

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2023

Commissioners' Auditorium

10:00am

Present

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

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Jesse Cox, Chelsey Loeffers, Cambron Walker, , Audi Martinez, Dora Beukelman, Kate Johson, Kasey Knutson, Lucy Garcia, Lianne Bradshaw, Mackenzie Carter

Other: Robin Read, Board of Health Advisory Committee/Kittitas County Health Network

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October 19, 2023, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

Motion 10.01: Motion to approve the October 19, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the October 19, 2023; Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Dede Utley second. All approved. Motion 10.01 carried to approve the October 19, 2023; Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

Public comment open at 10:03 am

Public comment done at 10:03 am

Department Updates

Director/Administrative Officer Report

Staffing Updates

- Kasey is celebrating 15-year anniversary.
- Madi Strom is not returning from parental leave.

Departmental Updates

- Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinic is next week on Wednesday, October 25th from 7am – 4pm.
- Data collection for organization assessment has been completed and is waiting for the initial report from consultant.
- All staff participated in Lean training this week. The department worked with the State Auditor's office for Lean fundamentals, and then a more in depth training for leadership. The team will be working to identify small practice projects for skill building.
- Staff attended the Washington State Public Health Association conference last week.

Program Updates

- Veteran Services Program: hosting roundtable discussion with other local veteran services/resources (VFW, HopeSource, WorkSource, KCHN). Mr. Paxton has already started meeting with vets to apply for benefits and working with WDVA VSO coordinator for training. Working on IT infrastructure and updates to the space. Front desk staff cross training to be able to assist vets and schedule appointments. Candi Blackford will be working on getting accredited as a VSO for backup.
- Environmental Health: Staff spent three days working with code enforcement on site at Mountain River Trails (MRT) to document health hazards and code violations related to sewage and solid waste at individual sites. MRT work has allowed the department to partner with Public Works and Community Development to obtain a common goal.
- Developmental Disabilities Program: Kasey is working on partnering with KVH and KCHN to host the showing of the Unseen documentary.
- Intern Sarah Dineen is working with Ellensburg School District on pilot of suicide prevention curriculum to 9th grade as a part of health class.

1/10th Update

- Advisory board members will be reviewing 11 proposals. The group will meet on October 26, 2023 to finalize recommendations. Presentation of proposals is planned for November Board of Health.
- Ms. Loeffers thanked James Donaldson for his service on board and said that he will be missed.

Other Business

Board of Health appointment recommendation by BOHAC

Robin Read. Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee noted that the committee delegated three members to interview Board of Health applicants along with Chelsey Loeffers and Mark Larson M.D. as non-voting members. After the interviews were conducted one candidate stood out, although all were great. The Board of Health Advisory Committee is recommending that Danielle Bertschi be appointed to the vacant position. This recommendation will be taken to the Board of County Commissioners next week for approval.

Request approval for upcoming BOH vacancy recruitment

Chelsey Loeffers notified the board that the health department would be posting the vacant Board of Health position. This position is the consumers of public health services position. The department posting will be from October 19, 2023, to November 3, 2023. The board approved a 30-day extension so that if needed the department can re-post for qualified applicants.

Motion 10.02: Motion to approve posting extension 30 days from November 3, 2023, if needed to allow qualified applicants to apply for Board of Health vacant position. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve posting extension 30 days from November 3, 2023, if needed to allow qualified applicants to apply for Board of Health vacant position. James Donaldson second. All approved. Motion 10.02 carried to approve posting extension 30 days from November 3, 2023, if needed to allow qualified applicants to apply for Board of Health vacant position.

Request Board direction regarding 2024 fees update

Cheley Loeffers reviewed the 2024 fee codes and noted that these fees do not include any type of wage survey results. Ms. Loeffers noted that she was looking for direction from the board as to how to proceed with the 2024 Kittitas County Public Health Fee schedule since the timeline for our public hearing is quickly approaching. The board recommended moving fees forward including wage survey results. It was also suggested to post updated fees to stakeholders with the caveat that this would be the maximum amount of increase and that there is potential for it to be less.

Core Services Report presentation

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the department's Core Services report that was generated initially in response to a request from the board. The Kittitas County's Core Services report breaks out the primary services and programs, and outlines whether they are mandated by law, considered a foundational public health service, total cost of service, how they are funded, the department division, and staff positions supported through the program and associated funding. The board noted that the information was helpful and appreciated this information.

COVID Update

Kate Johnson informed the board that the department is seeing COVID in the community. There are currently outbreaks in our care facilities and jail. Ms. Johnson reviewed that 1 positive employee/client is considered an outbreak and that the recommendation from the health department is to test all staff/clients 2 times a week for 2 weeks and must have negative tests for 2 weeks to get out of an outbreak status. The COVID that we are seeing now is more contagious, but not as severe as when COVID first presented.

Board of Health Membership Update

Dede Utley noted that the hospital is working on expansion and hoping to be complete this time next year. The hospital hosted a round table with staff and Representative Alex Ybarra and Senator Judy Warnick. This was a productive conversation and hopeful that they will bring recommendations for change back to Olympia.

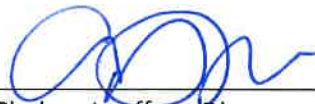
Cory Wright updated the group on the proposal to close the limited landfill in Kittitas County. Mr. Wright noted that public health and the city should be included in future discussions on how to resolve the issue of where to put and what to do with septic system disposal.

Cory Wright also thanked James Donaldson for serving on the board and for his help with mental health awareness.

Meeting concluded at 10:51 am



Cory Wright, Commissioner, Chair



Chelsey Loeffers, Director
Kittitas County Public Health



Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health