

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)  
Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2023  
Commissioners' Auditorium  
10:00am**

**Present**

Board of Health (BOH): Cory Wright, Brett Wachsmith, Dede Utley, James Donaldson

Absent: Laura Osiadacz

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Jesse Cox, Chelsey Loeffers, Cambron Walker, MacKenzie Carter, Kate Johnson, Audi Martinez, Dora Beukelman, Whitney Wheelock, Mark Larson M.D., Katie Odiaga, Kelly Bacon, Shane Johnson

Kittitas County Health Network Staff: Doug Fulp, Alicia Pierce, Ruby Collins

*Meeting called to order at 10:38 am*

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the June 15, 2023, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion 07.01:** Motion to approve the June 15, 2023, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the June 15, 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Dede Utley second. All approved. Motion 07-01 carried to approve the June 15, 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

Motion to approve the June 15, 2023, Joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion 07.02:** Motion to approve the June 15, 2023, Joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the June 15, 2023, Joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. Dede Utley second. All approved. Motion 07-02 carried to approve the June 15, Joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented.

Public comment open at 10:03 am

Public comment done at 10:03 am

**Department Updates**

Director/Administrative Officer Report

Chelsey Loeffers reported on the following:

Staffing Updates

- Welcome Kelly Bacon, Local Emergency Response Coordinator
- Welcome Clay Parrot and Shane Johnson to Environmental Health
- Welcome Timothy Paxton, Veterans' Service Office! Starting September 11<sup>th</sup>
- Madi Strom on leave until November
- Marie resigning, last day August 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Erin, with support from MacKenzie and others, will be leading 1/10<sup>th</sup> temporarily

## Departmental Updates

- Budget and Fees documents via email, will review at September BOH in detail
- Organizational assessment moving forward – first in person meeting was Wednesday, scheduling in person interviews
- Leadership development with regional partners starting in August
- Staff attended National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) annual conference in Denver

## Program Updates

- AQ program: received 106 personal air purifiers to distribute. We were able to immediately distribute using protocol developed in previous pilot project with DOH (thank you Rebekah!). Captured self-identified data -
  - Half living on low incomes
  - 75 indicated asthma or COPD
  - 32 indicated cardiovascular disease
  - 10 veterans through partnership with vet program
  - 31 to seniors, 21 to homes with children
- Building up an AQ program is an exciting example of expanded but aligned work that can be done through EH and the flexibility through Foundation of Public Health System to go beyond fee-based activities, and ability to closely partner with assessment staff and emergency preparedness staff.
- 1/10<sup>th</sup>: BOCC approved Request for Proposal (RFP) process August 15. On track for release 9/1 – 10/9. Goal is for proposal recommendations presented at November BOH meeting for the BOH to make recommendations to BOCC for early December final award decisions.
- Lianne Bradshaw NACCHO Epi workgroup – two-year team on national workgroup focused on epi policy and practice for local health jurisdictions (LHJs).
- Nea Alfaro traveled to Texas for the CADCA (Community-Based, Advocacy-Focused, Data-Driven, Coalition-Building Association) Mid-Year Training Institute in July. Focus was on substance use prevention. The sessions she attended focused on increasing partner and community engagement, ACE's, Early intervention information and overdose factors. She would rate this training a 5 out of 5.

## Health Officer Report

Dr. Mark Larson discussed the One Health approach and the connection between animal health, environmental health, and human health. Dr. Larson is attending the One Health Conference and reviewed the topics being discussed. Dr. Larson also discussed the many different topics the conference covered.

Dr. Larson also discussed currently being in fire season and the air quality this past week. Washington has several fires, and some fires will continue to burn because of where they are located. This will continue to have an impact on air quality around the state.

## Veteran Services Program Update

Candi Blackford updated the board on the following Veteran Services Program:

- New furniture was purchased and installed
- New hire and volunteers to start on September 11, 2023

- Funding now being overseen by KCPHD
- Discussed future development of procedures and policies for vouchers and program process
- Working with Washington Department of Veterans Administration for Vet Corps position
- Working with Veterans Administration and Central for a work study student

Group discussed veteran funding and hopeful for future possibilities of securing a permanent funding source.

## Department Updates

### Quarterly Community Health Improvement Plan Update

Doug Fulp, KCHN) presented the quarterly update on the Community Health Improvement Plan. Mr. Fulp discussed the Community Health Improvement Plan is strategic issue prioritization, goal creation, strategy brainstorming and prioritization, activity brainstorming and prioritization, and creating workgroups to identify feasibility, existing resources, potential resources, and long-term sustainability. Mr. Fulp presented the following questions with information from the work groups.

- How can we improve the delivery of current community resources and healthcare services?
- How can we address social and upstream factors to improve health outcomes in our community?
- How can we adequately sustain collaborative community health improvement efforts and increase cross-sector communication?

The following are goals from the work groups:

- There is readily accessible healthcare for all demographics in Kittitas County
- Provide mental health and substance use services for all demographics in Kittitas County
- Children, youth, and families in Kittitas County are safe, healthy, and thriving, with equitable access to services.

### Motion to extend BOH member recruitment timeline

Chelsey Loeffers noted that the vacant Board of Health position was posted and there was an applicant. The qualified applicant has rescinded their application and KCPHD is asking for a 60-day extension. The department will repost and will do outreach for applicants with community partners.

Motion to approve a 60-day extension for the Board of Health vacancy to allow the department to repost for position.

**Motion 07.03:** Motion to approve the extension for the Board of Health vacancy to allow the health department to repost for position. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the extension for the Board of Health vacancy to allow the health department to repost for position. James Donaldson second. All approved. Motion 07.03 carried to approve the extension for the Board of Health vacancy to allow the health department to repost for position.

### Review of amendment versions to the BOH bylaws

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the three different versions of the proposed bylaw amendments

- Version one is a three alternate member seats. Each position would need its specific alternate with same qualifications as seat member.
- Version two is one alternate member. The alternate member must meet the qualifications of all three seat members.
- Version three is no alternates.

Chelsey discussed obstacles with alternate seats and there have not been any issues recently with quorum. She would recommend the board choose option three. After board discussion they asked Mrs. Loeffers to finalize option three and bring back in September for adoption.


**Other Business**

**Board of Health Membership Update**


Dede Utley reported:

- KVH is still delivering babies and no plans to discontinue delivery unit
- Hospital is full
- Hospitals around region are full and are redirecting to those hospitals with open beds

Meeting concluded at 11:18 am

  
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Dede Utley, Vice Chair

  
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Chelsey Loeffers, Director  
Kittitas County Public Health

  
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Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health