



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES of April 18, 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; Vice-Chair, Shahida Shahrir; Commissioner Mark Ozias; Commissioner Johnson; Community Stakeholder, Dr. Gerald Stephanz; 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: City Council Member Representative, Jeff Gingell; Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Paul Cunningham

Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve agenda, Skerbeck seconded. Agenda approved.

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

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2023

Minutes will be available for approval at the May 16th meeting.

Public Comment for Agenda Items:

Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay: Mr. Bowen spoke of the federal government will be ending the pandemic declaration emergency in May, but was asking what the County will be doing once the emergency ends? Mr. Bowen requested that the Board of Health make a recommendation to the county departments that have plexiglass barriers at their counters and whether they should be removed.

Joyce Stewart, Sequim: Ms. Stewart is a volunteer and supports having access to clean needles that helps with the reduction of HEP C and HIV. Ms. Stewart supports Harm Reduction Health Center.

Joe DeScala – Port Angeles: Mr. DeScala spoke about his concerns on the expansion of the Harm Reduction program and new facility. The County needs to do a better job communicating and finding ways to reduce syringe litter.

Health Officer – Bivalent Vaccine / Covid Vaccine update – Dr. Berry

Dr. Berry reported that the bivalent vaccine is available for persons 65 years of age or older or those who are immune compromised. The emergency order will lift May 11th which will mean Public Health will no longer be able to give the Covid vaccine to persons over 65. Medicaid will cover vaccine for kids at no cost and adults may have to pay a co-pay. Discussion followed.

Old Business and Information Items

None.

Board of Health presentations:

Opiate Settlement Funding – Jennifer Oppelt

Jolene Kron and Stephanie Lewis from Salish Behavioral Health, via Zoom, provided a power point presentation and Jennifer Oppelt discussed the strategies to use the funding from the opiate settlement. Staff provided an overview of the Opioid Settlement. As part of the discussion, Staff requested that the BOH provide direction on how best to utilize the funding from the Opioid Settlement funds. Discussion followed.

Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) – Kevin LoPiccolo

A power point presentation was made demonstrating how the FPHS funding was being used in Public Health and Environmental Health Programs. It was discussed that most of the funding has been used hiring employees in both Public and Environmental Health. There was discussion on how the life course funds were being used for the Harm Reduction Health Center. Discussion followed.

Harm Reduction Health Center Update - Kevin LoPiccolo

A status report on the new Harm Reduction Health Center was provided. The tentative date for opening the facility is planned for July 1, 2023.

Environmental Health Director-Jennifer Garcelon

Jennifer reported that the Annual Report for Environmental Health will be reviewed at next month's meeting. The new Health Space cloud suite is up for the food program and Tyler suite online permit system will be coming for the Onsite program. Jennifer is reviewing outdated policies that need to be revised and to bring to the Commissioners.

HHS Director- Kevin LoPiccolo

Kevin reported that the Bullman Beach Team will be holding a community meeting at Bullman Beach on April 21, 2023, to provide an update to the residents on the proposed water system. Staff will report back to the BOH at their next meeting in May.

Public Comment

Lori, Port Angeles: In favor of the Harm Reduction Health Center expanding their services. As a student of Addiction Studies, expanding services will help address the opiate crisis that our community faces.

Joe DeScala, Port Angeles: Stated his concerns regarding the Harm Reduction Health Services, but overall supports the program. He would like to be part of the solution and be invited to the discussions surrounding the program. His main concerns are litter and cleanliness.

Susan, Sequim: Opposes the expansion of the Harm Reduction Health Center without addressing the concerns first.

Dr. Berry, Health Officer: Offered apology to Mr. DeScala for being interrupted during public comment. Dr. Berry spoke of a community need and that there is inadequate access to treatment in our community. Dr. Berry stated that treatment is not the only solution, but having access to programs such as HIV and HEP C testing are equally important.

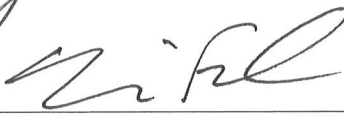
Adjournment

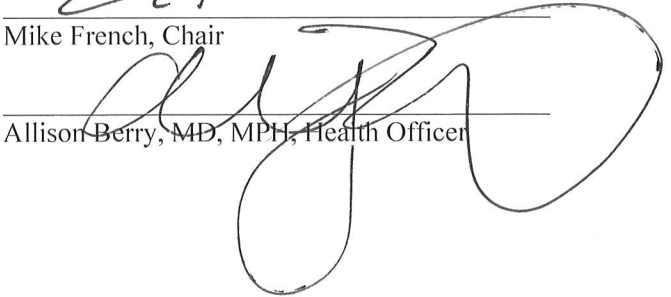
Meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Next Meeting – May 16th, 2023

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16 day of May, 2023

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH


Mike French, Chair


Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:


Nan Furford, Clerk of the Board