



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

111 E. 3rd Street • Port Angeles, WA 98362 • Phone: 360-417-2303 • Fax: 360-452-9605

Michelle Davis, Executive Director
Washington State Board of Health
PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98362

Dear Ms. Davis,

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the complaint filed with the State Board of Health. I am submitting this written response to provide some important context to the State Board of Health.

Contrary to allegations in the complaint, I have acted at the direction of the Clallam County Board of Health at all times while performing my duties as Health Officer and continue to serve as Health Officer at their pleasure. I was appointed as Health Officer on September 4th, 2018. Since that time I have enjoyed a positive working relationship with the Clallam County Board of Health.

I keep the Clallam County Board of Health informed of my work and the work of the public health department. I regularly communicate with individual members of the Board of Health, I attend Board of Health meetings, and throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic I have held weekly public briefings, which are well attended by members of the Board of Health. The Board of Health has supported my actions throughout my tenure as Health Officer and even passed the attached resolution in support of my work on September 28, 2021.

To the extent that the complaint implies that the Board of Health was opposed to the vaccine order, this is not accurate. All members of the Clallam County Board of Health were individually informed of the proposed issuance of the Proof of Vaccination Order prior to its issuance and no member of the board objected. Further, a Board of Health meeting was held on September 22, 2021. At that meeting the vaccine order was discussed and no member of the Board of Health requested that the order be withdrawn or amended.

The complaint incorrectly states that a local health officer does not have the authority to issue a local health order without explicit approval from the Board of Health. Formal action by a local board of health is required to appoint a health officer. However, formal action by a board of health is not required for a health officer to perform her duties once appointed. As outlined in the order itself, health officers have the authority to issue such orders. The complaint suggests that the Board of Health must publicly, formally authorize every action taken by a local health officer and this is simply not the case.

This complaint does not warrant further investigation. Thank you for your time and your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Berry", is written over a faint circular stamp.

Allison Berry, MD MPH
Clallam County Health Officer