



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

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 19, 2023
Call to order: 3:00 p.m.
Adjourned: 3:47 p.m.
Location: **Zoom virtual meeting**

PRESENT

Board Attendees: Beth Hansen, Bobbie Stefan, Erica Zink, Gary Howell (alternate),
Mariane Brightbill, Mark Schmidt, Suzanne Holmes, Sylvia Costich

Staff Attendees: Duncan Cruickshank, Michelle Collupy

Ex officio Attendees: Lee Tischer

Guest Attendees:

Absent Members: Amanda Moyer, Brent Freeman, Chris Bischoff, Dan Bigelow, Julie
Johnston, Mark Howie, Susan Schillios

Next meeting: February 16, 2023 @ 3:00PM

I. Introductions:

II. Board Business

- A. Sylvia Costich brought up corrections to the meeting minutes dated 11/17/2022. Erica Zink moved to approve the 11/17/2022 meeting minutes as amended. Bobbie Stefan second the motion. Decision: Aye unanimous.
- B. January marked the time to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair for the HHS Advisory Board. Sylvia Costich nominated Marianne Brightbill for Chair. Decision: Aye unanimous. Sylvia Costich nominated Bobbie Stefan for Vice Chair. Decision: Aye unanimous.

III. DISCUSSION

- A. COVID Update Cruickshank
 - Wahkiakum County is the only county in Washington State to have the lowest COVID cases presently according to DOH website, however, at-home test kits are skewing the data.
 - Case rates seem to be going down officially but unofficially there is still concerning spread in Wahkiakum County.
 - Mark Schmidt commented that hospitalization rates are going down in our region and overall signs have much improved.

- Public Health still has a lot of at-home tests available for use. The printed expiration dates on the boxes may be up, however the new rule from CDC is that as long as you get a control line to show up on a test, that test is still good.

B. Influenza and RSV

Cruickshank

- Statewide there have been 147 deaths due to influenza since 2022 and 54 of those deaths are in children since October 2022.
- RSV cases have dropped to 140 cases per day from 1300 cases per day in the State.
- There are three manufacturers currently working on an adult RSV vaccine.
- Wahkiakum County is still well below the State average on vaccine rates.
- Wahkiakum County is still offering a shot clinic for flu shots on Mondays and Wednesdays unless it's a holiday.

IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. PUBLIC HEALTH

Cruickshank

- All Public Health personnel have finished their relocation to Building 2 at the Elochoman campus.
- The generator for the vaccine freezers was installed today on 01/19/2023 and the propane to run the generator will be installed in the beginning of February 2023.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Cruickshank

Julie Johnston, Community Outreach Manger, was unable to attend this month's HHS Advisory Board meeting but left Duncan with a letter to address to the group. The letter states:

On December 7th, Camille and I participated in the ranking process meeting for the consolidated grant application that will allow us to purchase 2 new busses. We received a ranking of B 12 which means the probability of us getting this funding is high.

In 2022, through our Community Outreach Department, we assisted

Through the Eviction Rental Assistance Program will helped 18 Unique households with rental and utility assistance for a total of \$46,957.39. 76% or these households fell under 30% of FMI, 4% - 31-50% FMI, and 19% 51-80% FMI.

Through Consolidated Homeless Grant, we assisted

1. 6 households in our emergency shelters.
2. 5 households with Homeless prevention dollars (Kept households from being evicted through longer term supports)
3. 5 households with Rapid Rehousing funds. This allowed homeless households to secure permanent stable housing.

Through REAP funding, we assisted 33 households with assistance to pay electricity bill when in need.

In 2022, Through Public Health grant Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) funding, we were able to support our local Community Garden with increasing the number of raised beds available by 10. Half of these will be for the benefit of producing more produce for the Wahkiakum and West End Food pantries. There is no cost to the public to reserve a raised bed. We will be working at the pantries, to get interest from local families to reserve and use a bed. We also secured funding to allow electricity to be added to hoop house so now the growing season can be longer.

Through our Youth Marijuana Prevention grant, we handed out 60 lock boxes to be given out to adults in our county that partake in cannabis use but also have children in the household. These lockboxes come with education on talking to kids about importance of youth refraining.

C. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Cruickshank

- So far there have been no staff changes and Behavioral Health is still working in a close relationship with the school district.
- The Cambia Grant is slowly being worked.
- There has been an uptick in business with a broad range of clientele. A couple of the challenges arising from this is that the no-call, no-shows are at a high and there are challenges with helping youth with no insurance on a consistent.
- Mindy with SUD is leading groups really well.

V. MEMBER/GUESTS UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Lee Tischer – Spoke about the upcoming hearing at the Senate Law and Justice Committee regarding transfer of responsibility for the forensic assessment to evaluate the competency of people in jail from the State to Counties. He also thanks Suzanne Holmes for her years of service.
- B. Bobbie Stefan – Says she looks forward to being the new Vice Chair for WHHS Advisory Board.
- C. Suzanne Holmes – Stated that it has been a privilege to serve on the advisory council but is looking forward to retirement and travel. The Board wishes her well.
- D. Sylvia Costitch – Has questions about the new budget but proposes to go over it at the next meeting.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: February 16, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid in-person and Zoom Meeting