



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

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**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)**  
**Public Hearing**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 20, 2024**  
**Commissioners' Auditorium**  
**10:00 am**

**Present**

Board of Health (BOH): Cory Wright, Laura Osiadacz (Webex), Danielle Bertschi, Linda Navarre

Absent: Brett Wachsmith, Dede Utley

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Chelsey Loeffers, Erin Moore, Jesse Cox, Kate Johnson, Whitney Wheelock, Eddie Vader, Lucy Garcia, Cambron Walker, Rebekah Moon, Melissa Schumaier, Dan Suggs

Others: Andrew Lyons, HopeSource; Jaime-Lynn Tate, Community Health of Central Washington

*Joint BOCC/BOH public meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.*

**Public Health Champion**

Anderw Lyons stepped to the podium and acknowledged all the applicants. Choosing a Public Health Champion was difficult this year as there were seven applicants:

- Community Builders
- Community Health of Central Washington Connect Program
- Ellensburg Dance Ensemble
- NAMI
- KVH Rapid Access Clinic
- Upper Kittitas County Senior Center
- KVH 4<sup>th</sup> Trimester

The committee reviewed the nominations and have chosen Community Health of Central Washington Connect Program. The program encourages positive changes and supports health by providing safe and effective treatment with the use of Buprenorphine for people with addiction to or dependence on opioid drugs like oxycodone, heroin, or fentanyl.

Jaimie-Lynn Tate stepped to the podium and thanked everyone for the award. Ms. Tate noted that the clinic is boots on the ground every day serving the clients of this clinic. The award was given along with a \$500.00 check. A photo was taken.

There was a break at this time to allow Laura Osiadacz to join via Webex.

Laura Osiadacz joined at 10:08am.

**APPROVED**

8-6-24

The joint BOCC/BOH Public Hearing resumed at 10:10am.

The chair and vice chair were absent from this meeting. Cory Wright asked for a nomination for someone to chair the meeting.

**06.01: Danielle Bertschi nominated Cory Wright to chair the meeting. Linda Navarre second. All approved. Motion 06.01 carried.**

Public Comment: None

**06.02: Approval of May 16,2024; meeting minutes as presented. Danielle Bertschi moved to approve the May 16, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Linda Navarre second. All approve. Motion 06.02 carried.**

Cory Wright noted that this was a joint Board of County Commissioners and Board of Health meeting. Jesse Cox stepped to the podium and reviewed the staff reports. Mr. Cox noted that the proposed changes to the Kittitas County Code is for the purpose of adopting the Washington Administrative Code by reference to reduce redundancies and update the current code to meet state standards. The changes will comply with state law and meet the county's evolving needs. Mr. Cox requested that the board approve the resolution to amend chapters 13.04 and 13.12 of the Kittitas County Code. Mr. Cox also requested that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached ordinance to amend chapters 13.04 and 13.12 of the Kittitas County Code. The board and Mr. Cox discussed briefly some of the changes in the code. Examples about adopting state code will make changes to county code every time the Washington State Administrative Code changes. This change will also make it easier for designers in our county by only having the state code.

**Motion 06.03: Motion to approve Board of Health Resolution 2024-002 approving amendments to chapters 13.04 and 13.12 of the Kittitas County Code. Danielle Bertschi moved to approve chapters 13.04 and 13.12 of the Kittitas County Code. Laura Osiadacz second. All approved. Motion carried.**

Cory Wright opened the Board of County Commissioners portion of the public hearing.

Open for public comment at 10:21

Closed for public comment at 10:21

**Motion 06.04: Motion to approve Board of County Commissioners Ordinance 2024-007. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Ordinance 2024-007. Cory Wright second. All approved. Motion 06.03 carried.**

*Public Hearing concluded at 10:21am and the regular Board of Health meeting started.*

#### Director/Administrative Officer Report

##### Staffing Updates

- Holly Erdman has retired after 36 years.
- New Public Health Tech Colleen Hauser started on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

##### Departmental Updates

- Personal air cleaner (PAC) distribution
- The department is working on building Emergency Management capacity and staff participated in the Central Washington University mass casualty exercise.
- Regional Environmental Hazards Mitigation Program Manager – supported by grants and contributions of FPHS funds from each local health jurisdiction.

