

Panama and Costa Rica strengthen border health cooperation

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Summary

The CSS took part in the ninth binational health commission session with Costa Rica, highlighting its services at Paso Canoas in Chiriqui and Guabito in Bocas del Toro and the 2025–2028 work plan.

Details (summary of the article)

Panama's social security fund (CSS) reaffirmed its role in health care along the Costa Rican border during the ninth ordinary session of the binational sectoral technical health commission, reported by CSS press. The meeting reviewed the 2025–2028 work plan of the binational technical units for the Pacific and Caribbean regions. CSS highlighted its facilities at Paso Canoas in Chiriqui and Guabito in Bocas del Toro, the country's main land crossings, which serve a highly mobile population including Ngäbe-Buglé workers who travel to Costa Rica for the coffee harvest. Dr. Luis Quintero, CSS director in Chiriqui, said the binational agreement speeds up health arrangements so workers are not delayed in getting care. Health ministry officials discussed epidemiological surveillance, outbreak control, faster cross-border paperwork and the "One Health" approach. Costa Rican officials noted two decades of cooperation on dengue, chikungunya, malaria and tuberculosis. The session ended by reviewing a memorandum for a binational health card aimed at migrant Ngäbe-Buglé workers.

Original (es)

Refuerzan cooperación sanitaria en la frontera

La Caja de Seguro Social (CSS) reafirmó su papel estratégico en la atención médica de la zona fronteriza con Costa