



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

AGENDA of December 17, 2024 @ 1:30 – 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 Randy Johnson; Commissioner Mark Ozias; Vice-Chair, Shahida Shahrir; Community Stakeholder, Dr. Gerald Stephanz; Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Paul Cunningham; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Tia Skerbeck; Health Officer, Dr. Allison Berry; HHS Director, Kevin LoPiccolo; HHS Deputy Director, Jennifer Oppelt; Environmental Health Director, Jennifer Garcelon

Members absent: City Council Member Representative, Jeff Gingell

Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

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

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

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2024

Gerald Stephanz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Commissioner Randy Johnson seconded. Minutes approved.

Action Items:

None.

Public Comment for Agenda Items:

None.

Health Officer – Infectious Disease Update – Dr. Berry

Dr. Berry reported we are seeing a rise in influenza cases around the country, including locally. We have our first long term care facility outbreak for influenza, and we are seeing more cases that need hospitalization. So far it is a milder season. Make sure you are up to date on your flu vaccine and have masks available for those crowded indoor settings.

Starting to see a Covid-19 and RSV, with an uptick on RSV, although not as much as influenza. Can expect to see it rise through the holiday season.

We continue to monitor the situation with avian influenza, thankfully we have not seen any in our wastewater detection in Washington State test positive. There is extensive wastewater detection in California for avian flu and throughout much of the state they are seeing positive avian influenza in their wastewater and multiple other sites around the county. We continue to see avian influenza in wild bird populations, where there is waterfowl or interaction with waterfowl. If you have poultry at home, keep them separate from wild waterfowl. Discussion followed.

Old Business and Information Items:

None

Discussion Items:

1. Olympic Medical Center Annual Update

Darryl Wolfe, CEO of Olympic Medical Center and Dr. Scott Kennedy talked about Olympic Medical Center. Discussion followed.

Board of Health Presentations:

None

Board of Health Public Hearings:

None.

Environmental Health Director - Jennifer Garcelon

She is very happy that the two positions, one for Water Quality and one Environmental Health, were in the budget that was passed for 2025. The State updated their onsite codes, so we must update our code. The biggest changes were to require statewide inspections, which we already do, and the minimum land area has changed. State Board of Health is working on the school rule revisions and funding this depends on funding from the State. Discussion followed.

HHS Director – Kevin LoPiccolo

Kevin spoke about the adopted 2025 budget the commissioners approved. Overall, HHS had a favorable outcome for the department operations. The Onsite position that was deferred was approved as part of the 2025 budget. In Public Health we have a Public Health Support Specialist being promoted to a Medical Assistant. This leaves the Public Health Support Specialist to be reassigned to the Harm Reduction Health Center. There was a promotion for the Public Health Nurse II to a III, and a promotion for one of the WIC positions to a WIC Coordinator. Public Health has hired a new nurse, and HHS will be posting a new position to oversee Public Health Emergency Responses for Clallam County.

Public Comment

Ed Bowen – Re: Turning back \$347,555.00 for Covid vaccines. Does the HHS Public Health Clallam County, by taking this action and turning this back, no longer have a Covid vaccine program within the HHS Public Health system? Kevin LoPiccolo responded that the reason it was a refund was needed was because this was never budgeted. HHS utilizes other funding programs to cover Covid-19.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

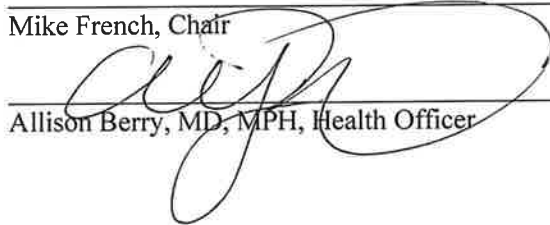
Next Meeting – January 21, 2025

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21 day of January, 2025

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

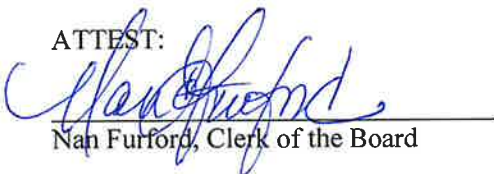


Mike French, Chair



Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:



Nan Furford, Clerk of the Board