##### Division /Program Updates

- Health Promotion:

- Maggie led our “Quit Kit” project and created 75 quit kits that will go to Kittitas County youth that are interested in learning more about how to quit smoking or vaping.
- Environmental Health:
  - Kim Shilley is doing great with the transition to Environmental Health.
  - Melissa Schumaier is now the new drinking water lead.
- Communicable Disease:
  - Lauren Wickerath presented on harm reduction at morning Rotary and received high praise. She was also presented with an “outstanding performance and dedication” award by Kittitas County Health Network.
  - The department will be receiving additional harm reduction funds from Kittitas County Health Network from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant.
  - Kate Johnson went on call with the coroner’s office.
- PH Infrastructure:
  - Strat planning – MacKenzie Carter will start working on Foundation of Public Health Services assessments.
  - The Community Health Improvement Plan is coming.
  - Working on department wide projects.
- Human Services:
  - Working on standard operating procedures for 1/10<sup>th</sup> distribution.
  - Working on timeline for hiring Admin Specialist.

#### Health Officer Update

Mrak Larson MD is out today. Kate Johnson updated on the following:

- Covid-19 is increasing in the community
- Encouraging TDAP/DTAP in adults and kids
- King County has a confirmed measles case

#### Veteran Services Program Update

Candi Blackford stepped to the podium and reported the following:

- 3 clients have been awarded disability funds and have since come off the voucher program.
- The program is looking for a space in Upper County for one to two days a month to do outreach and issue vouchers to veterans in that area.
- Eddie Vader has started with the county as the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer. The county has two Veteran Service Officers (VSO) to help local veterans navigate the claims process and connect them with local resources.
- The program now has a vehicle for the VSOs to do outreach and meet local veterans in both upper and lower county.

Candi Blackford introduced Denise Payton, HopeSource SSVF, and she provided the current numbers of those veterans seeking assistance for housing. Ms. Payton reviewed the different programs and shared the increased numbers of veterans utilizing the following programs for 2023-2024:

- Rapid Rehouse
- Homeless Prevention
- Shallow Subsidy

These are available to veterans based on circumstances. Ms. Payton and the Kittitas County Veteran Services Program will continue to work together to help veterans in our community.

#### Member Updates

Linda Navarre wanted to recognize the work the fire department is doing in upper county with the life jacket program. Mrs. Navarre also noted that she was concerned with the Community Health Assessment numbers with youth and exercise or outdoor activities minimum time to

participate in these activities are not being met. She would like to see how there could be support so that kids can get at least the minimum time for exercise or outdoor activities.

Daniell Bertschi noted that the first drowning happened in Lake Cle Elum and the patient survived thanks to successful CPR. Ms. Bertschi noted that CPR works and can save lives. She encouraged everyone to get certified.

Cory Wright noted that the commissioners met with 1/10th of 1 % Advisory Committee and had a successful outcome. They discussed priorities for funding and came up with the following at risk population:

- Youth
- Veterans
- Seniors

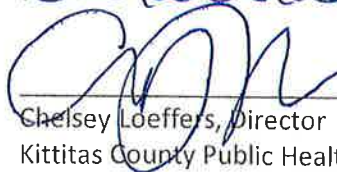
The group started to define expectations and work towards clarification of projects.

Meeting concluded at 10:53am

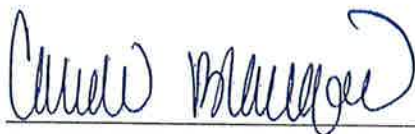


Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner, ~~Chair~~

Laura Osiadacz Vice Chair



Chelsey Loeffers, Director  
Kittitas County Public Health



Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health