



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

AGENDA of October 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 1:33 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

Motion by Commissioner Ozias, seconded by Gerald Stephanz, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION TAKEN: Agenda approved.

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Gerald Stephanz, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

None

Health Officer – Infectious Disease Update

Dr. Berry reported increased respiratory illness. COVID-19 rates, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations are decreasing regionally and statewide; vaccine availability is one of the drivers of reduced severity. Discussion followed.

Influenza and RSV activity remains low locally and statewide. Discussion followed.

Dr. Berry noted concerns about potential cuts to WIC had eased and benefits will continue. However, SNAP benefits are expected to end at the end of October. SNAP recipients include 53% families with children and 38% elderly or disabled individuals. Discussion followed.

Old Business and Information Items:

None.

Discussion Items:

1. Board of Health – Term Expirations

Terms for Gerald Stephanz, Tia Skerbeck, and Paul Cunningham expire on 12/31/2025. Members were asked to notify Kevin LoPiccolo if they wish to be reappointed for another three-year term. The City Government position will rotate to a representative from the City of Sequim; Kevin will reach out accordingly. Dr. Berry shared that the Washington State Board of Health has asked local boards to open positions to all tribes, as Clallam County does, and requested feedback on local experience.

Board of Health Presentations:

1. Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) – Jeff Johnston.

Jeff Johnston, Executive Director, presented an overview of the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency. Discussion followed.

2. Opioid Settlement Funding For Harm Reduction Health Center - Staff

Jenny Oppelt reviewed funding and shared data. HHS requested \$50,000 for January–June 2026 to support the Harm Reduction Health Center until longer-term funding and priorities are established. Discussion followed.

Motion: Paul Cunningham moved to ask the County Commissioners to support \$50,000 from the Opioid Relief Fund for January 2026 through June 2026 for supplies for the Harm Reduction Health Center as it currently exists. Seconded by Dr. Gerald Stephanz. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Ozias noted that, once the requested report is reviewed, the Board of Health may choose to continue funding as decided or take alternative action.

Board of Health Public Hearings:

None.

Environmental Health Director - Jennifer Garcelon

Jen Garcelon reported two upcoming “Septic 101” classes—one at the Courthouse and another in Sequim on a Saturday. Two new EHS staff will participate in Department of Health Inspector Training next week. For the Food Team, the final large festival of the season was the Fungi Festival; staff will remain busy with routine inspections and new plan reviews. The department continues developing reports and workflows for the database transition and fiscal processes for online payments.

HHS Director – Kevin LoPiccolo

Kevin LoPiccolo expressed appreciation that WIC food benefits will continue. He noted there will be no Board of Health meeting next month and requested cancellation of the December meeting if no urgent items arise. Discussion followed. Jennifer Oppelt announced that the new Public Health Nurse Manager begins on November 3.

Director Kevin LoPiccolo reported that he’s thankful that WIC food benefits will continue. Next month there will be no Board of Health meeting. Kevin asked to cancel the December meeting. If there isn’t an urgent item to discuss, then the meeting could be cancelled. Discussion followed.

Jenny Oppelt noted that the new Public Health Nurse Manager starts November 3rd.

Public Comment

Guy Standley – Noted that while some properties have overgrown brush, he incurs costs for yard waste and dump fees. He asked whether there is a mechanism for low-income residents to access the landfill at least once per year to clean up their property.

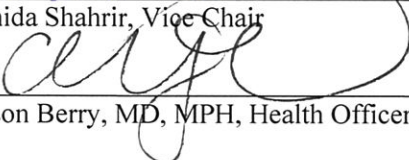
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

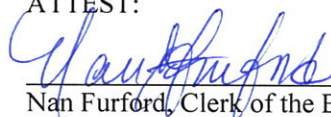
Next Meeting – January 20, 2026

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17 day of March, 2026

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH


Shahida Shahrir, Vice Chair

Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:


Nan Furford, Clerk of the Board