

SAN JUAN BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Legislative Hearing Room, Friday Harbor Hybrid Meeting

Both In-person and Via Teams

11:36 a.m. CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Justin Paulsen called the Board of Health meeting, held March 19, 2025, to order at 11:36 a.m. in the County Council Hearing Room.

BOH Present: Council Members Jane Fuller, Kari McVeigh and Justin Paulsen, and Board Member Richard Geffen were present in the meeting room. Board Members Lisa DiGiorgio and Dr. Steven Rubey attended via videoconference.

Also Present: Dr. Herbie Duber, Interim Medical Officer; Dr. Amy Harley, prospective Medical Officer; Mark Tompkins, Health & Community Services Director; Kyle Dodd, Environmental Health Manager; Ellen Wilcox, Healthy Communities Manager, Jessica Nye, Community Health Services Manager and Lori LeCount, Clerk to the Board; were present in the hearing room. Jami Mitchell, Human Services Manager attended via videoconference.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved with a change to forego the CCC report as Kyle Davies is absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held January 15, 2025 (there was no February meeting), as submitted.

By: Kari McVeigh, Seconded: Richard Geffen

Motion Carried.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Kyle Davies was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11:38 a.m. Committee Updates

ACH – Mark Tompkins

Mark reminded the Board that North Sound Accountable Communities of

Health's current CEO Liz Baxter is retiring. San Juan County is well represented on the hiring committee. The Medicaid 2.0 funds were released, and payment was made. ACH is looking for community partners interested in advancing the health equity. Chris Cord of the Orcas Island Hospital district has put in a letter of interest.

CCC – *Kyle Davies – deferred in Mr. Davies' absence.*

Other Committees –

NSBH-ASO – *Justin Paulsen*

Justin reported on the ongoing concern that the State is trying to claw back money it claims NSBH-ASO holds in reserve (even though the funds have already been committed). Also, the status of Medicaid funding is in daily flux.

NWRC – No report. No meeting since last meeting.

NOAT - *Jane Fuller*

Jane reported that there has been no recent activity with NOAT, but that she saw a news item that Purdue Pharma had filed for bankruptcy. Jane indicated that the bankruptcy will eventually unlock funds that will flow to States and local governments.

REPORTS

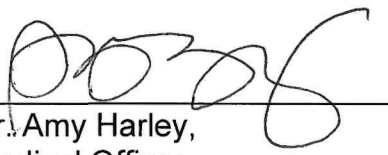
- 11:48 a.m. Youth Community Health Assessment Update
Ellen Wilcox, Healthy Communities Manager presented an update and answered the Board's questions on the soon-to-be published Youth Community Health Assessment. The report will prioritize youth voices and community strengths.
- 12:26 p.m. Orcas Island Health Care District Update
Chris Chord, Superintendent of the Orcas Island Health Care District reviewed how the Hospital District serves the community, challenges it faces, and its plans looking forward. There is a levy lid lift on the ballot for April 22, 2025. The plans for the levy include continuing to engage the community, build a community dental clinic, pay competitive wages and expand the clinic space which they have outgrown. Chris answered the Board's questions.
- 12:47 p.m. Meet & Greet Prospective Local Health Officer Candidate - Dr. Amy Harley
Mark Tompkins, Director introduced Dr. Amy Harley. She grew up in a rural area, she did her training at UC Davis, her undergraduate degree is in nutrition, she is a doctor and has a master's degree in Public Health. She has shared the medical officer role in Whatcom County since 2021, 60% time. She works about 4 shifts a month as a pediatric hospitalist. She has two kids at home ages 10 and 16.

Announcement: Mark Tompkins announced that the embargo on the health rankings has been lifted. Rankings are available at countyhealthrankings.org. San Juan County is extremely highly ranked in the Population Health and Well Being – Years of Potential Life Lost.

Next meeting: April 16, 2025

1:11 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

BOARD OF HEALTH
SAN JUAN COUNTY WASHINGTON


Justin Paulsen, Chair
Dr. Amy Harley,
Medical Officer
Submitted by: Lori LeCount
Clerk to the Board of Health
Mark Tompkins, Director
Health & Community Services