



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

AGENDA of January 21, 2025 @ 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; Vice-Chair, Shahida Shahrir; Community Stakeholder, Dr. Gerald Stephanz; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Tia Skerbeck; 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 absent: Commissioner Mark Ozias; City Council Member Representative, Jeff Gingell.

Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Randy Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda, Gerald Stephanz seconded. Agenda approved.

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

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2024

Gerald Stephanz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Shahida Shahrir seconded. Minutes approved.

Action Items: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025

A motion was made to approve the reelection of Commissioner Mike French as Chair for 2025. Motion was moved by Shahida Shahrir and seconded by Dr. Gerald Stephanz. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the reelection of Shahida Shahrir as Vice-Chair for 2025. Motion was made by Mike French and seconded by Dr. Gerald Stephanz. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Health Officer – Infectious Disease Update – Dr. Berry

Dr. Berry reported that influenza rates remain elevated. Seeing the first sign of a downturn, we may be moving out of flu season but it's still out there. Unfortunately, we've had our first 2 deaths due to influenza in our community. It can be quite serious for the elderly and very young. To reduce the risk for yourselves and others is to get this year's flu vaccine and consider masking in crowded indoor spaces.

Covid-19 rates remain relatively low. We've had a mild season.

We do see elevated RSV activity around the state but have seen much less severe outcomes in our region this year compared to last year. Vaccines are available.

We continue to see sporadic cases of pertussis in our region. Stay up to date on your vaccinations and stay home when you are sick. Discussion followed.

Avian flu has been in the news and there are no cases in Clallam or Jefferson County. Mostly it is seen in wild birds. Discussion followed. Have seen more crossover between birds and cats and the cats eat the infected birds. We have seen

domestic cats get avian flu related to being fed raw food, so feed fish instead of raw poultry and limit range of your cat if an outdoor cat to limit access to wild birds. WSDA, after the Franklin County outbreak among poultry, has been testing raw milk monthly and none of them has tested positive for avian flu. Discussion followed.

Old Business and Information Items:

None

Discussion Items:

1. Peninsula Behavioral Health Housing Updated, Wendy Sisk - Wendy Sisk, CEO of Peninsula Behavioral Health, presented on their housing continuum. Discussion followed.
2. Opioid Settlement Future Funding - Kevin LoPiccolo and Jennifer Oppelt talked about the opioid settlement future funding. Discussion followed. Continue this discussion with the Behavioral Health Advisory Board at a joint meeting in March.

Board of Health Presentations:

None

Board of Health Public Hearings:

None.

Environmental Health Director - Jennifer Garcelon

Jennifer Garcelon is paying close attention to what is going on in Olympia. A new bill, HB1154, regarding Ecology having more authority and enforcement at landfills that usurps local authority. Onsite code update, the attorneys will review our changes and double check that we are consistent with the State. The biggest change is the minimum land area. Locally, we are looking at increasing the septic inspection fine to more than \$300.00. We also may need to start issuing operation permits, like for an incinerating toilet which needs yearly maintenance and if there is no water. Changes are also coming regarding splitting septic waste flows to get away from engineering requirements for higher levels of waste. We have a conditional offer for the Water Quality position and interviews next week for the EH Onsite position.

HHS Director – Kevin LoPiccolo

Public Health has a new Public Health Nurse that has started, and we are very fortunate that he has joined our team. Heidi Anderson from the Forks Community Hospital and will be able to attend the meeting next month.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

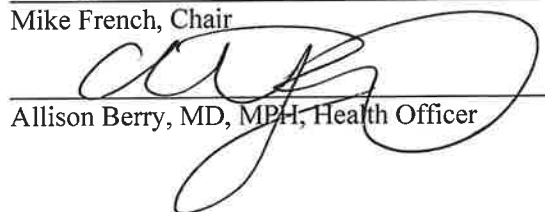
Next Meeting – February 18, 2025

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18 day of February, 2025

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Mike French, Chair



Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:


Nan Furford, Clerk of the Board