shahida Shahrir; Commissioner Mark Ozias; Commissioner Johnson; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Tia Skerbeck, Consumer of Public Health, Helen Kenoyer; City Council Member Representative, Jeff Gingell; Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Paul Cunningham; 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

Kevin LoPiccolo requested the discussion item: Opiate Settlement Follow-Up be moved to the June meeting. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve agenda as modified, Jeff Gingell seconded. Agenda approved.

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

### Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2023 and April 18, 2023

Commissioner Ozias made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Helen Kenoyer seconded, minutes approved.

### Public Comment for Agenda Items:

No public comment.

### Health Officer – Covid update – Dr. Berry

Dr. Berry reported that the Covid outlook is looking good. Nationally hospitalizations and deaths continue to trend downward. We are moving away from case counting at a national level due to the change in the pandemic and that counting individual cases is no longer workable. Presently there is no one being hospitalized with Covid-19 in Clallam County and no current long term care facility outbreaks. Since the pandemic started, Clallam County has had a total of 173 deaths due to Covid-19. The State will be making changes in the way it counts Covid-19 deaths. The State will be updating their Covid death totals starting in May. Get your bivalent booster to be up to date. HHS still have Covid tests, and they are also available at the libraries. Paxlovid availability will be free through June 3<sup>rd</sup>, after that it will go through regular insurance and there will be a co-pay or fee applied. Discussion followed.

### Old Business and Information Items

None.

### Board of Health presentations:

#### Respite Facility Update – Viola Ware, Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic

Viola Ware shared a power point presentation about the acute/post-acute care for those who are homeless to help them access medical care and rest in their facility. Discussion followed.

#### Environmental Health Annual Report, Jen Garcelon

A power point presentation was made of the 2022 Environmental Health annual report and is available on the Clallam County Environmental Health web page. Discussion followed. Commissioner Ozias asked how many improvements/small fixes were made (baffles, etc.) that the \$13.00 OSS/O&M fee helped take care of. Jennifer will talk to individuals and will update at the next meeting. Jennifer Garcelon and Janine Reed spoke with the Port Angeles realtors about the new fee last week and plan to speak with the Sequim and Forks realtors.

**Environmental Health Director-Jennifer Garcelon**

Jennifer reported that she attended the LHJ conference last week and the topic was about diversity and equity. They asked if we had any tribal members on our board and she was able to say "yes". King County was impressed.

**HHS Director- Kevin LoPiccolo**

Kevin reported that he met with Human Resources, and they approved the salary study to reclassify Environmental Health positions and nursing positions. The Public Health Manager position opening has been extended to the end of May. Also, this position is offering a hiring bonus in hopes of attracting more qualified candidates for the position.

Management staff will be attending the annual State Public Health/LHJ conference in June. Staff will provide an overview at the next meeting.

An OCH grant was applied to provide funding (between HHS, OPCC and the City of Forks), for expanded services at the Forks jail for a substance use disorder counselor. Staff will report back to the Board of Health if the grant is awarded.

**Public Comment**

None.

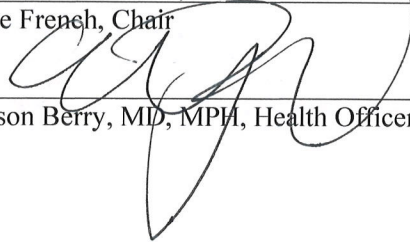
**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

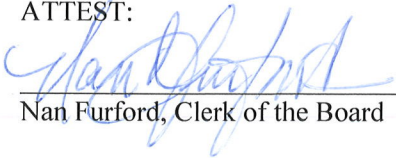
**Next Meeting** – June 20th, 2023

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20 day of June, 2023

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

  
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Mike French, Chair  
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Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:

  
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Nan Furford, Clerk of the Board