



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

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 14th, 2025
Call to order: 3:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom virtual meeting

PRESENT

Board Attendees: Beth Hansen, Bobbie Stefan, Erica Zink, John Mason, Kevin Going
Staff Attendees: Chris Bischoff, Julie Johnson
Ex officio Attendees: Lee Tischer
Guest Attendees: Briana da Silva Bhatia, Rosalinde Wilson
Absent Members: Brent Freeman, Dan Bigelow, David Olsen, Justin Helms, Keven Going, Mariane Brightbill, Mark Schmidt
Absent Staff Attendees: Duncan Cruickshank, Michelle Collupy
Next meeting: May 15th, 2025, at 3:00 PM

I. INTRODUCTIONS Chair

II. BOARD BUSINESS Chair

- A. Meeting minutes— Erica Zink moved to approve the March 20th, 2025 meeting minutes. Kevin Going seconded. Approved – unanimous.

III. GUEST SPEAKER(S)

- A. Rosalinde Wilson gave an update regarding the Emergency Preparedness event that the Cathlamet' Woman's Club will be hosting in the Hope Center on June 7th, 2025. The hospital and Highway Patrol will have a table at the event. HHS plans to advertise the event on Facebook and Instagram. Rosalinde will work with Brandi Beedle (Local Emergency response Coordinator) and Jennifer Milleren (Communications Specialist) for other avenues of advertising. Advertisements will be displayed on WOTM busses and published in the Wahkiakum County Eagle. There will be possible advertisement through the Sheriff's Office as well.

IV. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Hansen is still waiting for budhet news from the State regarding programs for the Charlott House and St. James Family Center. She does not expect to lose any current

programs in 2025. On April 26th, 2025, St. James Family Center will be hosting a movie night with a viewing of Moana 2.

Bobbie Stefan announced the School's new Superintendent recently came to the area to look at properties in order to move to Wahkiakum County from Alaska in June 2025.

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. PUBLIC HEALTH

Bischoff

- Lobbyists are not giving out any information regarding any potential budget cuts on a State level. HHS is still expecting some budget cuts to happen due to State deficit. The kiosk that stocked testing kits and health products for free public use has been removed. HHS is looking for short-term funding sources to get 2 more kiosks to manage more privately. The two locations would be where the old kiosk stood below the Public Library where the former Community Center entrance was. The second location would be at Johnson Park on the west end of the county. HHS will pay for the products to stock the kiosks so that the products would still remain free for the public.
- Legislation passed a bill where it will be easier to perform infant mortality reviews. While infant mortality rates are not high in Wahkiakum County, this will help in getting proper information into infant mortality to spot trends to hopefully help reverse a negative trend in infant deaths.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Johnston

- Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition vouchers are back for 2025. HHS expects the cards to arrive some time in June to be handed out to those on the list. To qualify for a Farmer's Market Nutrition card, you must be 55+ years or older and 180% below the poverty level on income. WOTM will update their bus routes to accommodate for a stop and pick up at the farmer's Markets in Longview, WA and Rosburg, WA.
- Employ Wahkiakum will be hosting an employment/volunteer fair and will be partnering with NEXT for students to sign up for internships. A date and location is not set at this time.
- Through the youth prevention grant, Suzi Mackey will organizing a tennaged movie night at the Hope Center. The CHA's (Community Health Advocates) are preparing for the movie night in May of 2025. The movie will be The

Sandlot and there will be games to play as well. Food accommodations will be popcorn, a taco bar and pretzels.

- HHS is still working on the 5 year Housing and Homeless Plan for Wahkiakum County. The larger group meeting are being broken out to smaller focus groups to gain perspective and ideas from different members of the community.

C. CHA/CHIP Zink

- No Update

C. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Bischoff

- HHS is still looking to hire a Mental Health Therapist

D. BUDGET AND FINANCE Bischoff

- No update

VI. GUESTS UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

VII. NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: May 15th, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting