



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

Public Health Study Session
October 22, 2025
at 10:00 am
Commissioners' Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

Present: Laura Osiadacz (chair), Brett Wachsmith, Cory Wright

Others: Candi Blackford, Erin Moore, Kasey Knutson, Mark Larson MD

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Laura Osiadacz

Department Business

Approve 1/10th of 1% Mental health and Chemical Dependency Tax funding amounts and opt in letter to school districts in Kittitas County

Kasey Knutson discussed the history of the approved annual allocation of revenue generated by the Mental Health Tax to Kittitas County Public Schools using approved algorithm. Ms. Knutson discussed the anticipated revenue for 2026 and anticipated funding for schools:

- Anticipated revenue for 2026 is \$1,872,000 with a third at \$624,000 for public school directed funding. Cle Elum Roslyn \$147,500; Damman \$9,900; Easton \$17,900; Ellensburg \$312,000; Kittitas \$82,400; Thorp \$53,250. Anticipated amounts may be prorated based on future contract timelines.

Ms. Knutson discussed feedback received from the school districts that indicated that an alternate contract year would be beneficial to better align with school budgeting cycles. Health department staff recommended amending current contract cycle to extend through June 30, 2026, to align with school budgeting cycles.

10.01: Motion to approve anticipated funding level amounts for Kittitas County Public Schools through June 2026. Cory Wright moved to approve anticipated funding level amounts for Kittitas County Public Schools through June 2026. Brett Wachsmith second. All approved. Motion 10.01 carried to approve anticipated funding level amounts for Kittitas County Public Schools through June 2026.

Discussion/Direction regarding request to fund Comprehensive Healthcare's school based mental health counselors

Kasey Knutson is looking for approval for Comprehensive Healthcare to seek funding directly from schools for the school-based therapy versus a contract through the Kittitas County Public Health Department for 1/10th of 1% funds. Ms. Knutson reviewed how each of the school's contract for counseling services. The group discussed the schools paying for school-based therapy

APPROVED
11/18/2025



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

10.02: Motion to approve Comprehensive seeking funding directly from schools for school-based therapy versus a contract through the Kittitas County Public Health Department for 1/10th of 1% funds. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve Comprehensive seeking funding directly from schools for school-based therapy versus a contract through the Kittitas County Public Health Department for 1/10th of 1% funds. Laura Osiadacz second. All approved. Motion 10.02 carried to approve Comprehensive seeking funding directly from schools for school-based therapy versus a contract through the Kittitas County Public Health Department for 1/10th of 1% funds.

Discussion/Direction regarding 1/10th of 1% Mental Health Chemical Dependency Tax funding and Community Service Millage Funding to Comprehensive Healthcare

Kasey Knutson noted the following

- KCPHD needs to update the resolution and contract for Comprehensive Healthcare to receive base 1/10th funding for the Crisis Care Manager program.
- Comprehensive Healthcare recently inquired about receiving future distributions of “mental health millage” funds, now referred to as Community Services Millage.
- Staff hope to use most restrictive funding, when possible (1/10th funds), and reserve more flexible funds (millage) for activities that lack dedicated funding streams. 1/10th funds do not allow for any administrative or coordination costs.

Today Ms. Knutson proposed that Kittitas County fund Comprehensive’s KVH Crisis Care Manager Program outside of the competitive RFP process, and at an increased amount to reflect program expansion. If directed by the BOCC, staff would prepare a recommended budget and accompanying resolution for funding. Community Services Millage is flexible funding, which is not often available to support internal and local needs. Ms. Knutson recommends that this funding remains in-house for further planning and strategic use, similar to the process underwent with millage for Developmental Disabilities, rather than continuing to pass through to one agency.

Direct staff regarding Hope Source Behavioral Health Bridge Program and Senior Support and Advocacy Program budget adjustment request

Kasey Knutson asked the board to provide direction to staff on how to proceed with budget amendments requested by HopeSource for the Behavioral Health Bridge Program and the Senior Support Advocacy Program. HopeSource is requesting large shifts in funding for these programs. There was discussion about funding shifts and review of documents provided by HopeSource. At this time the board would like to pause budget amendment requests, and the board will set up a meeting with HopeSource to discuss funding.



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

Health Officer Report

Mark Larson discussed the rising cost of health insurance to those in Washington state and the effects The Big Beautiful Bill will have on Medicaid and other factors that play into high costs of insurance.

Other

Laura Osiadacz asked if an emergency voucher process for counselling could be considered or discussed as an option for counseling for those in an emergent situation. Kasey Knutson will bring this up and the possibility with the Behavioral Bridge program. She will bring back discussion results at a future meeting.

Meeting concluded at 10:59am

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Laura Osiadacz", written over a horizontal line.

Laura Osiadacz, BOCC Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Candi Blackford", written over a horizontal line.

Candi Blackford, Clerk