



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

**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** February 16th, 2023  
**Call to order:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 4:21 p.m.  
**Location:** **Hybrid in-person and Zoom virtual meeting**

**PRESENT**

**Board Attendees:** Amanda Moyer, Beth Hansen, Bobbie Stefan, Brent Freeman, Erica Zink, Gary Howell (alternate), Mariane Brightbill, Mark Schmidt, Sylvia Costich  
**Staff Attendees:** Duncan Cruickshank, Chris Bischoff  
**Ex officio Attendees:** Lee Tischer  
**Guest Attendees:** None

**Absent Members:** Dan Bigelow, Susan Schillios

**Absent Staff Attendees:** Julie Johnson, Michelle Collupy

**Next meeting:** March 16, 2023 @ 3:00PM

**I. Introductions:**

**II. Board Business**

- A. Sylvia Costich brought up corrections to the meeting minutes dated 01/19/2023 by adding a section in the meeting minutes titled "Absent Staff Attendees". Brent Freeman moved to approve the 01/19/2023 meeting minutes as amended. Bobbie Stefan second the motion. Decision: Aye unanimous.

**III. DISCUSSION**

A. COVID Update

Bischoff

- The Health Officers Committee met on 02/15/2023 and it is determined that there is a continued mandate of masking in health facilities in WA State. The rule is put in place by the Secretary of Health and only applies to medical facilities and medical care teams with patient facing positions.
- The DOH recommends that you should continue to wear a mask in high-impact situations such as events. The DOH is asking for the opinion of Public Health regarding this matter as well.

- Wahkiakum still requires masking for our mental health services and the shot clinic that is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Public Health building.
- Washington State Hospital Administration requests that DOH mandate masking for everyone to rid the public of confusion, however, as of now, we are following the guidelines given to us by the Secretary of the State.
- The new COVID-19 variant hasn't shown to be a remarkable persistent threat throughout the year.

#### **IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

##### **A. PUBLIC HEALTH**

Bischoff

- McKenna Todd went in front of the Board of Commissioners regarding food permits to make food permits cheaper for temporary events. This would also make food and safety standards a little more relaxed for temporary events in the hopes that more community members and home grown vendors would participate by running a booth at local events. A presentation will be held at the Chamber of Commerce 28<sup>th</sup> to be up for hearing.
- It is scheduled that on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 that there will be an informational event held at the Riverstreet building at 8am for those interested in food permits for temporary events.
- In September 2023 there will be a tire take back event where the Department of Ecology will fund the disposal of tires. There are rules to the event such as the tires cannot be on rims and they will not take back large commercial tires. Stipulations will be laid out at a different date before the event.
- Wahkiakum County is now working with Pacific County and Cowlitz County regarding the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. Future Board Meeting will hold a space to discuss the CHA/CHIP.
- The Wahkiakum Health Department still have vaccines for COVID-19 and the Flu and the vaccine clinic will go on as long as there are suppliers for it.

##### **B. LEGISLATION**

Bischoff

- WSALPHO can lobby on behalf of Public Health where a larger number of bills get dropped.
- Senate Bill 5536 will change the 2021 Blake Decision by making possession a misdemeanor. The WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs testify in favor of SB5536.
- House Bill 1678 moves to improve access to dental care. The WA Dental Association opposes HB1678
- House Bill 1470 concerns private detention facilities. Once contracts expire in out of state, they want to be removed.
- If House Bill 1505 passes, then there will have to be an alternative jet fuel.
- Senate Bill 557 addresses more funding for broadband internet.
- Regarding Senate Bill 5440 wants the County to be responsible for a jail-based competency restoration unit.

### C. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Cruickshank

- The Mentoring Program is off the ground again since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The program entails adults mentoring youth at least 4 hours a month and currently there are 8 accepted mentors within our community who have all passed the background checks and have attended training. They are always looking for more mentors to match with youth. Youth age ranges between 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- The rental and utility assistance program will be ending this year.
- Wahkiakum on the Move is still hoping for new buses. There was a \$56k transfer from Public Health earlier in the year to help grant match for 2 buses.

### D. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Cruickshank

- It's been exceedingly challenging to meet Medicare requirements for Behavioral Health Services.
- There is currently excess funding for housing.
- There is a lot of food at the food banks.
- Wahkiakum County has one drug disposal box for unused prescription drugs at the courthouse. The Cathlamet Pharmacy also has a drug take back program now.

### V. MEMBER/GUESTS UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Amanda Moyer – Suboxone is officially being prescribed through the MA program at the Family Health Clinic as well as the County Jail. The clinic is also hoping to talk the Cathlamet Pharmacy to supply the new shingles vaccine.
- B. Beth Hansen – Allison Brown is the new Shelter Manager for the charlotte House and Ashley Tawater is the new Shelter Advocate. The Charlotte House is also looking for volunteers for DV advocates. Training is provided by the shelter.

### VI. NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: March 16, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom Meeting