



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES of March 21, 2023 @ 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Clallam County Courthouse

Board of Commissioners Meeting Room 160

223 E. 4th Street Port Angeles, WA 98362

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; 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: City Council Member Representative, Jeff Gingell.

Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Ozias made a motion to approve agenda, Johnson seconded. Dr. Berry requested that as part of the Covid update and since the Community Health Assessment is closely tied to this month's Covid update, Dr. Ames present first. Commissioner Ozias motion to modified agenda, Commissioner Johnson Seconded.

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

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2023

Dr. Stephanz requested that the minutes presented be changed to reflect that Mr. Hightower was not in attendance at the February 21, 2023 meeting, but John Nutter.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board had unanimous consent to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes.

Public Comment for Agenda Items:

Sue Kaufman, Clallam County: Ms. Kaufman spoke of civility and the need to respect people as individuals. She recommended that the Board of Health adopt the seven principles of Public Health, similar to what the State Board of Health.

Board of Health Presentations:

Peninsula College – Dr. Suzy Ames, President. Presented a power point presentation on Peninsula College Health Workforce and needs of students. Dr. Ames presented data on workforce training and new programs that Peninsula College offers. The College is now offering Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health, and other health related healthcare programs. Programs offer a Bachelor's degree and soon will be offering a Master's degree program in these study areas. Dr. Ames spoke of partnerships with numerous healthcare providers. Discussion followed.

Health Officer Update on Covid-19 and Community Health Assessment:

Dr. Berry reported that the rates of Covid-19 are down trending across the country as well as locally. Dr. Berry stated that Covid-19 is still severe, but overall, there is much improvement. Case rates in highly vaccinated communities are seeing a decoupling of surges in local hospitals. Dr. Berry stated that the majority of our residents have not received their bivalent booster.

Both Dr. Berry and Moni Madjdi provided an update on our Community Health Assessment. They both went over the data that was collected on the supplemental report overview related to the impacts that Covid-19 had on our community. Ms. Madjdi presented data on Covid-19 related deaths and stated that Covid-19 was the 5th leading causes of death in Clallam County. Ms. Madjdi went over the Community Health survey questions, and there were 10 questions related to the pandemic that related to decision making regarding vaccinations, informational sources, local and state support access, and family impacts were just some of the questions the survey asked. Over 95% of the respondents answered most or all the Covid-19 specific questions. Ms. Madjdi stated that the survey responses were representative of the demographics of Clallam County. Discussion followed.

Abortion Discussion – Dr. Berry

Dr. Berry provided an educational overview of what an abortion is. Dr. Berry stated that abortions are a common medical procedure and is a normal procedure of reproductive health care for women. Abortion is a standard part of obstetric and family medicine training for all doctors. Common pregnancy scenarios where abortion care is life saving includes, missed abortions, ectopic pregnancy, PPROM, preeclampsia and eclampsia. Dr. Berry spoke of the risk associated with pregnancies. Dr. Berry stated that the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate of any high-income country. Discussion followed.

Old Business and Information Items

None.

Environmental Health Director-Jennifer Garcelon

Jennifer reported that the 2022 Annual Report for Environmental Health is being reviewed and will be presented at the May Board of Health meeting. EH staff is reviewing needed policy updates and will be making recommendations to the Board of Health in the future.

HHS Director- Kevin LoPiccolo

There were three areas that were brought up to the Board of Health relating to the expenditures for our Harm Reduction Health Center, leasing of the downtown building that will be used for harm reduction, and recognizing Celia Thompson who is leaving Health and Human Services.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

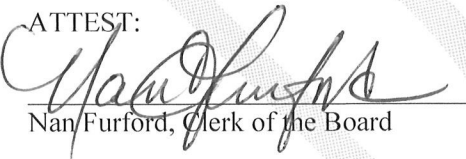
Next Meeting – April 18, 2023

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