



CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES of June 16, 2026 @ 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: Chair, Commissioner Mike French; Commissioner Mark Ozias; Commissioner Randy Johnson; Vice-Chair, Shahida Shahrir; Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Representative, Paul Cunningham; Pete Tjemsland, City Council Member; Health Officer, Dr. Allison Berry; HHS Director, Kevin LoPiccolo; Jennifer Oppelt, HHS Deputy Director; Environmental Health Director, Jennifer Garcelon

Members absent: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Representative, Tia Skerbeck

Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Ozias, seconded by Paul Cunningham, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION TAKEN: Agenda approved.

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2026

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

Public Comment:

- Dr. Thomas DeForrest questions the efficacy of how we are dealing with the homeless.
- Stacy Richards commented on harm reduction.
- Bradley Callaway commented on harm reduction.
- Mitch Zenobi commented on harm reduction.
- Stephanie Day commented on harm reduction.
- Jake Seegers commented on the Environmental Health report.
- Jody Dotson commented on harm reduction.
- David Rogers commented on harm reduction.
- Teresa Miller commented on local health officer powers and duties to clean up Tumwater creek.
- Mark Curtis commented on harm reduction and addiction.
- Jeff Tozzer commented on community leader behavior.
- Denise Lapio commented on drug testing and harm reduction.
- Deborah Anderson commented on harm reduction.
- George Peterson commented on solutions to saving lives and homeless addiction.

Health Officer – Infectious Disease Update

Dr. Berry reported low rates of influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 in Clallam County and noted that Public Health was investigating a small cluster of pertussis cases among children. Discussion followed.

Program Updates / Informational Reports:

- **Public Health Highlights**

Lisa Bridge presented the May 2026 Public Health Highlights report. Discussion followed.

Discussion Items:

- **Board of Health Vacancy – Interview Panel Recommendation.**

Jennifer Oppelt reported that the At-Large position had fifteen applicants. Three people were interviewed. The interview panel recommended moving forward with the appointment of Tara Coffin to fill the At-Large Board of Health position. Motion by Paul Cunningham, seconded by Shahida Sharhir to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that Tara Coffin be appointed as the At-Large member. The other vacancy is for a consumer of Public Health.

- **Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Funding Update**

Kevin LoPiccolo provided an update regarding the reduction of approximately \$580,000 in Foundational Public Health Services funding effective July 1, 2026. The reduction is anticipated to result in the elimination of six positions, including five positions within Public Health and one position within Environmental Health. Discussion followed.

- **Opioid Settlement Funding Request to Reallocate**

Kevin LoPiccolo discussed the current allocation and keeping three staff at the Harm Reduction Health Center and reducing the overall cost of supplies. Requested funding to keep three staff for the Harm Reduction Health Center. Discussion followed.

Paul Cunningham moved, seconded by Shahida Shahrir, to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the restructuring of Harm Reduction Health Center funding through the use of Opioid Settlement Funds, including an increase of \$18,756 for the current year and ongoing funding consideration through the budget process. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Health Presentations:

- **Environmental Health: 2025 Annual Report & Solid Waste Update - Staff**

Eli Owens presented the Solid Waste update. Discussion followed.

The Annual Report will be rescheduled for next month.

Board of Health Public Hearings

None.

Environmental Health Director - Jennifer Garcelon

Jennifer Garcelon reported that Environmental Health staff continue to adjust operations in response to recent funding reductions and indicated she would provide a more detailed update at the next meeting.

HHS Director – Kevin LoPiccolo

No comment.

Future Agenda Items:

None.

Updates & Announcements:

None.

Public Comment

- Dr. Thomas DeForrest clarified his statement earlier.
- Vanessa Baker has drafted a proposed policy resolution that summarized concerns of every person today.
- Jake Seegers spoke about evidence.
- Mitch Zenobi asked questions regarding suicide and drug use.
- George Peterson spoke about Ibogaine and the Streets grant.
- Jeff Tozzer spoke about needle theft.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Next Meeting – July 21, 2026

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21 day of July, 2026

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Mike French, Chair



Allison Berry, MD, MPH, Health Officer

ATTEST:



Nan Fulford, Clerk of the Board