

# **Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



## **Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

**12:55 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL  
360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Ben Elenbaas  
Jon Scanlon  
Mark Stremler

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## **Call To Order**

Committee member Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Jon Scanlon, Mark Stremmler, and Ben Elenbaas

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, and Kaylee Galloway

## **Announcements**

### **Special Order of Business**

1. [AB2025-008](#) Nomination and appointment of Committee Chair

*Scanlon moved* to nominate himself as chair.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Scanlon, Stremmler, and Elenbaas

**Nay:** 0

**Scanlon was APPOINTED.**

Appointed Scanlon as Chair

### **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2025-034](#) Presentation from Whatcom County Health and Community Services on the operations plan for the Fentanyl Executive Order

Kari Holley, Health and Community Services, read from a presentation (on file) and answered questions about the overdose data presented, resources the County has for translating existing materials into other languages and how they determine which languages, the Fentanyl Operations Plan Evaluation, and whether there are limitations or a written policy on how they can use the opioid settlement funds. She stated there is a big document that talks about what is allowed or not for the use of the funds, but it is very complicated. She spoke about one of the larger settlements which is on hold due to an appeal and stated other funds may trickle in over time.

Scanlon spoke about third spaces for youth and a meeting taking place about that tomorrow.

Holley answered what trend they are seeing for overdose deaths, and stated there are fewer deaths so far in 2024 than in 2023. There is a lag in the data

for 2024 likely due to the change in the Medical Examiner's Office.

Elenbaas spoke about the number of overdose deaths and asked whether there has been any change in how deaths are classified since some overdose deaths do not seem to have that listed as the main cause.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, stated the Administration can follow up with Councilmembers on concerns about the death data.

Scanlon asked if the data only indicates the primary cause of death and Schott-Bresler stated they would need to follow up with the Medical Examiner.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED.**

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Jon Scanlon-via email 1/24/2025**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Scanlon, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE