



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

AGENDA

REGULAR SESSION

October 21st, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners Hearing Room B102

Coupeville Annex Building

Meetings are available remotely. Those interested in attending the meetings by computer, tablet, or smartphone may use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/IslandCountyBOH> or by telephone: 1-323-433-2396 Meeting ID 971 2319 5885 Pass code: 626749

Call to Order: October 21st, 2025, Regular Session of the Island County Board of Health

Additions or Changes to the Agenda:

Approval of the Minutes:

- September 16th, 2025, Minutes

Public Input/Comments: The Board values the public's input. This time is set aside to hear from the public on subjects of a health-related nature, not on the scheduled agenda. All information given is taken under advisement. Unless emergent in nature, no action is taken. To ensure proper recording of comments, state your name and address clearly into the microphone. Limit your comment to two minutes. Public comment related to the public hearing should be reserved for that portion of the meeting.

Community Health Advisory Board:

- Community Health Advisory Board Update, presented by Taylor Lawson, Public Health Deputy Director. – 10 minutes

A discussion on membership renewals to the Community Health Advisory Board.–
Attachments

MOTION: Motion to approve renewing a 3-year membership term for the following CHAB members: Erin Lavery-Mullins, Michele Aguilar-Kahrs, Charlotte McRill; in addition, approving the request to bring 2 additional recommendations to the December Board of Health.

Presentation:

- VA Puget Sound Health Care System Oak Harbor Clinic Overview, presented by Dr. Jesse Markman, MD, MBA, VA Puget Sound Chief of Staff. – *10 minutes*

A presentation on the services offered at the new VA Puget Sound Oak Harbor Clinic at Naval Air Station – Whidbey Island (NAS-WI).

Presentation:

- Veterans Services Program Update, presented by Bill Larsen, Deputy Director of Human Services. – *15 minutes*

A presentation on the veteran services offered in Island County. – *Attachment*

Public Health Update

- Public Health Director's Executive Report, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – *10 minutes - Attachment*

Board Announcements:

- Discussion on October's Local Board of Health training with the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) - *5 minutes*
- Cancellation of the November 18th, 2025 Board of Health Regular Session

Adjourn: The next regular session of the Island County Board of Health will be held on December 16th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
September 16th, 2025

The Island County Board of Health met in Regular Session on September 16th, 2025, in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room #102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington.

Members present:
Commissioner St. Clair, Chair
Commissioner Melanie Bacon
Commissioner Ron Wallin
Capt. Lund

Member present by video: Mayor Ron Wright

Members Excused:
Commissioner Jill Johnson
(Dr. Howard Leibrand)

Others present:
Dr. Shawn Morris
Todd Appel
Melissa Overbury-Howland
Jamie Hamilton
Taylor Lawson
Michelle McKee
Heather Kortuem
Erin Lavery-Mullins

Call to order:
Commissioner St. Clair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:
A motion to approve the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:
The July 15th, 2025, Regular Session Minutes were approved unanimously.

Board member comment:
None

Public Input or Comment:
None

Public Hearing
Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, presented Resolution HD-02-2025, adopting the updated 2026 Food Program fee schedule, aiming to improve efficiency and equity in Island County's Food Safety program.

Commissioner St. Clair opened the floor to public comment. Glen Martin, owner of Wicked Teuton in Oak Harbor, inquired about risk assessment in relation to establishment size.

ACTION TAKEN: The board unanimously approved Resolution HD-02-2025.



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH
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REGULAR SESSION
September 16th, 2025

Presentation:

Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, and Heather Kortuem, Environmental Health Manager, presented on the Wastewater Proviso report and discussed the septic solutions presented in the study.

Presentation:

Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, presented a Director's Report, detailing an uptick in COVID, recommendations from Island County's Health Officer, and a look at wastewater data.

Public Health and Human Services Updates:

- Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Public Health, and Erin Lavery-Mullins, Community Health Advisory Board Chair, requested a discussion on membership renewals to the Community Health Advisory Board. The board requested further information, and this motion will be brought forward at the next Board of Health Regular session in October.
- Betsy Griffith, Outreach Behavioral Health counselor, gave an update on Youth Mental Health services available in Island County, with a focus on back-to-school wellness and resource connections.

Board Member Comments and Announcements:

- Commissioner Wallin provided cautionary advice on the need to have an insurance policy for attacks on county networks.

The Regular Session adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

The next *Regular Session* of the Island County Board of Health will be held on October 21st, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.

SUBMITTED BY:

Shawn Morris, Director of Public Health

Approved this 21st day of October, 2025.

