



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

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 20, 2023
Call to order: 3:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 4:14 p.m.
Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom virtual meeting

PRESENT

Board Attendees: Amanda Moyer, Bobbie Stefan, Brent Freeman, Erica Zink, Gary Howell (alternate), Mariane Brightbill, Mark Schmidt, Sylvia Costich
Staff Attendees: Duncan Cruickshank, Julie Johnston, Michelle Collupy, Teresa Howell
Ex officio Attendees: Lee Tischer
Guest Attendees: David Olsen, Nicole Baruth
Absent Members: Dan Bigelow, Susan Schillios, Beth Hansen,
Absent Staff Attendees: Chris Bischoff
Next meeting: May 18, 2023, at 3:00PM

I. Introductions Chair

Nicole Baruth – CHOICE Regional Health Network/CPAA Partnership Manager

II. Board Business Chair

A. Meeting minutes – Sylvia Costich motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2023, and March 16, 2023. Gary Howell second the motion. Aye-unanimously.

III. DISCUSSION

A. COVID Update Cruickshank

- A new Bivalent booster was approved for use on 04/19/2023, however, Wahkiakum County does not have any supply yet to add to the shot clinic. Monovalent vaccines need to be discarded.
- The Health Dept. continues to offer COVID vaccinations. The Federal/State plans to stop paying for the vaccines but the health department will continue to cover the cost, while funding is available.

IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. PUBLIC HEALTH

Cruickshank

- The legislative process will be finished in 2-3 days. A lot of good bills were passed that relate to public health but there is still debate concerning the amendments on the Blake Decision.
- Digital scanning of mental health records is almost complete. Digital scanning makes health records much more secure using encrypted digital files rather than loose paper files.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Johnston

- Guiding Good Choices (GGC) – GGC is an evidence-based, 5-session parenting workshop for adults who have youth between the ages of 9-14. For the May 2023 session, 3 families have signed up. Childcare and food are provided during sessions.
- Vouchers for Farmer's Markets – 3 out of 4 local farmers, this year, are qualified to accept the Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers and the WIC Farmer's Market vouchers at our local Farmer's Market. The farmer's Market in Longview, WA accept these as well and the Wahkiakum On the Move has been changed for May 2023 on Tuesdays to accommodate rides to the Farmer's Market in Longview.
- Mentoring Program – Update: The Mentoring Program now has 9 Mentors matched with 9 Mentees so far this year so now all available slots are currently filled until new Mentors are trained.
- Transit – WOTM Schedule has changed in May 2023 on Tuesdays to accommodate stopping at the Farmer's Market in Longview, WA. The new schedule is posted on the county website.
- Erica Zink and Teresa Howell presented the Community Health Needs Questionnaire to the Board this month. The questionnaire is designed to be able to hear the community's input on what they believe are the direst Public Health concerns in Wahkiakum County. Their input will then be data analyzed and written into the Community Health Assessment and then a Community Health Improvement Plan will be written and implemented addressing the major concerns. This is the first time that Wahkiakum County will have their own CHA/CHIP and not be rolled into another neighboring county's CHA/CHIP. Survey date will close soon after Bald Eagle's Day Festival for data analysis. The assessment is available on the County Website, Facebook, a QR code that will take you right to the survey, by vision board presented by Erica and Terrie, or a paperform that can be picked up or filled out at may Wahkiakum locations, business or handed out by erica and Terrie. The survey takes 2 minutes to fill out and is completely anonymous.

C. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Cruickshank

- The county Behavioral Health sector is currently working with the Sherriff and jail staff to get a head start on compliance with the new laws so that HHS will be the go-to resource for action and answers regarding the new laws concerning BH and law enforcement.

D. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Collupy

- Beneficiary Agreement – HCA grant for Behavioral Health employee’s recruitment and retention program came in.
- Bids – Some HCA beneficiary funds will go towards building a gym on the Elochoman campus as well as a “Zen” room to prevent burn-out. Bids have come in for that work.
- The bids came in for an electrical box replacement at the Hope Center as the current electrical box has been failing and needs upgrading.
- The county is working on a project to provide ADA access for the Public Health buildings.
- The county applied for a 2-year grant to fund Solid Waste enforcement for the Department of Ecology. Still waiting to hear about the grant award.

V. MEMBER/GUESTS UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sylvia Costich – Showed Concern for digital access for senior citizens to access the Community Health Needs Questionnaire digitally. This was answered by Brent Freeman reminding the Board that Computer Link NW in Cathlamet has a program going on providing free support with setting up internet, computers, tablets, training, safe internet support, navigation and even helping provide low internet costs to qualifying persons as well as computers or tablets. Brent stressed that the service is out there to address this issue and it’s up to individuals to utilize that resource or not.

Bobbie Stefan – Also commented that the Federal Broadband map (Wave) is not up to date so Federal does not know who has broadband access for funding.

Lee Tischer – Also commented that the PUD announced that Charter Internet is going to access pole licenses on Puget Island since Wahkiakum West is unable to service Puget Island with internet.

Brent Freeman – A Puget Island resident, suggested that until Charter access the poles licenses, T-Mobile has a plan for 250mpb for \$25 for those looking for fast, reliable and cheap internet on Puget Island.

David Olsen – The Town of Cathlamet is working on getting better wireless connectivity on the west end of the county. Also, the Town of Cathlamet is in comprehensive planning housing and transportation and will have a plan within a couple of months.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: May 18, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting