



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

Public Health Study Session  
July 15, 2024, at 10:00 am  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Brett Wachsmith, Cory Wright, Chelsey Loeffers, Candi Blackford, Erin Moore, Jesse Cox, DPA Stephanie Hartung

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am

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

There were no members of the public present.

**Department Business**

Joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing

Jesse Cox requested a joint BOH and BOCC public hearing to be held at the next regular scheduled meeting on Thursday August 15, 2024 at 10:00am. This was originally held in June. But due to an error with the wrong codes posted in the public notification and agenda it was noted that we need to redo with correct codes noted. Board approved.

Approve promotions of Shane Johnson and Clay Parrott to Environmental Health Specialist II

Jesse Cox informed the Commissioners that Shane Johnson and Clay Parrott have completed three certifications out of nine that would initiate a position change from Environmental Health Specialist I to an Environmental Health Specialist II and includes a pay increase. Cory Wright moved to approve the position change and pay increase. Brett Wachsmith second. All approved.

Approve 1/10<sup>th</sup> funding letter to school districts

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the funding letters to be sent to the school districts. Letters were drafted and specifically note that if the school district would like to participate, they would have to opt in by responding to the letter with project proposal, goals and objectives, and a budget. Attached in the packet was information on allocations for each district. Cory Wright moved to approve the letters to be sent to the school districts for 1/10<sup>th</sup> funding. Brett Wachsmith second. All approved. Mrs. Loeffers will fill in the dates and dollar amounts on the letters for each district and forward them to Commissioner Wright to get them signed by the board.

Approve use of SFY 2025 Supplemental Document Recording Fee funds

Chelsey Loeffers noted that at the June 26<sup>th</sup> Public Health Study Session, the BOCC provided direction to use the Supplemental Document Recording Fee Funds to support the Ellensburg Sleep Center. Due to

APPROVED  
8-6-24



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the Sleep Center delays there is now consideration for a Cold Weather Shelter that would operate between November 2024 and March 2025. This would be coordinated by Kittitas County and the City of Ellensburg. The health department is requesting direction from the board to redirect the Supplemental Document Recording Fee Funds to the Cold Weather Shelter rather than the sleep Center so the funds can be utilized. The group discussed options and possible processes. They agreed that the funds should be redirected, but at this time would like to have further discussion about how to move forward since this has many layers of complexity. Discussion will be continued and will work with community partners to work out details.

#### Human Services Boards and Committees discussion

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the current process and procedures for the human services committees. The group discussed the current process and procedures for the committees and possible restructuring in the future. DPA Hartung discussed risk and liability possible concerns. The department will put together some scenarios that will help the committees to be productive in their meetings and help reduce any liability risk to the county. The board was in favor of putting together some options to review and discuss at a future meeting.

#### Health Officer Update

Dr. Mark Larson updated the board on the following:

- Cel phone data and impact on mental health
- No major updates on the Avian Influenza outbreaks- human cases in Colorado are amongst those who were exposed to infected animals
- Covid numbers are increasing and new Covid vaccine should be available at the end of August
- KVH is busy with patients from Kittitas and Yakima County
- Increased concerns with the attempted assassination and gun violence
- Prestige is under new ownership and unsure of the future due to finances

#### **Other Business**

##### Board of Health meeting frequency discussion

Chelsey Loeffers discussed the possibility of moving Board of Health meetings to quarterly. The board was interested in seeing a proposal as to what this could look like. Mrs. Loeffers will bring back information at the next study session.

Concluded at 11:00 am

  
Brett Wachsmith, BOCC Chair  
  
Candi Blackford, Clerk