BOARD OF HEALTH
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Janet St. Clair, Chair



Island County Public Health

Shawn Morris, ND - Director

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

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Email: Publichealth@islandcountywa.gov | www.islandcountywa.gov

October 21st, 2025

TO: Island County Board of Health

FROM: Taylor Lawson, MPH; Deputy Director

RE: **Community Health Advisory Board Recommendation: Membership Renewal**

It is with full support from the Island County Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB), that I present to the Island County Board of Health, the formal recommendation to renew 3-year membership terms for the following CHAB members:

Member Name	Sector	Term Start Date	Term Expiration Date
Erin Lavery-Mullins	Health Care Access & Quality	2/17/2022	2/17/2025
Michele Aguilar-Kahrs	Business & Philanthropy	2/17/2022	2/17/2025
Charlotte McRill	Health Care Access & Quality	5/5/2022	5/5/2025

Per RCW 70.46.140 Community health advisory boards —Membership—Meetings: *(5) Advisory board members shall serve for staggered three-year terms. This does not preclude any member from being reappointed.*

Given many of our CHAB members were appointed on the same day, I recommend that we take this opportunity to stagger memberships that are up for renewal in a way that will avoid multiple member renewals in any given month. As such, I recommend the following membership terms for the members seeking reappointment.

Member Name	Sector	Proposed Term Start Date	Proposed Term Expiration Date	Proposed Board of Health Approval Date*
Erin Lavery-Mullins	Health Care Access & Quality	9/1/2025	9/1/2028	10/21/2025
Michele Aguilar-Kahrs	Business & Philanthropy	10/1/2025	10/1/2028	10/21/2025
Charlotte McRill	Health Care Access & Quality	11/1/2025	11/1/2028	10/21/2025

* Following this year's adjustment, only one reappointment request will be brought forward to the Board of Health in any given month, if required.

The CHAB is seeking approval from the BOH to move forward with the proposed reappointment terms for members Erin Lavery-Mullins, Michele Aguilar-Kahrs, and Charlotte McRill.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,



Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director

Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB)						
Sector/Group	# of per Group	# of Vac	CHAB Member	City	Appointment Date	Term Expires
Health Care Access/Quality	4	0	Erin Lavery-Mullins, Chair	Camano Island	2/17/2022	2/17/2025
			Charlotte McRill	Oak Harbor	5/5/2022	5/5/2025
			Heidi Beck	Clinton	2/28/2023	2/28/2026
			Nic Wildeman	Greenbank	5/20/2025	5/20/2028
Physical Environment	2	1	Bob Uhrich	Camano Island	5/5/2022	5/5/2025
Social and Economic Sectors	2	1	Nicole Rice	Oak Harbor	6/20/2023	6/20/2026
Government	2	1	Chris Geiger	Coupeville	9/17/2024	9/17/2027
Business Philanthropy	2	0	Michele Aguilar Kahrs, Co Chair	Freeland	2/17/2022	2/17/2025
			Marian Myszkowski	Langley	10/17/2023	10/1/2026
Tribal Communities	1	1				
Consumer of Public Health Services	3	2				
			Alma Johnser	Oak Harbor	2/28/2023	2/28/2026
Community Stakeholder	3	1	Lauri Johnson-Grimm	Langley	4/15/2025	4/15/2028
			Melissa Frasch-Brown	Oak Harbor	2/17/2022	2/17/2025
Community Members with Lived Experiences	2	2				
Total VS Vacancies	21	9	Steering Committee is known as the Leadership Committee per Bylaws.			

RCW 70.46.140 Community health advisory boards—Membership—Meetings. (1) A community health advisory board shall:

- (a) Provide input to the local board of health in the recruitment and selection of an administrative officer, pursuant to RCW 70.05.045, and local health officer, pursuant to RCW 70.05.050;
- (b) Use a health equity framework to conduct, assess, and identify the community health needs of the jurisdiction, and review and recommend public health policies and priorities for the local health jurisdiction and advisory board to address community health needs;
- (c) Evaluate the impact of proposed public health policies and programs, and assure identified health needs and concerns are being met;
- (d) Promote public participation in and identification of local public health needs;
- (e) Provide community forums and hearings as assigned by the local board of health;
- (f) Establish community task forces as assigned by the local board of health;
- (g) Review and make recommendations to the local health jurisdiction and local board of health for an annual budget and fees; and
- (h) Review and advise on local health jurisdiction progress in achieving performance measures and outcomes to ensure continuous quality improvement and accountability.

(2) The advisory board shall consist of nine to 21 members appointed by the local board of health. The local health officer and a member of the local board of health shall serve as ex officio members of the board.

(3) The advisory board must be broadly representative of the character of the community. Membership preference shall be given to tribal, racial, ethnic, and other minorities. The advisory board must consist of a balance of members with expertise, career experience, and consumer experience in areas impacting public health and with populations served by the health department. The board's composition shall include:

- (a) Members with expertise in and experience with:
 - (i) Health care access and quality;
 - (ii) Physical environment, including built and natural environments;

(iii) Social and economic sectors, including housing, basic needs, education, and employment;

(iv) Business and philanthropy;

(v) Communities that experience health inequities;

(vi) Government; and

(vii) Tribal communities and tribal government;

(b) Consumers of public health services;

(c) Community members with lived experience in any of the areas listed in (a) of this subsection; and

(d) Community stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations, the business community, and those regulated by public health.

(4) The local health jurisdiction and local board of health must actively recruit advisory board members in a manner that solicits broad diversity to assure representation from marginalized communities including tribal, racial, ethnic, and other minorities.

(5) Advisory board members shall serve for staggered three-year terms. This does not preclude any member from being reappointed.

(6) The advisory board shall, at the first meeting of each year, select a chair and vice chair. The chair shall preside over all advisory board meetings and work with the local health jurisdiction administrator, or their designee, to establish board meeting agendas.

(7) Staffing for the advisory board shall be provided by the local health jurisdiction.

(8) The advisory board shall hold meetings monthly, or as otherwise determined by the advisory board at a place and time to be decided by the advisory board. Special meetings may be held on call of the local board of health or the chairperson of the advisory board.

(9) Meetings of the advisory board are subject to the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW, and meeting minutes must be submitted to the local board of health. [2021 c 205 s 7.]

Finding—2021 c 205: See note following RCW 43.70.675.



Island County Human Services

Veteran Services

Bill Larsen, ICHS Deputy Director



Some interesting points

- Island County has the highest number of veterans per capita of all 39 Washington counties
 - State average 8.1%
 - Island County average 17.6%
- Prior to September 2023, Island County did not have a designated Veteran Services Officer (VSO)
- Through efforts by our Board of Island County Commissioners and our state representatives, we have received funding for a second Veteran Services Officer



Veteran Service Programs

2 Distinct Programs

1) Veteran Services Officer

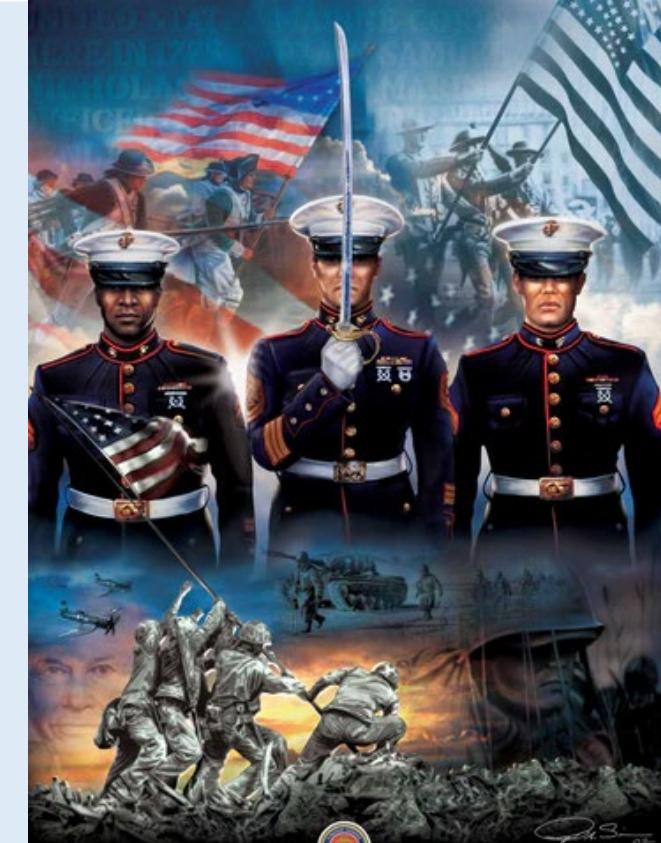
- Disability compensation
- Veterans Document Support
- Elderly and disability programs
- VSO resources

- The VSO will assist individuals in completing, filing and tracking benefit claims and is available to represent individuals in VA hearings.
- Each year roughly 75% of all self-filed, initial veterans' disability claims are denied.



VSO By the Numbers

- 145 Claims processed so far this year
- 86% Success rate for new/increased benefits applications
- 49 initial claims granted, which establishes access to secondary benefits
 - Employment programs
 - Healthcare
 - Education
- Back pay and first year benefit total of \$4,400.000.00



Veteran Service Programs cont'd

2) Veterans Assistance Fund

- Who do we help?
 - Income eligible veterans, their spouse or domestic partner, surviving spouses and the dependent children of living or deceased veterans.
- What kind of assistance do we provide?
- Emergency Assistance in the form of:
 - Food and fuel vouchers
 - Utility and emergency home expense assistance
 - Burial assistance
 - Referrals and case management coordination with other Island County Human Services programs and local partners.





Veteran Assistance Fund By the Numbers

- 596 Vouchers issued to date primarily for food and fuel
- 122 Veterans and their families assisted
- Over \$91,000.00 in assistance issued
- 97 Referrals to Island County Veteran Services Officer
- 87 Referrals to other local resources and community partners.





Island County Human Services

In Summary:

- Island County Veterans Services makes a significant and lasting difference in the health and well-being of our veteran population
- With the collaboration of our community partners, short-term crises are addressed with long-term solutions and wrap-around services
- Financial stability, Health, Wellness, Education, and Employment assistance are combined to assist veterans holistically



Thank you!



For additional information, please contact:

Bill Larsen

Veteran Services Program Manager

B.Larsen@islandcountywa.gov

Visit our website:

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/200.Veterans-Assistance>

Executive Report

Island County Board of Health

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

Prepared by: Shawn Morris – Public Health Director

Key Updates

- **Federal Shutdown Impact:** State funds for WIC food benefits are expected to run out by the **end of October**, after which benefits may be temporarily paused. We are coordinating with local providers and food banks. Funding for our **Maternal Child Health Block Grant** (MCHBG) is also delayed, requiring shifting funding for our public health nurse providing related services.

Program Highlights

- **Communicable Disease:**
 - **Respiratory Viruses:** Updated COVID-19 vaccines are available and WA-DOH recommends all people age 6 months and older receive an updated vaccine. Wastewater surveillance shows **high levels of COVID-19 in Coupeville** and low levels of flu county-wide.
 - **Measles:** No cases in Island County. In 2025, **11 cases** have been confirmed in other WA counties, all associated with travel.
- **Environmental Health:**
 - **Enforcement:** Three active Health Officer Orders are in place for a shoreline septic failure, a mobile home park, and an RV encampment.
 - **Case Resolution:** 76 cases were resolved in the past three months (63 On-Site Septic, 13 Solid Waste). We meet quarterly with other departments to prioritize cases.
 - **On-Site Education:** New brochures are available on a variety of topics to support homeowner education.
 - **Permit Timelines:** Our team has worked hard to address a backlog, and our current timelines are **6-7 weeks** for new permits, and **2 weeks** for repairs.
- **Community Health:** The latest issue of our "Health Matters" newsletter is available, and our ABCD program is sharing a new children's book to promote healthy habits for local families.

Financial Summary

- **BFPC Staffing:** A federal USDA contract delay has left a part-time position unfunded. We have proposed using a different grant to bridge this funding gap until spring 2026.
- **Contract Amendments:**
 - **Consolidated Contract:** An increase of **\$75,003** was provided to fund our On-Site Local Management Plan and WIC Program.
 - **Youth Tobacco Prevention:** An additional **\$30,000** was provided to support youth cannabis and tobacco prevention programs.

Upcoming Items

- Following a meeting with builders, we are developing a policy to clarify **bedroom/square footage standards** for septic design. A draft will be shared with stakeholders for feedback before coming to the Board.
- We are researching feasibility of **back-to-school immunization clinics**, including enrollment in the childhood vaccine program (CVP).
- Facet, the consultant leading the **Coordinated Water System Plan** (CWSP) recommendations, will share the final analysis and update plan in November.
- An interdepartmental team has begun researching a **universal site plan** to improve permitting.
- **Community Health Open Houses** are scheduled for **Nov. 5** (Camano) and **Nov. 6** (Coupeville) from 3-6 PM, where we will review the CHA and discuss CHIP priorities.
- A framework for policy development is being explored for BOH review, and the recommended **2026 departmental work plan** will be presented to the BOCC in December.



Your voice. Your community. Your health.

Wed, Nov 5

3–6 PM
@ Camano Island Library
848 N Sunrise Blvd Suite D,
Camano, WA 98282

Thur, Nov 6

3–6 PM
@ Coupeville Library
788 NW Alexander St,
Coupeville, WA 98239

ATTEND TO:

- Learn about key health priorities
- Vote on what matters most to you and your family
- Share your ideas and experiences
- Connect with neighbors and local health leaders

Join Us

**Community Health Planning
OPEN HOUSE**

We're bringing health data and community priorities to you! Explore interactive posters, share your feedback, and help guide the future of health in Island County.

All are welcome!

Family friendly – Refreshments – Drop in any time!
Materials available in English and Spanish.



Online participation will
be available in November

[www.islandcountywa.gov/324/
Community-Health-Planning](http://www.islandcountywa.gov/324/Community-Health-Planning)
 chip@islandcountywa.gov