



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

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 20th, 2025
Call to order: 3:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 4:26 p.m.
Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom virtual meeting

PRESENT

Board Attendees: Beth Hansen, Erica Zink, Keven Going, Mariane Brightbill, Mark Schmidt
Staff Attendees: Chris Bischoff, Duncan Cruickshank, Julie Johnson, Michelle Collupy
Ex officio Attendees: Lee Tischer
Guest Attendees: Brandi Beedle, Rosalinde Willson
Absent Members: Bobbie Stefan, Brent Freeman, Dan Bigelow, David Olsen, John Mason, Justin Helms
Absent Staff Attendees:
Next meeting: March 20th, 2025, at 3:00 PM

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair

II. BOARD BUSINESS

Chair

A. Meeting minutes— Erica Zink moved to approve the February 16th, 2025 meeting minutes. Kevin Going seconded. Approved – unanimous.

III. GUEST SPEAKER(S)

A. Rosalinde Willson attended representing the Cathlamet Women’s Club. She is interested in hosting an Emergency Preparedness event. This will be a county-wide event slated to take place in June of 2025. Rosalinde was hoping that HHS would provide the space and tables for this future event. HHS is willing to provide the space and tables, but advertising and branding will have to be co-branded with HHS.

IV. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the current political climate, Beth Hansen expresses concern over the potential possibility of losing funding for ECAP, SA/DV and childcare services in our county. On February 27th, St. James Family Center will be hosting the annual Chocolate Extravaganza. Proceeds will go to support the Charlotte House and the center. Boxes of

homemade chocolates will be sold for \$20 per box which will benefit the DV shelter and St. James Family Center. This year St. James Family Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The Board has a goal to raise \$40k in their 40th year and will be hosting events all year with a large event coming this Summer.

Mark Schmidt announces that respiratory illness is very high this year and that RSV and the Flu in particular are hitting the community pretty hard.

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. PUBLIC HEALTH

Bischoff

- Flu is hitting our community hard this year so HHS wants to remind the public that HHS still has Flu and COVID vaccines available at the Elochoman campus, however, there will be no RSV vaccines due to budget cuts this year.
- The kiosk located at the Public Library near what used to be the former community center's entry is currently stocked with flu and COVID tests, free to the public. However, unfortunately, the kiosk is set for budget cuts this year by the State Secretary of Health. If the State does cut the funding for the kiosk, HHS will try to keep a kiosk of a different company by using in-house funds, but that depends on how deep the State budget cuts are. The State is facing a \$10B budget hole. HHS is keeping an eye on the situation and will plan accordingly as best as possible.
- WASALPHO Lobbyists are trying to do what they can to make sure budget cuts won't affect local public health too much.
- Building 1's construction is finished at the Elochoman campus and now construction efforts are on Building 2.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Johnson

- HHS is currently working on the 2025-2030 Local Housing and Homelessness plan required by the State Department of Commerce. Every 5 years the State requires every county in WA State to write a 5-year plan. Wahkiakum County is re-writing their 5-year plan to address housing and homelessness in our community.
- The PIT (Point In Time) count that commenced on February 29, 2025 was extremely successful this year by coordinating efforts with Destination Hope and Recovery who has long-standing relationships with community members with RV campers.

C. CHA/CHIP

Zink

- No current update. Shannon Hoskins will be giving a data presentation to the HHS Advisory Board next month before her and Erica Zink kick off their CHA/CHIP presentation tour around the county.

C. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Cruickshank

- BH personnel are very happy with the Building 1 remodel. The remodel allowed clients to have a lot more privacy.
- County Commissioners approved the hiring of a second Peer Counsellor. BH is currently in the interview process with a candidate with an MHP.
- Therapists currently have full case loads and the SUD department has been very busy.

D. BUDGET AND FINANCE

- CONCON contract with the State Department of Health has been renewed and HHS has completed an application for a solid waste grant.

VI. GUESTS UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Allison Brown, the Shelter Manager, has given her notice to take up an opportunity that is more local to her residence and her last day at the shelter will be on February 28th, 2025. The Board wishes her well. The shelter is working on filling the Managerial position internally.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: March 20th, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting