

Klickitat County

Board of Health

Minutes – Meeting January 21, 2021

Call to Order/Roll Call:

David Sauter called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Board members present were David Sauter, Jacob Anderson, Sue Pennington, Paul Moyer and Dan Christopher. Health Department Employees present were Erinn Quinn, Dr. Amy Person and Kelly Sizemore. 28 members of the public were present via Zoom.

Agenda and Minutes:

Approved: (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): **Business agenda as presented with the addition of the election of officers for 2021 as item 2A of the agenda.**

The board held a discussion regarding the election of officers of the Board of Health for 2020. It was discussed that the sitting Board of County Commissioners chairman, Dave Sauter, would be Board of Health Chairman and that Sue Pennington would be Vice Chairman.

Approved: (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): **Election of Dave Sauter as Board of Health Chairman for 2021.**

Approved: (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): **Election of Sue Pennington as Board of Health Vice Chairman for 2021.**

It was decided that approval of the minutes from the December 17, 2020 meeting would be postponed until the next meeting when all members have had a chance to review.

Clinical Update:

Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer, gave a clinical update to the Board. Klickitat County is beginning to see a decrease in COVID-19 activity. A variant of the virus that is more transferable has been detected in Washington and the labs in the State are looking for this variant while testing. COVID-19 vaccine is available in Klickitat county and the State has opened up to the 1B phase, 65 years and older or 50 and older living in a multigenerational household. It has been a challenge for the County to be able to move to the next phase of the vaccination roll out as many of the larger Counties in the State have not been ready as quickly as Klickitat County has been.

Current Situation Update:

Health Department Director, Erinn Quinn, gave an update on the current situation for the Health Department. The Health Department will have its first large COVID-19 vaccine clinic today. Klickitat County has had 644 positive COVID-19 cases, there are currently 44 active cases, 3 current hospitalizations, and there have been 5 deaths. All investigations for Klickitat County are still being done by the Health Department. Erinn expressed concern over the State's new Roadmap to Recovery. Stating that there is no clear goal and fails to consider other aspects of the health besides just the number of COVID-19 cases. The plan does not fit our County well. Erinn requested that the Board write a letter to

the State expressing these concerns and requesting that County leadership and included in the discussions leading up to these decisions. Klickitat County has been placed in a group with several other Counties, most of which do not compare well to Klickitat County. The State will notify each region every Friday with a determination of the next week's phase.

Approved (M/Pennington, S/Moyer. Passed unanimously): Motion for the Board of Health to write a letter to the Washington State Health Secretary to request that the Local Boards of Health be included in discussions regarding the Roadmap to Recovery plans.

Erinn updated the Board on the COVID-19 vaccine in Klickitat County. The Health Department has been working with its partners across the County to plan vaccine clinics to be able to vaccinate quickly. The Health Department has received 360 doses of the vaccine and has administered 130 so far. The Goldendale office held a vaccine clinic on 1/20/21 and were able to vaccinate 86 people and there is a vaccine clinic today at the White Salmon location with at least 80 people scheduled.

Leslie Hiebert, KVH CEO, stated that KVH has given 407 first doses and 395 second doses of the vaccine. KVh has received two shipments of 975 doses. 270 of those have been sent to Northshore and Skyline. KVH and the Health Department are planning a drive through vaccine clinic that will begin next week at the County Fairgrounds with hopes of vaccinating 250 people a day.

Cindy Robertson, of Northshore, stated that they have administered 400 vaccines so far.

Robb Kimmes, Skyline Hospital CEO, stated that they have given 670 vaccines and they are planning a once a week drive through clinic at the White Salmon Schools.

Erinn informed the Board that there have been many people calling in regards to the vaccine that have become aggressive toward staff on the phone. Dave Quesnel, Prosecuting Attorney, stated what the potential charges could be for threatening a public servant.

Board Discussion:

Dave Sauter stated that he was impressed with the Health Department and its partner's ability to set up the vaccine clinics and expressed concern over the vaccine supply. Erinn informed the Board that she is updated once a week with the amount of vaccine for the next week and that so far, the County has always received the amount requested or more.

There was a discussion regarding how the different clinics are being advertised and how appointments are being made. All clinics in the County are taking phone calls and all clinics are by appointment only. The Health Department has a waiting list and appointments are being made by calling people from the list. Robb Kimmes stated that they have not promoted their clinics because they have a backlog of people waiting to be scheduled. KVH has a wait list that they use to schedule appointments. Sue stated that she has received positive feedback from the community about the vaccine clinics. Erinn stated that the Health Department is also working with Senior Services to do outreach and to identify people that qualify for the vaccine.

Public Comment:

Janet Warren, County resident, stated that she received her vaccine from Skyline and was impressed with the clinic. She asked if the advertisements for the vaccine are being sent out in English and Spanish. She also suggested that the Board of Health reach out to Dr. Umair Shah, Washington Secretary of Health, to invite him to attend a Klickitat County Board of Health meeting. Erinn stated that all advertising by the Health Department has been in both English and Spanish.

Gabrielle Gilbert, County resident, congratulated Sue on being elected the Vice Chairman. She expressed concern that it is confusing and frustrating to try to get on the waiting lists. She suggested that the clinics should put anyone on the waiting list that calls, not just those who qualify at the time.

Shelly Baxter stated that she had a great experience getting her vaccine at Skyline and stated that she would like to see it easier to get on the waiting lists. Shelly also suggested that the Board of Health continue to do monthly meetings.

The Board held a discussion and agreed that monthly Board of Health meetings should continue for the time being.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously.): Motion to have monthly Board of Health meetings for the next 3 months.

Sandy Montag stated that the Skyline process was seamless and would like the clinics to consider putting anyone that calls on their waiting lists.

Dan Christopher expressed concern that the 911 dispatchers are not considered first responders and do not qualify during the current phase to receive the vaccine. Erinn stated that although she wants them to get the vaccine as soon as possible, they do not have direct contact with the public and would not qualify in the current phase to receive the vaccine.

Motion to Adjourn:

Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously.): Motion to adjourn at 11:16AM.