



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

AGENDA of March 16, 2021 @ 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Clallam County Courthouse

Board of Commissioners Meeting Room 160

223 E. 4th Street

Port Angeles, WA 98362

****ATTENTION****

In response to the current Governors order Clallam County has moved Phase 2 of the Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery Plan. To be in compliance with the Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery Plan the following general requirements for COVID safety for meetings held in the Board of Commissioners Board Room are as follows:

1. All attendees are encouraged to provide contact information on a sign in sheet which will be retained for 28 days for contact tracing purposes.
2. Public seating areas and Board member seating must be arranged to ensure physical distancing is maintained.
3. Meeting attendees must wear a proper face covering and maintain six feet of physical distance between other persons.
4. No food or drink should be consumed in the BOCC Board Room.
5. Meeting organizers shall clean or arrange to have cleaned high-touch surfaces before and after each meeting.
6. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in the BOCC Board Room.
7. Keep doors and windows open where possible to improve ventilation.
8. The Chair of the meeting shall ensure masking and social distancing practices are enforced and practices by all event attendees.

This meeting can be viewed on a live stream at this link: <http://www.clallam.net/features/meetings.html>

If you would like to participate in the meeting via BlueJeans audio only, call 408-419-1715 and join with Meeting ID: 900 573 910

If you would like to participate in the meeting via BlueJeans video conference, visit www.bluejeans.com and join with Meeting ID: 900 573 910

Public comment and questions can be directed to the Clerk of the Board at 360-417-2377 or clerly@co.clallam.wa.us.

- Call to Order, Roll Call
- Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2021
- Public Comment for Agenda Items – *Please limit comments to three minutes*
- Introductions
- Presentations and Discussion
- Board of Health Member Discussion
 - HB 1152
 - Public Health - Post COVID-19
- Old Business and Information Items
- Health Officer
 - COVID-19 Update
- Environmental Health Director
- HHS Director
- Future meeting agenda items
 1. Onsite Septic System - April
 2. Clallam Health Network

3. PIC (Pollution, Identification and Correction) Update
 4. Vaccination Rates
 5. Chronic Disease CHIP
 6. Air Quality and Noise Ordinance
 7. Climate Change
 8. Update on Behavioral Health Organization (BHO)
 9. Olympic Peninsula Healthy Communities Coalition
- Public Comment – *Please limit comments to three minutes*
 - Adjournment

NEXT MEETING – April 20, 2021



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES of February 16, 2021 @ 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 BlueJeans (Video conference)

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Navarra Carr, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Members Present: Commissioners Johnson, Ozias and Peach, Dr. Gerald Stephanz, Don Lawley, Jennifer Garcelon, Kevin LoPiccolo and Dr. Allison Berry

- **Call to Order, Roll Call**
- **Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda**
ACTION TAKEN: CJm to approve the agenda as presented, CPs; mc
- **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2020 and January 19, 2021**
ACTION TAKEN: CJm to approve the minutes as presented, CPs; mc
- **Public Comment for Agenda Items – Please limit comments to three minutes**
None
- **Introductions**
None
- **Presentations and Discussion**
None
- **Board of Health Member Discussion**
 - *Membership*
 - **Select Applicant for Vacant At-Large Position**
Navarra Carr gave an overview of the three applicants that applied and stated that the Executive Committee of the Board of Health recommends to the Board of Health to move forward with electing Shahida Sharir to fill the vacant At-Large Position.
ACTION TAKEN: The Board unanimously agreed to move forward with Shahida Sharir.
 - **Proposed Legislation to Regionalize Public Health (HB1152/SB5173)**
 - Commissioner Bill Peach presented on the bills that are currently being considered at the state level. The Board of Health discussed the effects of this proposed bill and what that would mean for Clallam County and the Public Health Department and the Health Officer position.

