



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

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2020  
Commissioners' Auditorium  
10:00 am**

**Present**

**Board of Health (BOH):**

Cory Wright, Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz, Rich Elliott, John Asriel M.D.

**Public Health:** Katie Odiaga, Candi Blackford, Tristen Lamb, Jesse Cox, Kasey Knutson, Erin Moore, Chelsey Loeffers, Lauren Wickerath, Mark Larson M.D.

**Other**

Nancy Pfiefer, Community Health of Central Washington, Christie Collins, Community Health of Central Washington

*Meeting called to order at 10:00 am*

**Introductions**

Introductions were completed.

**Minutes**

Motion to approve the December 19, 2019 Board of Health meeting minutes

**Motion 01-01: Motion to approve the December 19, 2019 Board of Health meeting minutes. John Asriel moved to approve the December 19, 2019 Board of Health meeting minutes. Rich Elliott second. All approved. Motion 01-01 carried to approve the December 19, 2019 Board of Health meeting minutes.**

Motion to approve the December 19, 2019 Public Hearing meeting minutes

**Motion 01-02: Motion to approve the December 19, 2019 Public Hearing meeting minutes. Rich Elliott moved to approve the December 19, 2019 Public Hearing meeting minutes. John Asriel second. All approved. Motion 01-02 carried to approve the December 19, 2019 Public Hearing meeting minutes.**

**Public Comment**

Public Comment open at 10:01 am

Public Comment closed at 10:01 am

**BOHAC Update**

**APPROVED**  
7/7/2020

Tristen Lamb stepped to the microphone and stated that Dr. Larson gave a presentation to BOHAC regarding smoking and vaping, which was the same presentation that he had given to BOH a few months prior. Ms. Lamb also noted that Public Health Champion nominations are open, with the selection to be made in March.

### Department updates

#### Administrator update

Tristen Lamb stepped to the microphone and updated the board members on the following:

#### Administration updates

- Lauren Wickerath began as Harm Reduction Specialist on 01/06/2020
  - Ms. Wickerath talked briefly about her public health background.
- Flu vaccine clinics were held at FISH Food Bank and Syringe Exchange
- Participated in regional epidemiologist call regarding Hepatitis A

#### Health Officer Update

Dr. Larson informed the board Kittitas County has one reported case of Hepatitis A. This is currently the only reported case in susceptible populations (i.e. people experiencing homelessness, people who inject drugs, etc.). Dr. Larson also gave updates on the following items:

- Influenza B has been prevalent and occurred earlier in the year than in years past. There has been less influenza illness in schools post-Christmas break.
- New vaccination requirements for schools as of 01/01/2020.
- Tobacco 21 effective 01/01/2020.
- Governor's office is working on legislation regarding flavored vaping products.
- Increase in slips/falls and broken hips with the colder weather.

### Business

#### BOH Annual Orientation

Tristen Lamb gave the current Board of Health (BOH) members their annual orientation for public health that started with a quiz. The BOH orientation included information about what public health is, what the core functions are, the impacts of public health, review of the local public health system, board responsibilities, statutes that govern public health, and a review of the public health department programs.

#### 2020 Goals

The following staff gave brief highlights on their division's goals for 2020:

Chelsey Loeffers: Reviewed Health Promotion funding sources, new and existing. Health Promotion is also working to create workplans based on results-based accountability results, as well as using the new KCPHD Facebook page for outreach. Ms. Loeffers also noted that KCPHD has re-opened intern applications.

Jesse Cox: Environmental Health division goals include increasing employee credentials, decreasing cost where able, developing an EH intern program, and cross training more staff in the Drinking Water program.

Erin Moore: The Water Resource team is working on process standardization, succession planning, improving current processes for growth moving forward, process improvements for metering programs

and meter installation, standardizing drought response systems, and creating a financial strategy. Ms. Moore also noted that the WR team is looking at grant opportunities for water mitigation acquisitions and alternative mitigation strategies. Ms. Moore and team are also working with Department of Ecology on the consumptive use pilot program, and are submitting a request for proposals for meter maintenance contractors and will create a list of approved meter installers. Lastly, they are working on a meter sizing worksheet, as well as code revision and meter billing language.

Candi Blackford: The Community Health division plans to put together more community-based vaccination clinics centered around underserved populations, as well as re-evaluating the department clinic, as the numbers of patients seen continues to decrease. Ms. Blackford is also working on a communicable disease outbreak manual, and continuing to work on archiving digital and physical documents.

Kasey Knutson: Ms. Knutson is working on creating pre-messaging for smaller, recurring issues in the community for emergency preparedness and response, as well as incorporate those into the emergency communication plan, and test those messages out, especially using the new KCPHD Facebook page. Ms. Knutson also is aiming to talk to and educate the public about the Developmental Disabilities program in a way that is easy to understand.

Other

Mark Larson addressed a previous question from the board regarding air quality and "non-attainment" status. Dr. Larson stated that the county has not currently had anything on their radar regarding that for a while, but the wildfire smoke/air quality group has re-convened and will start meeting again next week.


Rich Elliott noted that flooding was looking like it will be likely come spring, and also briefly discussed air quality, prescribed burning and wildfire smoke.

Dr. John Asriel noted in response to a comment earlier about the decline in public health clinic that generally rural communities struggle to find and keep primary care providers, but noted that Kittitas County is lucky to have a residency program, and the medical school in Yakima helps our community, but we will likely have trouble in the next 20 years.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am

  
Brett Wachsmith, Chair of the Board of Health

  
Tristen Lamb, Administrator  
Kittitas County Public Health

  
Katie Odiaga, Clerk of the Board of Health