

Whatcom County Council as the Health Board

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

11 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**JOINT HEALTH BOARD/PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING -
HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 12:00 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Health Board Chair Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call - Health Board

Present: 5 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Jessica Rienstra, and Jon Scanlon

Absent: 2 - Kaylee Galloway, and Mark Stremmler

Roll Call - PHAB

PHAB Members Present: Alan Lifson, Joni Hensley, Carl Isom-McDaniel, Mike Cohen, Michelle Gillig, Sterling Chick, Deb Shawver, Robyn Phillips-Madson, Rachel McGarrity, Markis Dee Stidham, Amelia Vader, Ashley Thomasson, Guy Occhiogrosso, Chris Kobdich, Kendra Cristelli, Jon Scanlon, Amy Harley, and Meg Lelonek

Announcements**Public Comment**

The following people spoke:

- Ryan Bowman
- Natalie Chavez

Hearing no one else, Scanlon closed public comment.

Special Presentation

1. [AB2026-411](#) Update from the Health Officers

Amy Harley, Health Officer, stated that Meg Lelonek's last day is June 12th.

Meg Lelonek, Health Officer, introduced a presentation on the 2025 Healthy Youth Survey. She stated that the Healthy Youth Survey is a statewide survey of about 200,000 kids every two years in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. Survey results help schools identify areas of need by indicating changes in behavior over time; it also provides useful data to state agencies, county prevention coordinators, community coalitions, and others. Lelonek stated that youth prevention efforts are focused on upstream solutions, which try to prevent first use of illicit drugs or alcohol. She said that one of the things doctors and hospitals have been seeing recently are substance use related disease and disease related to alcohol induced liver injury. She stated that prevention saves money over time. Lelonek stated that the survey

results show that youth are using fewer illegal drugs, smoking less, and drinking less alcohol. They are also reporting feeling less anxious and depressed, all of which are encouraging signs.

Joe Fuller, Whatcom County Health and Community Services (WCHCS), provided an overview of the survey data, which has been administered since 2002. He said that 4,565 students in Whatcom County participated across seven school districts. Survey topic areas include mental health, social media and screen time, fitness, nutrition, and more. Fuller stated that the survey used to be administered in even years but was switched to an online format during the pandemic and is now administered in odd-numbered years.

Fuller proceeded to share data from the study and discuss study findings with Health Board and PHAB members.

This agenda item was PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.

2. [AB2026-412](#)

Update from the Public Health Advisory Board Chair

Joni Hensley, PHAB, stated that PHAB had an amazing retreat recently. She shared that the monthly meetings have changed, and the next meeting will be on July 9.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.