



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

**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** September 21, 2023  
**Call to order:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 4:53 p.m.  
**Location:** Hybrid in-person and Zoom virtual meeting

**PRESENT**

**Board Attendees:** Alison Brown (Alt for Beth Hansen), Amanda Moyer, Bobbie Stefan, Brent Freeman, Erica Zink, Mariane Brightbill, Mark Schmidt, Sylvia Costich

**Staff Attendees:** Chris Bischoff, Duncan Cruickshank, Julie Johnston, Michelle Collupy

**Ex officio Attendees:**

**Guest Attendees:** Abe Gardener, Adam Boyd, Beau Bakken, Chris Gartski, Jody Mason, Justin Roberts, Katie Musgrave, Lauryn Roberts, Paul Tillman, Steve Krager

**Absent Members:** Dan Bigalow, Mark Howie, Lee Tischer, Mark Schmidt, Susan Schillios

**Absent Staff Attendees:**

**Next meeting:** September 21, 2023, at 3:00PM

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair

Abe Gardener – Liaison, North Mason Fire Authority

Adam Boyd – PA-C, North Mason Fire Authority

Beau Bakken – Fire Chief, North Mason Fire Authority

Chris Gartski – Battalion Chief, Cathlamet Fire Department

Jody Mason – Battalion Chief, Cathlamet EMS

Justin Roberts – EMT, Cathlamet EMS/Fire Department

Katie Musgrave – Executive Assistant, North Mason County Fire Authority

Lauryn Roberts – EMT, Cathlamet EMS

Paul Tillman – EMS Lieutenant, Cathlamet EMS/Fire Department

Dr. Steve Krager – Deputy Health Officer, SW Regional Counties

**II. BOARD BUSINESS**

Chair

A. Meeting minutes – Sylvia Costich motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2023. Erica Zink second the motion. Aye- unanimously.

- B. Because of the heavy meeting schedule and presentation, the Board will postpone going over the HHSAB Resolution until next meeting.

### **III. GUEST SPEAKER(S)**

A. Beau Bakken, Abe Gardner, Adam Boyd and Katie Musgrave, with North Mason County Fire Authority, gave a presentation on a program they have implemented for Resource Access and Mobile Integrated Health in their rural community. The Fire Authority did a study and found that in the past 5 years, there was a 30% increase in non-emergent 911 calls. These calls consisted of community needing healthcare help but not to the point of actually needing emergency services. North Mason County Fire Authority were able to secure the funding through grants and their nearest Hospital District, which is 45 minutes away, to start the Resource Access and Mobile Integrated Health Program. The program and funding allowed for the hiring of a PA-C who is able to make house calls as a bridge while the patient waits long durations to get in to see their PCP instead of the patient burdening the 911 and emergency response systems. So far, their program has been very successful, and they are keeping track of that data in the hopes that in the near future, insurance companies will help fund programs like this in other rural areas in the State.

### **IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

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

Bischoff

- WHHS has hired a new Public Health nurse. Her name is Nicole Williams.
- Although a new Public Health Nurse has been hired, we cannot start shot clinics back up at the Elochoman campus as of yet. WHHS is still working on getting a shipment of the flu vaccine for this year.
- Our local pharmacy does have the flu and RSV vaccine available but not the latest COVID booster as of yet.
- The RSV vaccine has been approved for 60 years of age and older.

#### **B. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Johnston

- On October 10, 2023, there will be an AAADSW meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the courthouse in the BOC room.
- There will be the annual Living well Event held on November 3, 2023 at the Hope Center from 11am – 4pm. The Hope Center will be hosting many different vendors for community members.
- Community Outreach Specialist, Kelly Patterson, has retired. HHS and the Board wishes her well. Karrissa Nogueira has been hired to fill the position and will start on 09/25/2023.

#### **C. CHA/CHIP**

Zink

- Completed CHNA survey data was presented to the Board. The public can access the Community Health Needs Survey report on the County Website at: <https://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/604/Wahkiakum-County-Community-Health-Assess>

C. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Cruickshank

- An individual who has Medicare as a primary insurance and a secondary of Medicaid insurance can receive mental health services.

D. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Collupy

- The Board went over the preliminary budget for 2024. There have only been a few updates from last year. Community Outreach is and has been part of the current expense fund but for 2024, will be asking the Commissioners and the Auditor's office if it can be pulled out of current expense and put into the Public Health fund to streamline efficiency.
- There has been a budget increase in Advertising and Marketing.
- The BRIC grant is concluded for 2024.
- FPHS Funds went up over \$1M for 2024.

**III. MEMBER/GUESTS UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Amanda Moyer – Is resigning from Family Health Clinic in Cathlamet and her replacement will start in October of 2023. The Board wishes her well in her new endeavors.

Brent Freeman – 25 feet of sewer line collapsed and the high school and required immediate repairs. Repairs were completed on 09/21/2023. The lawsuit between the school district and the State was dismissed by the Supreme Court, but because the State has shared responsibility in equity of access, Wahkiakum School District will be moving forward with the case and a new game plan. The Department of Health put out a new Health Update for the schools concerning COVID-19 infection. The school provides home test kits and if there are more than 5 related COVID-19 cases during an infection then that info must be passed along to the State. Free COVID-19 test kits can be ordered through the Department of Health up to 4 kits per household.

Chris Bischoff – Chris thanks the school district and the FFA for all of their help during the Tire Amnesty Event that happened earlier this month.

Brent Freeman – The Summer Food Program is going well and is available from 10am-1:00pm. The Air Quality monitor is back up and running at the High School. Mental Health Services are available for the kids during the summer.

**IV. NEXT MEETING**

Date & Time: October 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting