Orcas Island Health Care District

Minutes of September 23rd, 2026
Board of Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting

Mark Salierno
Diane Boteler – joined at
Chelsie Guilford
Trey Holland
Alison Sanders

Chris Chord, Superintendent
Ellen Fraser, Administrative Assistant

I. Call To Order – Regular Board Meeting

President Salierno called the September 23rd Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with a quorum of commissioners present.

II. Land Acknowledgement & Mission Minute

Superintendent Chord shared the land acknowledgement. Superintendent Chord shared his encouragement from the well-attended Community Health Network convening on Lopez Island. Commissioner Guilford shared similar encouragement from attending the new provider meet and greet.

III. Regular Meeting Public Comment

Victoria Smith shared about the Orcas Healthcare Advocates town hall that was well attended. They hope to come up with solutions that they can all talk about. She presented Superintendent Chord with two letters to the Healthcare district which explains some of the concerns expressed by the community. Superintendent Chord will scan the letters and share with the Board.

IV. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the following consent agenda made by Commissioner Guilford; seconded by Commissioner Sanders. Motion approved 5 - 0.

a. **Special Board Meeting Minutes – 08/31/2026**
b. **AP Voucher Report – 09/08/2026 - $82,381.54**
c. **AP Voucher Report – 09/22/2026 - $16,172.63**

V. Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Report-out

Debra O'Conner, MIH program nurse, reported on the progress of the MIH program. They have chosen the Electronic Medical Reporting (EMR) software, Julota, that they will be using for the program. The MIH pilot program will start with referrals from Orcas Fire EMTs, phases 2 - 4 will be Island Health referrals, community services, and then families. The beginning three services offered will be multi-visit patients (repeat callers), aging in place (fall risks and medication reconciliation), and transitional care (prevention of hospital readmission). To start, the MIH program will be a referral service and not a case management program.

President Salierno and Commissioner Boteler asked clarifying questions regarding the transitional services, communication channels with the primary care provider and the software's ability to share data across EMR platforms. Debra shared that Julota is able to communicate with the Island Health EMR and will automatically send chart updates to the Orcas Fire and Island Health platforms.

VI. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Chord provided the following bullet-point report with the agenda and asked the Board for question or discussion points for any items.

Questions/Discussion summary:

- **b. Infrastructure** – Superintendent Chord and the Facilities Planning Committee met with Island Health, their facilities supply chain, and lab directors to walk through the space layouts and equipment needs. Island Health will provide a price list for equipment for each type of room and were able to clarify some space elements.
- **d. Care for Elders and People with Disabilities, i. Home Health Shortage Area Designation** – The District's consultant is encouraging Island Health to submit an application for the designation. President Salierno requested that the application package be shared with the Commissioners. The hope is that the designation could provide some reimbursement to MIH services.
- **d. Care for Elders and People with Disabilities, ii. MIH committee meeting** – Island Health Primary Care – Orcas hired two nurses who have home health experience. They are looking forward to increased information sharing with Orcas Fire.
- **d. Care for Elders and People with Disabilities, iii. Caregiver Collaborative** – Trillium Swanson, project manager, will take an increased role in facilitating the caregiver collaborative.
- **f. Health Collaboration** – The next Community Health Network convening will be on Orcas Island in the spring.

2026 Strategic Priority Areas:

Enablers

a. **Communications**
   i. Newsletter, social media posts happening regularly.
   ii. Will focus on services supported by the district the next few months, including dental, OCRC, Community Health Network.
   iii. Feeling like I have capacity to put together a district article through Sounder this week.

b. **Infrastructure**
   i. Pre-construction bids received from three GCs, evaluating selection and should have decision by this week.
   ii. Updated Architecture & Design work, with additional service requests to support re-design after pre-construction, more time with clinic staff, and add-on work for civil engineering team.
   iii. Met with High Point (Katie Newman) and Rick Hughes to discuss legislative actions.
   iv. Maintenance worker has been working on projects

c. **Finance & Operations Sustainability**
   i. Long-range forecast that includes the 2027 budget updated

Growth Opportunities

d. **Care for Elders and People with Disabilities**
   i. Home Health Shortage Area Designation – should be submitted to the state, will be waiting to hear back about next steps.
   ii. MIH Committee meeting in Early October to discuss current state – should be signing agreement with data platform and recruiting nurse coordinator position.
   iii. Caregiver Collaborative continues to meet monthly, with the next four months of education topics planned.
   iv. Trillium & Chris planning to meet with SJCPHD#1 to see where capacity with village at home is.

e. **Clinical Care**
   i. General Surgery visiting the island 1x a month for consults, which they would like more promotion around
   ii. Two RNs have been hired at the clinic, and one MA; Still one MA opening

f. **Health Collaboration**
   i. September 17th semi-annual convening on Lopez – great attendance and health systems representation

VII. New Business

a. **Inter-local agreement: Financial Support for Community Health Network**

This agreement will allow OIHCD to receive funds from San Juan County to support the Community Health Network.

