

BOARD OF HEALTH

January 14, 2026

6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in person and via Zoom at 6:00 pm by Board Chair Tom Harris with the following members and staff present:

MEMBER

Tom Harris - Cities/Towns (In Person)

Kevin Burgess – Commissioner (In Person)

Jose Luis Degante- Consumer of Public Health (In Person)

Cindy Carter – Commissioner (Zoom)

Sheila Berschauer - Healthcare Rep (Zoom)

Phil Borck- Cities/Towns (In Person)

STAFF

Theresa Adkinson - Administrator (In Person)

Katherine Kenison- H.D. Attorney (Zoom)

Stephanie Shopbell - EH Manager (In Person)

Michele Wurl- Deputy Administrator (In Person)

Josie Hernandez –Executive Admin Assistant (In Person)

Dr. Brzezny - Health Officer (In Person)

Maria Vargas - HCF Manager (In Person)

Darcy Moss - Finance Services (In Person)

Amber McCoy – I&R Manager (In Person)

ABSENT

Dr. Allison Ball – Tribal Rep, Rita Morfin – Board Clerk

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – A motion was made to approve the agenda with item 8c removed (M/S Burgess/Berschauer).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS – Megan with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) addressed the Board regarding family-to-family classes starting at the end of the month. She requested the Board make a resolution to support mental health services in Grant County. Megan to send a flyer to Theresa so that we can help share with the community.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda (M/S Berschauer/Burgess).

The December 2025, meeting minutes were approved as written.

The December vouchers for the period ending January 13, 2026, totaling \$501,685.14 (1-3 totaling \$361,327.39, 4-16 totaling \$36,046.23, 17-29 totaling \$11,810.32, 30-45 totaling \$79,166.18, and 46-58 totaling \$13,335.02) were approved.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT—Theresa Adkinson

Welcome Michele Wurl, Deputy Administrator — Theresa welcomed Michele Wurl in her new role and provided a background of her experience to the Board.

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Thank you outgoing Board of Health member Deanna Martinez and alternate Misty Aguilar —Theresa expressed her gratitude to outgoing Board of Health members, Deanna (Seat #4), and Misty (Alternate Seat #7).

Financial Statements— September’s financials. CLA skipped a month and provided November’s statements; next month’s Board meeting will include October and November’s statements.

Legislative Update —State legislature convened on Monday. Theresa provided the Board information on how funding might impact the future. 42% of GCHD funding comes from the state through Foundational Public Health Services funding. The governor is proposing a \$29M cut. Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) will be doing advocacy work in Olympia to help protect public health services. February 18th is public health day on the hill. Our main priority is the protection of foundational public health funding. Michele will be attending this event.

Other Updates — Theresa shared a recap of the All Staff Appreciation luncheon with the board.

HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT—Dr. Brzezny

PowerPoint presented; Brief discussion held. Sheila spoke to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants affected that will have an impact to some of the most vulnerable populations.

POLICY DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

BOH Seat #7— Community Stakeholder — Board Chair met with County Commissioners for further conversation about recommendation letter and to address some of their concerns. The Board Chair outlined the Board’s option moving forward; A motion was made to resubmit recommendation letter this evening with the original seat recommendation. (M/S Berschauer/Degante)

2026 Audit Committee- 3 members — Theresa seeking nomination for two new board members and an alternate to service on the 2026 Audit Committee. Sheila opted to continue serving. A motion was made to nominate Sheila and Commissioner Burgess as alternate (M/S Burgess/Borck)

BOH 2026 Meeting Dates — A motion was made to approve the Board’s 2026 meeting calendar as presented. (M/S Burgess/Berschauer)

Pediatric Vaccination Schedule —Dr. Brzezny shared presentation slides. Board of Health action requested to discuss the need to speak to our community with a clear voice on childhood immunizations; in forms of a resolution to support childhood vaccinations in general; a resolution to support a specific schedule (AAP, etc.); less formal staff support; or do nothing. A motion was made to support a resolution supporting the AAP schedule (M/S Borck/Degante)

2026 Permit Renewals Update —Stephanie Shopbell

Stephanie shared an update with the Board on where we are with renewals and answered the Board’s questions.

DIVISION REPORTS- Theresa Adkinson

Public Health Infrastructure- Presentation slides shared with the Board of Health; no discussion held.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm to the executive session according to RCW 42.30.110 to last 10 minutes regarding the performance of a public employee. The public meeting reopened at 7:34pm. No action was taken.

NEXT STEPS AND ACTION ITEMS—Tom Harris, Board Chair

- 1) Promote family-to-family services
- 2) Resubmit Board recommendations for Seat #7 to BOCC
- 3) Draft resolution for immunizations
- 4) Draft resolution supporting mental health services

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair shared his appreciation for staff and gratitude for being included in the all-staff luncheon.

OTHER BUSINESS –Tom Harris

None.

ADJOURNMENT—With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Tom Harris at 7:37pm. (M/S Burgess/Borck).

Tom Harris, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Josie Hernandez, Board Clerk Alternate