



**Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** January 20, 2022  
**Call to order:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 4:20 p.m.  
**Location:** Telephonic/Video Meeting

**PRESENT**

**Board Attendees:** Suzanne Holmes, Brent Freeman, Mariane Brightbill, Mark Schmidt, Beth Hansen, Dan Bigelow, Lee Tischer  
**Staff Attendees:** Chris Bischoff, Duncan Cruickshank, Julie Johnston, Michelle Collupy  
**Guest Attendees:** Jean Clark  
**Next meeting:** February 17, 2022

**I. Introductions: N/A**

**II. Board Business**

- A. Minutes approved as submitted for the December meeting.
- B. Agenda Adjustment – Approved
- C. Board Elected: Marianne Brightbill for Chair and Suzanne Holmes as Vice Chair.
- D. Membership
  - Membership Recruiting advertising in the Wahkiakum Eagle and Social Media. Using MH & CD the Behavioral Health fund for expenses.
  - Minority – Thoughts on how who to reach out to for recruiting?
  - Mark Schmidt inquired on how many members we want to recruit. Looking for 5 more members.
- E. WCHHS Advisory Board will no longer be a closed meeting. Open to the public via posting Agenda on the County website and Meeting Minutes also posted to the site.
- F. Jean Clark from CPAA says that their contract states there must be a community member attending. Beth Hansen and Mariane Brightbill qualify.

**III. Discussion**

- A. New Laws for Advisory Board – Presentation by Dan Bigelow
  - \* RCW 70.05.030(2) : A local board of the health comprised solely of elected officials may retain this composition if the local health jurisdiction had a public health advisory committee or board with its own bylaws established on January 1, 2021”

- \* RCW 70.46.100 states new Responsibilities: Provide input to the local board of health in the recruitment and selection of an administrative office and local health officer. Use a “health equity framework: to identify “community health needs” and “review and recommend public health policies and priorities” for the County. Provide community forums and hearings as assigned by the local board of health. Establish community task forces as assigned by the local board of health. Review and make recommendations to the local health jurisdictions and local board of health for an annual budget and fees. Review and advise on local health jurisdiction progress in achieving performance measures and outcomes to ensure continuous quality improvement and accountability.

We must now comply with the OPMA, RCW CHAPTER 42.30; Regular meetings on a regular schedule; agenda on county website 24 hours before the meeting, the public may attend (personally or by Zoom) – They need not be given an opportunity to comment but they have a right to watch. All official business is to be transacted at the meeting – no getting together beforehand in quorum to decide what to do and no mass emails to the board discussing what to do.

- B. Discussed the omitting August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting due to busy month for most people. Board approved by motion.

#### IV. Department Updates

##### A. Public Health

Bischoff

- CDC saying interesting things lately. Omicron moving quickly everywhere. Mark Schmidt discussed that OHSU model says Omicron will peak next week and start coming down.
- Wahkiakum County were 2 cases away from the highest month of positives since the pandemic started.
- At home positive test are not being reported to us or DOH. Official records only from the PCR tests.
- Legislative session: recommend reading the “Short Session”
- Flu vaccines never arrived here at WCHD, not expected to get any at this point. Get your flu shot – not too late.
- Brent Freeman stated they did 500 tests last week, this includes contact tests on students’ family members. He had 16 positives at the school that week. Wahkiakum positive rate runs about two weeks behind from the rest of the state. We should experience a decline in the next couple weeks. 4<sup>th</sup> graders went home this week and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> split class had two days out.
- Per Chris Bischoff – our safety net is a bit thinner and concludes why we are having more positives. The system is broken and trying to move back to what “normal” will be. It’s frustrating we don’t have a plan on how to move back to normal.

B. Community Services Manager

Johnston

- Transit system – got hit pretty hard last month (December) with the snow, ice and flooding. Also, all 4 vehicles broke down at the same time. This was at the same time as road closures due to the weather – which was the most convenient time for them to break down. Julie has investigated leasing buses/vehicles, but this is very expensive. Example: \$18,000 for one bus for three months.
- Prevention: Ginger Hake is working on “Guiding Good Choices” in February. Has advertised at the school district, flyers, and social media.
- Food Bank – Helping Hands has closed, now there are only 3 food banks in Wahkiakum.
- River Street Complex – the vacancy has been filled.
- Community Outreach – PUD took away COVID restrictions and started shutting power off. West End went away today (1/20/2022)
- Brent Freeman said he knows a gentleman that has a bus for possible use. A CDL would be needed. It would be smaller than the smallest school district bus on hand now. Will discuss with Julie if needed in a pinch.

C. Behavioral Health Manager

Cruickshank

- Two mental health therapist position still open. Has been advertising on Indeed for the last 6 weeks with zero (0) response for qualified individuals. They want to work remotely – not about the salary. These two positions are budgeted for 2022: WISe Case Manager (almost filled) and a MHP still open.

**V. Board Member Updates / Announcements**

- Bill Wainwright is no longer on the Town of Cathlamet Counsel. Hope that they get a counsel elected soon.
- Brent Freeman – Support between the school and HHS is all the way across the board. Wants to thank McKenna and the Behavioral Health staff for everything.

**VI. Next Meeting**

Date & Time: February 17, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Telephonic/Video Meeting