



Clallam County Board of Health

111 East 3rd Street • Port Angeles, WA 98362 • Phone: 360-417-2329 • FAX: 360-452-9605

September 17th, 2019

Dear Members of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council:

We write today to express our support for the building of the Jamestown S'Klallam Healing Campus. Clallam County has been hit disproportionately hard by the opiate epidemic which has affected so many of our country's rural communities. As recent reporting has brought to light, Clallam County received more opiate pills per capita than any other county in Washington State. In recent years, we have had one of the highest opiate overdose rates in the state, with opiate overdoses claiming more of our citizens' lives than motor vehicle accidents. Countless families across our region have been affected by this crisis and continue to work to recover from its devastating effects.

At the Clallam County Board of Health, we have been committed to addressing this crisis head-on by (1) promoting reforms in opiate prescribing, (2) improving access to the overdose-reversal drug naloxone, and (3) increasing access to evidence-based treatment. Through these county-wide efforts, we have seen significant improvements, but there is still much work to be done.

Increasing access to evidence-based treatment for opiate use disorder is a cornerstone of this ongoing work. The scientific evidence demonstrating the superiority of medically assisted treatment (MAT) for the for the treatment of opiate use disorder is clear. It is now considered the gold standard for treating opiate use disorder and is supported by every major medical organization including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, the Washington State Department of Health, and the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. While we have made significant strides to increase access to MAT in our community, recent data from the Washington Health Care Authority have shown that less than 45% of Clallam County citizens with opiate use disorder have access to this treatment. The Jamestown Healing Campus would serve as a significant investment to help fill that gap.

At the Clallam County Board of Health, we are committed to supporting evidence-based practices to address the opiate epidemic, and we will continue to support increasing access to treatment until every citizen in our county who is struggling with addiction has the opportunity to get sober.

Sincerely,
The Members of the Clallam County Board of Health

Jeanne LaBrecque
Chair

Allison Unthank, MD
Health Officer

Andy Brastad
HHS Director

Don Lawley
Hospitals Representative

Mark Ozias
Commissioner
District 1

Randy Johnson
Commissioner
District 2

Bill Peach
Commissioner
District 3

Gerald Stephanz, MD
At Large Position



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