



*To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County*

Public Health Study Session  
August 23, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz, Chelsey Loeffers, Candi Blackford, Erin Moore

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Citizen Comment (1 minute time limit)**

There were no members of the public present.

**Department Business**

Request to approve additional American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for participation in Vet Corps program.

Candi Blackford reviewed the Vet Corps staff report with the commissioners. The department is asking for an additional \$3000.00 ARPA funding to support a Vet Corps member. The Vet Corps program is designed to help veterans and their family members navigate their journey as they transition from military to civilian life. As part the Vet Corps program a member provides peer connection to veterans to help answer questions and connects them to federal, state, and local veteran benefits. The contract was previously held by the Veterans Coalition. The Veteran Services Program would like to continue this program. Ms. Blackford informed the board that, Kristen Ashley, a veteran, and the county's Vet Corps member last year was able to work with over 400 veterans in our community. She put together several outreach events and Ms. Ashely is hoping to continue with the program.

1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% timeline and current contracts discussion

There was discussion about the timeline for the 1/10<sup>th</sup> Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Chelsey requested direction about creating amendments to two existing programs funded with the 1/10<sup>th</sup> monies so that if there is extra time needed for processing contracts for other applicants, the current programs will not have a lapse in funding. The board directed staff to prepare the amendments in advance just in case they are needed.

Community Development Services Exit Survey feedback discussion

Director Loeffers updated the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) about feedback received by Human Resources from a CDS staff member during their exit interview about the office hours at the public health office. Chelsey explained that the public health office has not received any complaints

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about the hours of operation and staff do everything they can to assist customers that come in close to or at closing time.

Erin Moore then provided an update about the work public health is leading to improve customer service between public health, community development services, and public works. She reported that there would continue to be communication about ways to improve the customer experience for customers utilizing services from all three departments and continued improvement to process documents.

#### Core Services Report discussion

Ms. Loeffers presented the core services report and asked the BOCC if they felt like this was a valuable document to continue presenting. The BOCC reported that this was an extremely valuable document and discussed how it could be utilized in all departments.

#### Board of Health Feedback

The BOCC reported that they were glad that Dr. Larson attended BOH. There was discussion about the presentations during the meeting.

#### Other

Director Loeffers reported that there is an increase in overdoses in the community. She reported that the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) would be providing messaging and outreach. The BOCC requested to review the press release being prepared. There was also discussion about overdose and substance abuse data.

Ms. Loeffers announced that the department was awarded a Washington State Department of Health grant for KCPHD's harm reduction programs. There was discussion regarding the data collected at the syringe services program. Director Loeffers said she would bring a data report to the next study session.

Chelsey Loeffers reported that there is an opportunity to utilize workforce development monies from the state and she is currently creating a proposal for up to \$200K to fund workforce development activities for the department. She reviewed the type of activities that were eligible expenses for this funding. There was discussion about the amendment to the next Consolidated Contract through the state.

Concluded at 10:48 a.m.



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Wright", written over a horizontal line.

Cory Wright, BOCC Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Candi Blackford", written over a horizontal line.

Candi Blackford, Clerk