
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Commission Members:
Michelle Kavouras, Crystal Duncan, Amanda Roberts,
Lawrence “Woody” Widmark, Amy Wilson, Sophia Schwantes
JJ Carlson (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kavouras called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Michelle Kavouras, Amy Wilson, Sophia Schwantes, Amanda Roberts (zoom), Crystal Duncan (zoom), Woody Widmark (zoom)
Commissioners Absent:

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

Kavouras pulled item D after being notified of a change.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*Public participation on any item off the agenda. All public testimony is not to exceed 3 minutes for any individual, not to exceed 3 minutes*)

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 19, 2025

Wilson moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2025. Motion passed 6-0.

VI. REPORTS

Chair – Kavouras congratulated Widmark on joining the Sitka Community Health Council, reviewed upcoming community health-related events and opportunities, and noted a federal grant opportunity.

Commissioners – None.

City Staff – Bayne announced the clerk’s office will attend the HNHS February meeting to provide a board and commission training.

Assembly Liaison – Carlson provided an updated on a recent assembly item which passed on first reading to approve a supplemental appropriation for a childcare study in Sitka. The commission was thanked for their earlier work related to childcare, specifically member Duncan and prior member Evans for their 2025 report on childcare.

Other(s) – Director of Sitkan’s Against Family Violence Natalie Wojcik provided a presentation about the work that they do.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Discussion/Decision on amendments to Sitka General Code Chapter 2.30 “Health Needs and Human Services Commission”

The members reviewed and discussed the proposed amendments to SGC 2.30. While they noted some difficulty finalizing precise language, they agreed the draft reflected the intended changes. Bayne outlined the next steps, which included finding two Assembly sponsors, a legal review, another opportunity for members to review and vote on the amendments and lastly forwarding the proposed amendments to the Assembly for consideration.

Wilson moved to recommend to the assembly to update Sitka General Code chapter 2.3 Health Needs and Human Services Commission as written. Motion passed 6-0.

C. Updates from working groups

Kavouras provided a working group update addressing the goal “Mental Health and Suicide Prevention/Postvention.” The “Health and Racial Equity” working group did not have an update.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

D. Discussion/Decision to nominate a commission member to participate as a member of Sitka’s Walkability Action Institute Team

Item pulled – no action taken.

E. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Kavouras moved to nominate Wilson as Chair. Motion passed 6-0.

Roberts moved to nominate Kavouras as Vice Chair. Motion passed 6-0.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items on or off the agenda, not to exceed 3 minutes)

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Schwantes moved to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Attest:
Holley Bayne
Deputy Municipal Clerk