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**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
June 19, 2019**

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

11:28 AM Call to Order

Chair of the Board of Health Dr. Dale Heisinger called the meeting to order at 11:28 a.m. in the County Council Hearing Room. BOH Present: Dr. Dale Heisinger, Dr. John Geyman, Council Member Rick Hughes, Noel Monin, and Council Member Bill Watson. Kyle Davies arrived at 11:33 a.m.

Also Present: Health Officer Dr. Frank James, Director of Health & Community Services Mark Tompkins, Environmental Health Manager Kyle Dodd, Community Health Manager Ellen Wilcox, Health & Nutrition Coordinator Kristen Rezabek, County Council Assistant Susan Kollet and interested members of the public.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Dr. Geyman to approve the agenda for June 19, 2019. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the minutes of May 15, 2019. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

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

Public Comments: none

11:30 AM Committee Reports

**ACH – Bill Watson & Mark Tompkins
Other Committees – NSBHO, NWRC**

Mr. Tompkins shared that Peace Health will be completing their Community Health Needs Assessment report this month. He has the report in draft form and will share it with board members.

Mr. Watson reported that Mr. Stephens is attending a Behavioral Health Organization meeting today to discuss the transition.

11:33 AM Health Officer Report - Dr. Frank James, Health Officer

There is a rash illness on Orcas Island that is being monitored. A sample has been sent for testing; it may be varicella. Dr. James shared that the County's dental care is better than it has been due, in part, to new preventive services available. He described specialized sealants the Health Department is using and the department's coordination of preventive

52 dental services. Dr. James commented on wildfires and he is concerned that we may see
53 urban fires this year.

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56 **11:48 AM SNAP-Ed Program Update - Kristen Rezabek, Health & Nutrition**
57 **Coordinator**

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59 Ms. Rezabek presented data concerning the SNAP-Ed Program thru a PowerPoint
60 Presentation and answered board member questions.

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63 **12:05 PM Oral Health Updates - Kristen Rezabek, Health & Nutrition Coordinator**

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65 Ms. Rezabek presented an update for board members on the status of oral health in the
66 County and answered board member questions. She highlighted the services of a Mobile
67 Dental Van that will extend services to the students in K thru 12. Following discussion, the
68 board took the following action:

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70 **Moved by Dr. Geyman, seconded by Mr. Davies to endorse the mobile dental van**
71 **program. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

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73 Mr. Tompkins suggested that Ms. Rezabek draft a letter of support from the Board of Health in
74 support of the program to be considered at the board's next meeting.

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76 **12:20 PM San Juan HealthCare Pending Closure – Access to Care Concerns**
77 **- Dr. Mark Fishaut**

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79 Dr. Fishaut shared information with board members concerning the upcoming retirement of Dr.
80 Burk Gossom, who has been a provider of family health to the community for over 40 years. It
81 is Dr. Fishaut's intention, along with Physician Assistant Heather Christianson, to continue to
82 practice medicine.

83
84 To date, there has been no interest expressed from other physicians to assume the practice
85 once Dr. Gossom retires at the end of November. The remaining members of the practice do
86 not have the financial wherewithal to assume the practice. Dr. Fishaut shared that many rural
87 communities, in order to attract physicians, underwrite some portion of the practice and/or
88 provide a salary guarantee, housing or similar.

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91 **12:40 PM Proposal for Resolution Supporting Single-Payer National Health**
92 **Insurance - Dr. Dale Heisinger, Board of Health Chair**

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94 Dr. Heisinger referenced a draft presentation he prepared for board member consideration.
95 Dr. Heisinger does not see the proposal as political, but rather a human right. He referenced
96 Washington Representative Pramila Jayapal's bill HR 1384, currently in the House of
97 Representatives, and asked Board of Health members to adopt a resolution in support of a
98 single payer Medicare for All, similar to that advanced in HR 1384.

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100 Dr. James indicated that States can implement a single-payer system, independent of the
101 federal government, and some have done so. Dr. Geyman added that because of the
102 complexities, it realistically will only work if the change is done nationally. He shared Taiwan's
103 system of medical provision that has the best outcome for the least cost. Dr. James expressed
104 that the bill proposed by Rep. Jayapal is sound and realistic and recommends that board
105 members read the bill. He discussed the difference senior citizens face in Canada with a
106 single-payer system as compared to the system in the United States with our seniors
107 vulnerable to financial bankruptcy.

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109 Dr. Heisinger asked board members to consider having further discussion on the topic at the
110 next Board of Health meeting.

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112 **1:17 PM Air Medical Transport/Insurance Continuing Discussion**
113 **- Mark Tompkins, Director**
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115 Mr. Tompkins discussed the phone conference some members participated in with the Office
116 of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The investigation, regarding Kaiser Permanente denials
117 for air transport, has been completed and the OIC took no action beyond agreeing to convene
118 a physician-to-physician meeting, between Kaiser Permanente and San Juan County that has
119 yet to take place. Our medical community needs to understand the criteria that is used by
120 Kaiser Permanente in considering claims for air transport. Dr. Heisinger commented that
121 although the OIC found that 14 claims did not meet the criteria and thereby were appropriately
122 denied by Kaiser Permanente, the OIC did acknowledge that no physician was involved in
123 making that determination.

124
125 Mr. Tompkins shared that of the 41 claims submitted for air medical transport during the six
126 month period, September thru March 1st, with 24 initially denied, several of those, 6, have
127 subsequently been approved. The report did state that the number of denials has increased
128 from less than 10% prior, to 58% in the last 6 months. Disappointingly, the OIC did not remark
129 further or inquire of Kaiser Permanente as to that increase.
130 The OIC commented that during this timeframe there was an increase in fly-offs, but no data
131 was provided in support of that finding.

132
133 Dr. Geyman shared that Dr. Sullivan is stepping down from his role as Medical Program
134 Director. Dr. Geyman is very disappointed at the investigation by the OIC.

135
136 Mr. Tompkins feels the board can appropriately write a letter to the OIC. He feels it is critical
137 that the physician to physician meeting occurs. It may also be appropriate to convene a
138 meeting of our medical providers to discuss where we go from here as to medical transports
139 off island based on the recent decisions. Third, we may be able to propose, through the
140 legislature, a carve-out plan based on our remote location.

141
142 Mr. Hughes suggests that the board or county share with the public the criteria for decision-
143 making but is concerned that citizens not make decisions based on fear of a potential
144 uncovered bill.

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146 Mr. Watson stated he feels that in the physician to physician meeting, the 14 denials for
147 medical transport, should be reviewed in detail in order to determine what criteria was or was
148 not met.

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1:45 PM Wildfire Smoke/Air Quality Discussion
- Kyle Dodd, Deputy Director/Environmental Health Manager

Mr. Dodd discussed the three priorities of a work group, Washington Wildfire Smoke Impacts Advisory Group, convened in advance of the 2019 fire season. Among the priorities is communication to keep the public informed in a consistent manner. Mr. Dodd briefly discussed the Summary of DRAFT Guidance on Canceling Outdoor Public Events during Wildfire Smoke Episodes. The guidance document was recently discussed statewide among the State Department of Health and Health Officers who reached consensus on the recommendations for closure of outdoor public events..

1:56 PM Public Comment and Other New Business – Warren Appleton


01:58 PM Adjourn

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for July 17, 2019.

Dr. Heisinger adjourned the meeting at 1:58 PM.

BOARD OF HEALTH
SAN JUAN COUNTY WASHINGTON


Dr. Dale Heisinger, Chair


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


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


Mark Tompkins, Director
Health &Community Services Department