



Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

MEETING MINUTES ~ September 8, 2021

5:30 p.m. – Teams Meeting

Attendance

Commissioners present: Donna Mears, Vice Chair, Dr. Jocasta Olp, Matthew Thomas, Gabe Garcia, Stephanie Berglund

Commissioners absent: Kati Ward-Hamer (E), Laura Hudson (E)

Guest: Robert Craig, Kathleen Easley

Staff: Judy Atkins, Administrative Support

Call to Order

Vice Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. with a quorum.

Roll Call

Vice Chair called for those present to introduce themselves and welcomed two Anchorage community members.

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair called for approval of the agenda as presented, noting that no AHD Staff Report would be offered. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Garcia. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair called for approval of the July 14, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Berglund, seconded by Commissioner Thomas. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.** *It was noted that Mr. Morgan did not provide the statistical report as promised to the commissioners.*

Public Comment

Vice Chair opened the floor to members of the community urging all to be kind, respectful and professional during open comments.

Kathleen Easley, school nurse, shared that she and her colleagues are drowning in COVID and expressed her concern that nothing is happening ie masking, distancing, etc. There is concern that information provided by medical professionals is falling on deaf ears. She has submitted her application to join this commission.

Dr. Robert Craig, a physician with Alaska Heart Institute, offered comments about concentrating on the education and information aspect. Meeting could be held to dispel myths associated with vaccination. Many resources are available but people don't know they exist and many are not receiving the basic information. Dr. Craig indicated he has submitted his application to join this commission.

AHD Staff Report

Old Business

Resolution supporting Public Health – Vice Chair Mears provided a draft for a resolution to bring recognition of the importance of public health and the benefits to all of us.

Following discussion, a second resolution will be drafted regarding COVID-19. Commissioner Garcia urged us to add research facts on the value of masking and adding vaccinations to the piece as well. Positive messaging is desired encouraging the community to participate in all aspects of COVID prevention. Support the behavior, not the mandate. The message should reinforce the campaign, making materials readily available. Reinforce the 'greater good' message, trust your health care professional, lead with the positive. Encourage the message to be 'It is your RIGHT to be vaccinated'. Reduce barriers and continue providing language translations. Vice Chair Mears will draft and provide the final via email.

New Business

Commissioner Comments

Next Meeting

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Olp; seconded by Commissioner Garcia. **Hearing no objections the meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm;** the next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 10, 2021, Teams Meeting from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.