- Send letter to state legislatures opposing measures to create comprehensive public health districts.
 - Commissioner Johnson discussed the letter that Commissioner Kate Dean from Jefferson County wrote for the Washington State Legislators and coordinating signatures from Clallam County entities. The official signed letter is attached to the minutes.
ACTION TAKEN: The Board unanimously agreed to have Navarra Carr, Chair sign the letter of support on behalf of the Board of Health.
- **Old Business and Information Items**
 - Navarra Carr requested an update from the Board of Health on the topic of Racial Justice and the Racism is a Public Health issue. Commissioner Ozias discussed the meeting that Lindsey Schromen-Warwin invited the Board to last month on this topic and that Jody Jacobson from Juvenile Services mentioned that this topic will be an agenda item at the next Law and Justice meeting.
- **Health Officer**
 - *COVID-19 Update*
 Dr. Berry stated that at the time of the meeting there were a total of 976 cases in Clallam County, no current hospitalizations and 5 total deaths from COVID-19. Clallam County at the time of the meeting was the leading county in Washington State with the most people vaccinated. Dr. Berry stated that they are working down the list of eligible people to get vaccinated and plan to vaccinate group B-2 by March, followed by B-3. Health and Human Services will be hiring for positions to create more stability and less strain on volunteers at the mass vaccination events. Dr. Berry discussed double masking, while not for everyone, it is a safety precaution. She encourages everyone to make sure their masks fit securely on their face. Also, recently the CDC released information regarding vaccinations and quarantining. Dr. Berry said that the CDC says if you are fully vaccinated and exposed to COVID-19 you no longer have to quarantine.
- **Environmental Health Director**
 Jennifer Garcelon let the Board know that most of the Environmental Health staff is helping at the mass vaccination clinics in Port Angeles on the weekends. Jen hopes to bring up at the next meeting the Onsite Septic System discussion.
- **HHS Director**
 Kevin LoPiccolo discussed the Housing Grant from the Department of Commerce that the City and the County applied for at the end of 2020 and we were awarded \$400,000 for construction of an addition to the Serenity House. This will be a 40' x 50' 2 story building that can accommodate up to 80 beds. At the time of the meeting the building plans were at the city for a plan check review. There is hope to finish the building by the end of May 2021.
- **Public Comment**
 Ed Bowen made a comment about why the west end applicant for the vacant At Large Representative position did not qualify and that the applicant selected may not be familiar with the rural areas of Clallam County. He also made a comment that the draft letter that is to be signed was not posted. However, the Board discussed that the draft letter will be posted after the meeting but was not able to be posted ahead of time due to not receiving it.

Navarra Carr also read a public comment out loud that was written in the BlueJeans chat.

- **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:18pm.

NEXT MEETING – March 16, 2021

FROM THE
JURISDICTIONS OF
THE NORTH
OLYMPIC
PENINSULA

February 17, 2021

To the Esteemed Legislators of Washington State,

The signatories of this letter, representing multiple tribes, local governments, Boards of Health and hospital districts of the North Olympic Peninsula (24th Legislative District), are united in our desire and efforts to see our Public Health systems made more robust, responsive, equitable and accessible to all. This commitment has been evident throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, during which our region in general, and the signatories here, have exemplified regional collaboration, coordination, efficiency and care for our most vulnerable.

We commend the State of Washington for managing this unprecedented pandemic better than a majority of states, and we recognize the vast complexity of challenges that the Legislature faces like many of us, in attempting to steer our shared constituency through safely. Lastly, we appreciate the willingness of legislators, to date, to consider proposed amendments to legislation affecting public health. We hope you will continue to consider the input of those of us implementing services on the ground, in our communities.

Specifically, we write to you with the following recommendations and concerns regarding House Bill 1152 and Senate Bill 5149. (Without express reference, these recommendations include associated, amended, and substitute legislation).

1. Adequate funding for Foundational Public Health Services is critical to communities.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility and inequities of our public health system. For many years, Counties and Public Health officials have been seeking a dedicated source of funding to ensure that all Washington residents have access to core services. We are thrilled to see Senate Bill 5149 address the chronic need for funding and urge your support. It will provide a stable and increase of resources over the long-term to bolster public health for all.

2. 2021 is a terrible time to be restructuring Public Health.

The past year has been, arguably, one of the most challenging for public health in a century. The challenges have many causes, but the causes notably include economic uncertainty, loss of loved ones, the effects of isolation and stress to families, businesses and communities. But the sector hit hardest by the demands of the unexpected and unprecedented pandemic is healthcare, including public health. Whether because of fatigue from conducting testing and contact tracing, or the exhaustion from continuously pivoting to provide services in new and unexpected ways, or the discouraging effects of political debate from response to the pandemic, we know that public health professionals are retiring, quitting and burning out in record numbers..



Jefferson
Healthcare

City of Port
Townsend



Forks Community
Hospital



And yet now, while desperately trying to vaccinate our entire population, we are asking these same public health folks to strategize on inventing and building a new public health system. And this reinvention is supposed to occur before we have even begun the process of evaluating the short-and long-term effects of the most wide-spread pandemic in modern history. There are plainly lots of lessons to be learned from responses, good and bad, to the pandemic, but learning lessons needs sufficient time to occur.

This year, 2021, is the year get Washingtonians vaccinated and back to work; it is NOT the year to be restructuring public health. We therefore urge you to support House Bill 1340 to create a robust after-action plan to assess strengths and weaknesses of our current structures. At the very least, the Work Group created in HB 1152 should spend 2021 doing analysis to inform regionalization bills in 2022.

3. We fully support expansion of Board of Health membership.

Both Clallam and Jefferson County Boards of Health were early adopters of an expanded membership to ensure more expertise, less politicization, better collaboration and increased representation for stakeholders and residents alike. Our Boards of Health have worked in good faith and in lock-step with our highly-regarded Health Officers, Dr. Berry and Dr. Locke respectively, throughout the pandemic. We urge your support of adopting the language from HB 1110, independently or by adding it to HB 1152, to require Boards of Health to expand membership while allowing for flexibility in identification of membership based on the unique circumstances of each jurisdiction.

4. Keep policy-and priority-setting local in order to best serve our communities.

While some services are best delivered at a federal or state level, public health relies heavily on local partnerships, an intimate understanding of the communities being served, and connections and relationships that foster trust, communication and understanding. This has been evident throughout the pandemic, where communities who share a “We’re in this together” attitude have markedly lower rates of infection, better adherence to masking/ distancing, and were able to “flatten the curve” more quickly.

The regionalization of public health is problematic if it strips away local relationships and authority and replaces them with a regional framework, which may not reflect the communities therein. As an example, Clallam County has one of the highest rates of overdose deaths from opiates. In response, they expanded their naloxone program, used their local authority to make overdose events a notifiable condition, and intensified efforts to expand treatment access.. Similarly, Jefferson County had a high teen pregnancy and suicide ideation rate in the past. Their Public Health Department sought funding to secure family planning and mental health clinics in high schools leading to the launch of three school-based clinics. These are just two examples of our region responding to local needs and building on local expertise to solve priority issues. In a regional health district, our smaller counties would have less say in policy and funding decisions, therefor less ability to act swiftly to respond to local crises.

5. We support, and operate, regional public health collaborations.

As a rural region, we well understand the concept of interdependence and sharing resources, Clallam and Jefferson Counties have a history and practice of identifying common needs. We shared a Health Officer for many years, we synched our early Covid re-opening efforts in summer 2020, and now the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe is instrumental in vaccinating not only tribal members, but thousands of Olympic Peninsula residents. These collaborations enhance our local capacity; we resist regionalization efforts that hamstring our efforts to respond nimbly to local needs.

Similarly, we take part in myriad, successful regional efforts such as behavioral health administration, workforce development and educational service districts. We recognize the added value of regional planning and shared resources, but in all of these cases we maintain local authority. Our entities are willing participants in discussions of sharing diverse assets such as epidemiologists, laboratory services and emergency supplies. Additionally, we understand the need to connect state funding to performance- and evidence-based public health programming- so long as local Boards of Health and local health jurisdictions are kept whole and autonomous.

6. Keep our Health Officers local.

Dr. Berry and Dr. Locke have been sources of credible information, sound science, comfort and stability during Covid-19. This is no small thing; attracting, recruiting and retaining public health professionals in our rural communities is extremely difficult. Having our health officers live in, be invested in and accountable to our residents and jurisdictions has great value. The success of much of their efforts to control SARS-CoV-2 spread depends on ongoing engagement with local public hospitals and medical community. The longevity of many Health Officers speaks to the long-standing relationships, trust and commitment fostered by having a local health officer. We oppose the concept, introduced in HB 1152, of reassigning them as employees of the state.

We have shared in the dismay of seeing the firing of health officers in 2020. We strongly believe this political problem is best solved by diversifying Boards of Health, NOT by making health officers employees of the State. We support efforts to allow local public health jurisdictions and diversified Boards of Health to maintain authority and flexibility with their health officer. To the extent health officers have been subject to politically motivated attacks and wrongful dismissal, we support changes in statute that assure due process rights are respected and allow for appeal of contested job actions to an oversight body such as the State Board of Health. We see this as the best path forward to forging strong, collaborative ties to our communities and our public health infrastructure.

Please consider these recommendations of our diverse region's tribes, hospital districts, local governments and Boards of Health as a desire to reach solutions to improve the public health outcomes of Washington- whether rural or urban, east or west, Democrat or Republican. Divesting in local public health at this time will only serve to further undermine trust in government and public health interventions. Maintaining an accessible, known, credible and effective local public health department is the best way to invite rural communities into important conversations about population health, social determinants of health and health equity and access.

We share in your interest, and appreciate your efforts, to strike the right balance of local authority, consistency and fairness for all. This balance plays out every day at the local level in our very jurisdictions and we hope you will continue to engage with diverse entities to inform future legislative action.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and efforts.

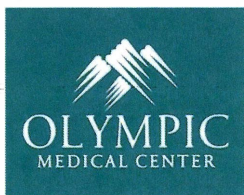
Please see next page for jurisdictional signatories.

APPROVED BY THE
JURISDICTIONS OF
THE NORTH OLYMPIC
PENINSULA



Jefferson
Healthcare

City of Port
Townsend



Forks Community
Hospital



be Ozias

Clallam County
Mark Ozias, Chair, Board of County Commissioners

Navarra Carr

Navarra Carr, Chair
Clallam County Board of Health

KR

Jefferson County
Kate Dean, Chair, Board of County Commissioners

KR

Kate Dean, Chair
Jefferson County Board of Health

W. Ron Allen

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
W. Ron Allen, Tribal Council Chairman

Mike Glenn

Jefferson Healthcare
Mike Glenn, Chief Executive Officer

John Mauro

City of Port Townsend
John Mauro, City Manager

John Nutter

Olympic Medical Center
John Nutter, Commissioner, Board President

Heidi Anderson

Forks Community Hospital
Heidi Anderson, Chief Executive Officer

Kate Dexter

City of Port Angeles
Kate Dexter, Mayor

Dr. Alison Berry

Dr. Alison Berry, Health Officer
Clallam County Board of Health

Dr. Thomas Locke

Dr. Thomas Locke, Health Officer
Jefferson County Board of Health