Motion to approve Superintendent Chord sign Inter-local agreement: Financial Support for Community Health Network made by Commissioner Sanders ; seconded by Commissioner Boteler. Motion approved 5 – 0

b. **Legislative Lobbyist Support**

A lobbyist will connect the District with legislators and community leads. Our WIPfli consultant will compile the documents and information that the District will need for grant applications. This information should be ready by early winter so the lobbyist is able to advocate for the District in the next legislative session. The Commissioners asked that potential lobbyists' rate structures are provided at the next board meeting.

c. **DLR Add Service Request**

DLR provided unforeseen revised schematic designs and engineering.

Motion to approve updated contract to support DLR additional services with the stipulation that Superintendent Chord speaks with DLR to try to negotiate a lower cost, made by Commissioner Holland; seconded by Commissioner Boteler. Motion approved 5 - 0.

d. **Island Health – staff appreciation and professional development**

Legal provided language for a separate agreement with Island Health to support staff appreciation and professional development. President Salierno suggested that this can be reviewed with the District's 2027 budget.

VIII. Facilities Expansion Planning Update

Superintendent Chord provided an update version of a 2024 presentation on the history of the Health Care District and asked that the Board send him recommendations on the update.

IX. 2027 Draft Budget Review

The budget will be reviewed in detail at a Special Board Meeting on Monday, October 19th and the Public Budget and Levy Hearing will take place on Thursday, November 12th. President Salierno encouraged Commissioners to thoroughly review the draft budget prior to the October Special Meeting.

X. Public Comment

- **Carol Ann Anderson** (*oral comment – transcribed from meeting recording as accurately as possible*)
  I spent some time with Chris on the phone this afternoon and we had our town hall meeting on Sunday. We had a pretty good turnout, maybe 35. Although we appreciate and agree with what's being done for the future, and it sounds exciting, and I think you're headed in the right direction. And we also appreciate the things that you're doing – sharing with some of the other activities with other organizations on Orcas because it's necessary and the future looks promising. We feel that the present situation at the clinic still has some issues and we'd like to bring those to your attention. One of the ways we're interested in doing it is to sit down with whether it be someone within the board here, I had asked Chris to see if he could facilitate a meeting between either himself or someone from the board, possibility Aaimee at the clinic, and then maybe the acting CEO or someone in Island Hospital to sit down and see if we can resolve or at least chat in a smaller group to see if we could resolve some of, what we believe to be, these present issues. And then there was a fair amount of people in the community that still feel that we have some issues, some problems, currently, not in the future. We're behind you as far as what lobbyists and what money you're trying to get from the federal and state governments and we don't have a problem with the future views. We have some issues with the fact that we believe there needs to be at least two more doctors at the clinic, understanding that you believe that the PAs that ae in the facility fulfill the requirements of your operations. The reality is that if you count the people who are doctors on the island, a number of these gentlemen are way past retirement age and they are not going to be here a fair amount longer in practice. Hence the discussion of the number of rooms you may need to have in the future. There's a need for more doctors with more experience. Especially when you consider the number of senior people on the island with more complicated medical issues that a PA and possibly Dr. Whitmore can service.

  President Salierno interrupted at 3 minutes to say he would be happy to have a conversation and will connect with Superintendent Chord regarding Carol Ann's request.

- **Victoria Smith** (*oral comment – transcribed from meeting recording as accurately as possible*)
  We are the Orcas Healthcare Advocates and am here with my two colleagues, Elizabeth and Carol Ann, and I wanted to follow-up with what Carol Ann said, to make the point that we would like to invite the Board to sincerely consider is a balancing of present needs and future needs. We generally agree that you are doing a great job explaining to the public, to our community, what your wonderful plans are for our future health care services and facilities. But, I want to tell you, really from the heart, that this is not registering with the community because you are failing to address certain, crucial, present needs. I think we can claim at this point that we got a mandate from the community to dialog with you because it seems that you have kind of promoted yourselves as closing your ears since the Dr. Simpson Manske dismissal. I invite you to consider that this explains that the community feels that you just close your mind, your hearts, and your ears to the real daily present concerns. So we're here to work with you and we sincerely invite you to work with us so you can hear the real needs of the community. There's nothing better for PR to just sit down with us, in a sincere board, community dialog. What's wrong with that? We've tried many times, various people among us have tried many times and we're given the same thing – "No, we're not going to act on that". Just listen is what we would like you to please please consider. Listen to your community. Listen with heart, listen with sincerity because these are real problems for real people. Again, to sum up, balance present needs and future needs. If you can do that now, we'll all be great, we'll all be buddies. I can't wait to be friends with you. I just want you to listen to us so how about that, board.

XI. Adjourn

President Salierno adjourned the September 23rd Regular Board Meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Minutes approved this 19th day of October, 2026.

Chelsie Guilford
Chelsie Guilford (Oct 20, 2026 10:01:34 PDT)

Attest: Chelsie Guilford, OIHCD Board Secretary

2026_09_23 Regular Board Meeting minutes

Final Audit Report 2026-10-20

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