



Island County Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB)

Minutes for June 2, 2023

Meeting Held Virtually via Zoom and in BOCC room

Present: Rene Denman, Charlotte McRill, Erin Lavery-Mullins, Deborah Ferguson, Bob Uhrich, Michele Aguilar Kahrs, Melissa Frasch-Brown.

Island County Staff: Shawn Morris, Taylor Lawson, Kathryn Clancy, Melissa Hartmann

Guests: Laurie Johnson (SW CARES Coalition)

Excused: Heidi Beck, Alma Johnser

Absent: Beth Rahi and Kim Williams

Call to Order: Taylor called meeting to order at 11:15 am. Late start was due to technical issues

Review of Meeting Minutes:

May 5, 2023, Minutes, Bob Uhrich requested that the second “to be approved” be removed from the section of “Review of Meeting Minutes.” Erin motioned to approve; Bob seconded. All members in favor, no objections, no abstained.

Public Comment:

No public comments

Regular agenda items:

1. New Member Nomination – Nicole Rice.
 - a. Members reviewed bio. Chair requested a motion to approve Nicole Rice to be forwarded to the Board of Health to be nominated to the Community Health Advisory Board Member. Bob nominated; Charlotte seconded. Michele requested information on what area/part of Island County Nicole represents. Taylor clarified that she represents Oak Harbor area. All in favor of nomination, no opposed, no abstained. Taylor will keep Nicole informed of the process for nomination to the Board of Health.
2. Chair Nomination & Vice Chair Updates.
 - a. Rene nominated Erin Lavery-Mullins to become the newly elected Chair of the Community Health Advisory Board. Request/call for other nominations was requested. No other nominations made. Rene motioned to elect Erin as the Chair of the Board. Charlotte seconded. All in favor, no opposed, no abstaining. Taylor to provide BOH with update on elected Chair position.
 - b. Rene and Taylor facilitated conversation about the history, purpose, and responsibilities of the Vice Chair. Rene requested interest/nominations for Vice Chair election. Michele Aguilar Kahrs vocalized interest in the position. Taylor to connect with Michele and invite her to the next CHAB planning meeting.

3. Check-In & Discussion: April Board of Health Meeting

- a. Taylor facilitated discussion about the April Board of Health Meeting in which there were multiple presentations focused on the behavioral health/mental health needs of our community and the gap between need and access to services (lack of service provision). Taylor requested CHAB feedback on the meeting content and how CHAB would like to engage in the process for addressing this complex issue.
- b. Rene asked about what CHAB could do on the advocacy level to address this issue. Kathryn recommended advocacy for prevention/preventative services. Prevention money/grants. Currently a lot of funding for criminal justice diversion programs. Kathryn asked how we can measure impact of prevention services, good idea to have CHAB make recommendations to BOH about the need for preventative services.
 - i. Rene: Look at existing funding streams that can be boosted. This is something that BOH could support.
 - ii. Michele: Look at measurable outcomes that have long term effects. Anxiety, depression, social connectiveness.
 - iii. Kathryn: Who are our champions, advocates, lobbyists? We need more information.
 - iv. Shawn: Come to July BOH to hear from ESD representative talk about promising approaches as it related to funding coming through for “match funding.”
 - v. Ask from CHAB: Public Health/BOH to connect CHAB with a champion who is knowledgeable about the funding available/allocated, how we can advocate for the use of funds and/or approaches being deployed.

4. DEI Updates & Planning

- a. Erin provided updates since last meeting, discussion points for CHAB to consider as a part of planning how we will center DEI in our work, and next steps. Our role is advisory and as an advocate for our community.
 - i. Proactive stance: What is happening now and how can we ensure that it is equitable? Erin requested that CHAB members share their thoughts/specific focus areas where they would like us to bring our DEI work.
 - ii. Michele proposed that CHAB consider Targeted Universalism as a framework for our DEI work. Recommended looking at what we are already doing and “ensuring that there is equitable access, care, and outreach for these services.” The example of asking the question of “who is being disproportionately impacted?” in each conversation, presentation, topic we discuss as a group.
 - iii. Erin proposed identifying specific groups that we should focus our attention on.

- iv. Shawn recommended bringing staff to the table to discuss programs, services, approaches so that CHAB can have a voice in identifying areas for improvement and/or emphasizing what is being done well.
- v. CHAB requested and decided that the group would like to weave DEI into all that the group does. Rather than having dedicated space and time for DEI, we should be intertwining DEI concepts into everything that CHAB does together.

Comments by Membership

- Michele had a question about the Sectors & Group representation list. Asked if membership can support the recruitment of members to fill vacancies. Updates provided on two (2) pending applications. Taylor requested the support of members to support recruitment, Michele requested CHAB membership fliers to hand out. Taylor to send out to CHAB, as well as direct members to the CHAB website for the online application link.
 - Shawn requested that we work with the Island County Language Line to get the application translated. These services are also available for representation during CHAB meetings.
- Request for updates on how to facilitate/build a working relationship with the BOH. Shawn explained the process for creating a workplan/docket for CHAB based on the priorities of BOH. Will bring draft of docket to next meeting.
- Animal Control Concerns – no animal control in Island County. Concerns about animal cruelty, communicable diseases, safety.
- Domestic Violence and 911 Calls. Shawn announced the ICOM presentation for July BOH, where summary of 911 calls will be presented.

Staff Updates

A. Public Health

- a. Taylor to bring to BOH discussion of CHAB role in addressing priority areas of the BOH: Equity, Climate, Health in All Policies, One Health. Staff will talk to BOH Chair. Taylor to serve as CHAB BOH Liaison; Need to check Bylaws.
- b. Taylor provided Public Health Leadership updates. Megan Works to be invited to next CHAB meeting.
- c. Taylor shared timeline and activities for the Community Health Assessment. Proposed setting space/time after CHAB for CHA Workgroup to convene and meet. Taylor to communicate with CHAB to gauge interest in participating in Workgroup.

B. Human Services

- a. Hoffman Road Homeless Encampment Cleanup updates.
- b. Kathryn mentioned that she would present information about all Human Services back to CHAB
- c. Ask from Michele to look into impact of opioids on our population.

July Meeting – July 7th, 2023

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm

DRAFT