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**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
January 16, 2019**

Legislative Hearing Room, 55 Second Street, Friday Harbor WA 98250

11:30 AM Call to Order

Chair of the Board of Health Dr. Dale Heisinger called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the County Council Hearing Room. BOH Present: Dr. Dale Heisinger, Kyle Davies, Dr. John Geyman, Council Member Rick Hughes, Noel Monin, and Council Member Bill Watson.

Also Present: Health Officer Dr. Frank James, Director of Health & Community Services Mark Tompkins, Environmental Health Manager Kyle Dodd, Senior Services Manager Wendy Stephens, County Council Assistant Susan Kollet and interested members of the public.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Dr. Geyman, seconded by Mr. Watson to approve the agenda for January 16, 2019. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the minutes of November 28, 2018. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Excused Absences: Moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Monin to excuse the absence of Jamie Stephens. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments: none

11:32 AM Election of Officers – Chair & Vice-Chair - Mark Tompkins, Director

Mr. Tompkins introduced the election of officers. After discussion, the Board took the following action:

Moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Dr. Geyman to nominate Mr. Stephens to continue as Vice Chair. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Dr. Geyman, seconded by Mr. Monin to nominate Dr. Heisinger to continue as Chair. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

11:35 AM Committee Reports:
ACH – Bill Watson & Mark Tompkins
CCC – Kyle Davies & Bill Watson
Other Committees – NSBHO, NWRC

ACH – Mr. Watson provided an update of Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) activities. He has accepted the position of Treasurer on the committee. Mr. Tompkins

52 reported about other entities, some of which will be providing services in our
53 County, with services centering around care/coordination. Their focus, in part, is
54 on the individuals who are high utilizers, offering intensive services. All of these
55 Care Coordination models are focused on improving health outcomes. San Juan
56 County will be receiving training on the Pathways Hub model and subsequently
57 providing services under this model.
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59 **CCC** – Mr. Davies reported on the meeting held last month of the Community Collaboration
60 Committee (CCC). He feels expansion of certain services to the other islands
61 and the development of a resource guide that lists the entities and resources
62 available for the public are two accomplishments from 2018. It is available online
63 as well as a written guide. Public Hospital District #1 Superintendent, Pam
64 Hutchins, has attended previous CCC meetings and reported on the activity of
65 the Long-term Care task force that is exploring long-term care options for the
66 County. They are hoping to conduct a feasibility study, the cost of which they
67 anticipate will be \$50,000. They are actively raising funds currently.
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70 **12:00 PM Health Officer Report - Dr. Frank James, Health Officer**
71 • **Influenza Update**
72 • **Kratom Review & Discussion**
73 • **CDB Review and Discussion**
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75 Dr. James provided an update of the flu. The flu shot this year is a good match for the strains
76 we are seeing, We are finding in San Juan County primarily H1N1. It seems to be a less severe
77 year than usual.
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79 The new plant based drug that has come in from Thailand, Kratom, has one point of
80 distribution in Friday Harbor. It is a popular recreational drug. It is also available, legally by
81 mail. Some States have categorized Kratom as a Category 1 drug, which would put it in a
82 class with the most serious drugs. Federally, Health & Human Services has made a
83 recommendation to place it as a Category 1 drug as of November 2018, but no action has
84 been taken as yet on that recommendation. The drug has some benefits. It has also led to
85 deaths, aggression, hostility and psychosis. Because there is no regulation, there is no
86 obligation to share with the public the potential side effects. Can and should a County take
87 action to regulate the drug? Experience in at least one other County showed how legally
88 complicated regulation would be. The consensus of the board, is to gain a better
89 understanding about the product and later, to consider holding a Public Hearing in order to
90 gather information from the public. Following discussion, the Board took the following action:
91

92 **MOVED by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Dr. Geyman to instruct Dr. James to contact the**
93 **Prosecuting Attorney's office to provide more information as to legal actions available**
94 **to the Board and to add an agenda item next month to discuss the information obtained**
95 **and with the potential in the future of holding a Public Hearing on the matter. ALL**
96 **AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**
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12:32 PM Air Medical Transport/Insurance Policy Discussion – Mark Tompkins

Board members discussed a burgeoning problem where Kaiser Permanente has declined payment due to lack of pre-authorization for flying a patient off island. In one situation that Mr. Hughes described, Dr. Sullivan did approve the fly-off. Dr. Heisinger shared that, based on several discussions he has had with medical providers, Kaiser Permanente is denying coverage since they have found the airlifting of San Juan County residents to be cost prohibitive and are letting the review process make the final determination. Kaiser has denied the claims of islanders 20 times in the past two months, a significant increase over the average of 2 denials over a much longer time frame.

Anne Presson, Superintendent of the Lopez Island Hospital District reported on her knowledge of the issue. She is working closely with various local health care providers, has spoken with Kaiser Permanente and will work to help expedite the process. Mr. Watson suggested that the Board of Health bring its concern to the State Insurance Commissioner. Following discussion, the board took the following action:

Moved by Dr. Geyman, seconded by Mr. Davies, to have the Board of Health draft a letter to Kaiser Permanente, the State Insurance Commissioner and our 40th Legislative Representative to express that the board is completely against this change and that categorical denial is totally unacceptable. Mr. Hughes will draft a letter reflecting this concern and will send it to board members who will get back to Mr. Tompkins so that the letter can be sent out very soon. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Further, Mr. Watson suggested that the Board of Health put out a press release informing of the unilateral change in policy by Kaiser Permanente. There has been no official statement as to a policy change but may be a change in interpretation leading to multiple denials of claims following emergency fly-offs. Following discussion, no further action was taken at this time.

1:13 PM 2018 Senior Services Report - Wendy Stephens, Senior Services Manager

Ms. Stephens provided a summary of Senior Services offered in 2018 and answered board member questions.

1:34 PM Air Quality Monitoring Update - Kyle Dodd, Environmental Health Manager

Mr. Dodd noted situations that occurred in 2015 and 2017 where data showed the existence of poor air quality in San Juan County. At the time, our County had no means to gather air quality data and guidance for our citizens was based on data from nearby monitors. We now have a portable air quality monitoring unit through an agreement with the Department of Ecology, that will be staged in a central location in Friday Harbor thru May 2019. This portable monitor will provide data that will be used to verify the assumption by Ecology that our air quality is generally good and can be compared to nearby monitors.

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1:46 PM Department Reorganization Review - Mark Tompkins, Director –

Mr. Tompkins reviewed the new organizational chart that has come about, in part, due to the announcement of the retirements of two of the department’s managers and answered board member questions.

In the interest of time, since the Air Medical Transport/Insurance Policy Discussion went long, the agenda item addressing Community Health Status Indicators Review was held for a future agenda.

1:45 PM Public Comment and Other New Business

Mr. Tompkins introduced some of the impacts of the partial Federal shutdown and which funding will continue and areas where funding could be disrupted. Currently, none of the programs thru Health & Community Services are being affected, but could should the shutdown continue into March. He also shared that members of the public, who may be in the process of applying for Medicare, may not have that application processed and therefore, will not be timely covered under Medicare.

01:50 PM Adjourn

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for February 20, 2019.


Dr. Heisinger adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

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**BOARD OF HEALTH
SAN JUAN COUNTY WASHINGTON**



Dr. Dale Heisinger, Chair



Submitted by and Attested to:
Susan Kollet
SJC Council Staff Assistant

EXCUSED

Frank James MD, SJC Health Officer
San Juan County BOH Executive Secretary



Mark Tompkins, Director
Health & Community Services Department