



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

**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** May 18, 2023  
**Call to order:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 4:48 p.m.  
**Location:** Hybrid in-person and Zoom virtual meeting

**PRESENT**

**Board Attendees:** Amanda Moyer, Beth Hansen, Bobbie Stefan, Brent Freeman, Dan Bigalow, Erica Zink, Mariane Brightbill, Sylvia Costich  
**Staff Attendees:** Chris Bischoff, Duncan Cruickshank, Julie Johnston, Michelle Collupy  
**Ex officio Attendees:** Lee Tischer  
**Guest Attendees:** Shannon Hoskins  
**Absent Members:** Mark Schmidt, Susan Schillios  
**Absent Staff Attendees:**  
**Next meeting:** June 15, 2023, at 3:00PM

**I. Introductions** Chair

Shannon Hoskins – Data Analyst, RYC Analytics

**II. Board Business** Chair

A. Meeting minutes – Sylvia Costich motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2023. Amanda Moyer second the motion. Aye- unanimously.

**III. DISCUSSION**

A. COVID Update Bischoff

- COVID vaccine boosters from last fall are now the new “primary series” for those who still need to get their primary series vaccines. The original Monovalent vaccines have all been destroyed. New boosters will be available in the Fall.
- If you are 60 years or older or at high risk, you can now get your 2<sup>nd</sup> booster.
- The Health Dept. continues to offer COVID vaccinations. The Federal/State will stop paying for the vaccines but the health department will continue to cover the cost, while funding is available.
- The Board has decided to no longer have COVID-19 be in its own category and discussion point for the HHS Advisory Board meetings but instead will fall into Public Health discussion if and when there are updates.

## IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### A. PUBLIC HEALTH

Bischoff

- WHHS will be closed on May 30<sup>th</sup> as in-service for Resilience training.
- On September 16, 2023, there will be a used tire take-back event happening at the Skamokawa fairgrounds. HHS will be looking for volunteers to help unload tires and to manage a sign-in sheet. Fliers are almost ready and will be posted in town and in local publications.
- HHS plans to hire a Communications Specialist as a large portion of the population is no longer reading physical newspapers. Foundational for Public Health Services (FPHS) (State) funds would fund this new position. FPHS funds are unable to fund health services or equipment but can fund advertising and marketing as well as renovations and consultations. A question for HHS is, “What can we do that has never been done in our community?” then try to get those things in motion.

### B. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Johnston

- Community Service wants to highlight what HHS does for Seniors of our community because some of these services might not be known to the community. These services include:
  - Area Agency on Aging & Disability of Southwest Washington (AAADSW)
  - Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) Program.
  - Senior Lunches provided by Lower Columbia CAP every Thursday at 2 different locations (Cathlamet and Gray’s River) as well as Meals on wheels that same day.
  - Senior vouchers for low-cost fruits and vegetables.
  - Wahkiakum on the Move (WOTM) bus rides are free for Senior Citizens from Naselle, WA to Kelso, WA.
  - Senior Social event every August.
  - PUD Senior Discounts.
  - The Living Well Fairs include Medicare/Medicaid enrollment and questions assistance.

For more information regarding these services please call Wahkiakum HHS or visit County website. 360.795.8630 or <https://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/161/Public-Health-Human-Services>

- 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 schedule has been changed starting in 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.

C. CHA/CHIP Zink

- Shannon Hoskins, Data Analyst, with RYC Analytics, gave a presentation on what to expect out of the CHA. The priority will be to provide Wahkiakum with our own exclusive data to help the community figure out which Public Health issues will be most important and receive the most attention and focus for the CHIP. Normally our data is rolled into our neighboring, larger county’s populations skewing Wahkiakum’s data due to small numbers and social and cultural differences.
- To protect health privacy, some data will not be reportable.

C. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Cruickshank

- The Blake Fix made possession of illegal substance no longer a felony and is now a gross misdemeanor that requires referral for treatment.
- Vaping has become a public health crisis in our community.

D. BUDGET AND FINANCE Collupy

- No updates at this time.

**V. MEMBER/GUESTS UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sylvia Costich – Early in the meeting, Sylvia presented some information and statistical data defining who a Senior Citizen is as well as common health concerns within that population. Additionally, she presented census data from 2015 showing that the Senior Citizen population of Wahkiakum is proportionately larger than the rest of the State and proposes that the Advisory Board focus more on Senior Citizen programs for our aging community.

Brent Freeman – commented on the vaping crisis concerning our youth in Wahkiakum County and discussed how we might come up with ideas to reach more parents regarding the abatement of vape use within youth of the community. It was mentioned that our local gas stations sell colorful vapor products next to candy bars and that can send the wrong message to our youngest populations so hopes that the community would work together to change how vapor products are sold in our stores.

On a much brighter note, Brent adds that the Highschool robotics team won 1<sup>st</sup> place internationally against many schools from all over the world and reminds us that just because our district is small, it doesn’t mean we are weak, and that the youth are capable of great things. The Board congratulates the Wahkiakum Mecca Mules for their hard work and international win.

## **VI. NEXT MEETING**

Date & Time: June 15th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting