

# Public Health Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2025

5:30-7:30 PM



Members Present: Elma Blum, LoraLynn Lord, Tyler Clary, Emily Estes, Laurie Schacht, Chad Williams, Tracey Fernandez, Kevin Fischer, Marla Sanger, Sandra Brown, Councilor Wil Fuentes (ex-officio), Alan Melnick (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Ashley Mariscal, Franklin Johnson, Kimberly Dauphin, Kurt Truong, Mark Collier, Paul Childers, Breein Scarlett-Fiser, Robert Ferrier, Scott Johnson, Michael Watkins

Staff: Jeff Harbison, Gerry Preston, Andrea Pruett, Brianna da Silva Bhatia, Mallori Berry

Public Guests: None

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### Welcome and call to order

Chair Sandra Brown opened the meeting and completed a roll call of the PHAC members.

### PHAC Business

- March 4, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### Public Health recruitment update

- Public Health has hired Danette York for the Deputy Director position.

### Public Comment

- None

### Public Health in Action

- Access to Prenatal Care
  - Reviewed attached slide deck that will be presented at the Board of Health on 4/23/25.



4.22.25 Slide  
deck.pptx

### PHAC Updates

- BOH/PHAC retreat recap
  - Members shared their thoughts about the BOH/PHAC retreat.
    - Members mentioned there was great engagement and that it was a nice opportunity to share and learn.
    - The BOH/PHAC retreat was very informative, and BOH members have a better idea of what PHACs role in our community. The biggest takeaway was the importance of increased collaboration between the Board of Health and the Public Health Advisory Council.
    - PHAC members appreciated that the BOH expressed what they were looking for from PHAC and that they agree with the BOH's recommendation to meet



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- quarterly.
  - Our next BOH/PHAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for beginning to mid-June. More information to come.
- PHAC Membership update
  - *Clark County educational community*: Jeannine Mills-Goodling has accepted the education position with PHAC and will serve through 9/30/2027.
- PHAC Member/Community Updates
  - *Breein Scarlett-Fiser*: Legacy Salmon Creek is having a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary fund raiser on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at LSC, to raise money for a mammogram machine, in hopes of being able to increase access of mammography in the community. If you are interested in attending, would like to donate, or share the event details, please use the link below:
    - [2024 Salmon Creek Cares Registration - Legacy Health](#)
  - *Laurie Schacht*: YWCA programs and services
    - Sexual Assault Awareness Month
      - April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and YWCA Clark County Sexual Assault Program is the leading provider of sexual assault survival services in our community, offering 24-hour advocacy, support groups, and prevention education.
      - We have a new tri-fold brochure about our Sexual Assault Program and are seeking community partners willing to help distribute it—please connect with us if you can help get this vital information out.
    - Prevention Programming
      - Just kicked off a monthly Youth Services Provider meeting
      - If you work with youth or know someone that does, we'd love to connect and collaborate—our new Youth Services Provider meeting is all about sharing resources and strengthening support for young people, especially in times of funding uncertainty.
    - Reproductive Justice
      - Next week, our Prevention Team is hosting a Safe Sex Kit Assembly Party with the goal of creating 500 kits for our community.
      - We have a reproductive justice blog on our site, sharing the importance of access to these healthcare items – please check it out.
      - We invite individuals and organizations to join us in assembling and distributing these kits.
    - Funding Challenges and Advocacy
      - Like many nonprofits, YWCA Clark County is facing unprecedented federal and state funding cuts, including reductions that threaten our SafeChoice Domestic Violence shelter—the only DV shelter in Clark County.
      - We are urging the community to join our letter and calling campaign, advocating for the \$25 million state budget proposal to ensure vital crime victim services remain available to those who need them most.
        - We have a blog on our [site](#) that includes a letter template and a link to your elected officials contact information.
  - *Tracey Fernandez*: PeaceHealth Received approval for an additional 50 beds for acute in-patient rehab. This will open in 2027.
  - *Dr. Kevin Fischer*: Columbia River Mental Health furloughed many employees on 3/21/25.

The Cowlitz Tribal Foundation donated money to keep the practice open, and they should have most of their staff back by 5/5/25 to continue serving the community.

### **Closing**

The next PHAC meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2025, from 5:30-7:30 and will be held *virtually*.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.



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