



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

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Meeting Minutes**

**February 16, 2017
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:00 a.m.**

Present

Board of Health (BOH): Laura Osiadacz, Obie O'Brien, Rich Elliott, John Asriel, M.D.

Absent: Paul Jewell

Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC): Andrew Lyons, Hope Source

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Tristen Lamb, Robin Read, Kaitlyn Reddick, Arnette Lim

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.

Introductions

Introductions were done around the room.

Minutes

John Asriel, M.D. asked for a motion for approval of the January 12, 2017 BOH meeting minutes and the January 12, 2017 MRT Appeal meeting minutes.

Motion 02-01: Motion to approve the January 12, 2017 BOH and MRT Appeal meeting minutes as presented. Rich Elliott moved to approve the January 12, 2017 BOH and MRT Appeal meeting minutes as presented. Obie O'Brien second. All approved. Motion 02-01 carried to the January 12, 2017 BOH and MRT Appeal meeting minutes.

Public Comment:

No one present for public comment.

BOHAC report

Andrew Lyons started out by giving kudos to the Health Departments' knowledgeable and forward thinking staff working towards accreditation. Mr. Lyons discussed concerns with the budget numbers presented by public health staff and the need for sustainability to their funding long term. The group discussed the Public Health is Essential initiative that would help with future funding. Obie O'Brien added that unfortunately, the bill was pulled from executive session yesterday.

Department Updates/Issues

Admin Updates

Ms. Read reported the following on her administrative report:

Contracts/Agreements

- Resolution to return satellite phone equipment to Washington State Department of Health.
- Consolidated Contract, Amendment #10: Additional \$10,000 funding for Group B Water program (unbudgeted), renewal of Immunization Contract (\$7,914), changes to billing language for MCH funds, and adjustment to Group A Sanitary Survey funds.

Staffing

- Preparing to hire a part-time temporary specialist to implement the SNAP-Ed program with the Kittitas County Farmer's Market.
- We have a WSU Nursing Student, Kelsey Giles, for a few weeks.
- We have a new staff person with developmental disabilities starting next month.

Highlights & Accomplishments

- A water permit has been granted by Ecology to Kittitas County, expanding access to the over-the-counter program for water mitigation. Congratulations to the staff who have worked tirelessly over the past year or more to make this happen!
- Department has applied for another CDC public health associate- this is the third time applying. Department has not been chosen the last couple of years due to project complexity. We have since revamped the projects and are looking into the application viewing process the CDC uses.
- We applied for, and were selected for an environmental health 10-week intern through a national program called the National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (part of the National Environmental Health Association.) Only 20 students are chosen nationwide.

Program Updates

- Our all staff retreat was held on January 27 and included topics such as confidentiality, cultural humility, emergency procedures, career crafting, charts and graphs on Excel, literacy/reading level, team building, health equity, and acronyms and buzz words. See attachment for full report.
- We are working on a request for additional funds from Ecology to sustain air quality activities in the county.
- A team of public health staff are working on examining the food service fees for Farmer's Market vendors using a quality improvement process. They are working with the Farmer's Market board and vendors and expect to have a proposal ready by early March.
- The communicable disease team has been busy with follow-up on suspected cases of mumps, chicken pox, etc. Flu activity continues to be high.
- After Action Reports and meetings have been completed for two incidents in 2016: the Lake Fiorito blue green algae response, and the Mountain River Trails septic violation response. Follow up action items have been identified.

- There has been increased demand for Naloxone kits from syringe exchange. A total of 34 kits were distributed in 2016. Six kits were distributed in January alone.

Administrative Updates

- Our fiscal analyst has been busy working on year end reporting; at least 12 different reports must be submitted to the auditor's office.
- An application was submitted to be a host site for the CDC's Public Health Associate Program.
- Experiencing a period of really poor air quality at this time.

Health Officer Update

No report this month

Financial update

Kaitlyn Reddick presented the 2016 Fiscal Year financial update:

- 2016 All Programs and Expenses: Budget to Actual
- Environmental Health (License/permits and Fees)
- Major Environmental Health Revenue by Source
- Community Health Fees
- Community Health Program Revenue
- Major Community Health Program Revenue by Source
- Health Promotions Program Revenue
- Health Promotions Program by Revenue by Source
- All Programs Revenue
- Major Program Revenue by Source
- Fiscal Year 2016 All Programs Revenue by Source
- Fiscal Year 2016 Changes in Fund Balance

Obie O'Brien questioned investment options for the future. Ms. Reddick will continue to work with Brett Wachsmith in the Assessor's office to see if we can improve this in the future.

Business

Clinic Sustainability

Robin Read reviewed the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) clinic services that include the following (as requested by Board of County Commissioners in a previous performance evaluation):

- Adult and child immunizations
- Travel consultations
- Tuberculosis testing/screening
- HIV and other STD's

Ms. Read reviewed a table that indicated how the department charges for each service and noted that any costs not covered by the collection of fees, or through billing health insurance, are covered in the budget through flexible fund sources. Many health departments are reducing the number of direct clinic services offered in order to focus more on community wide and policy level interventions, but certain clinical services are still very common. Some services provided by local health departments fill a gap in community for a service that would otherwise not be

available. Other services such as immunizations, tuberculosis screening, and STD testing/treatment, are population-level interventions to protect the health of the general public. In 2009, KCPHD shifted the following services to the federally-qualified health center, Community Health of Central Washington:

- The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
- First Steps
- Children with Special Health Care Needs

Family planning and well child visits were also offered at KCPHD previously, but were not necessary when services became readily available elsewhere in the community. The need for the health department to provide immunizations, tuberculosis screening, HIV/STD testing and treatment is still necessary. Kittitas County has the highest rate of uninsured adults and uninsured children in the state. KCPHD cannot refuse vaccines for children with state-supplied vaccine because of one's inability to pay. Additionally, we offer a sliding fee scale for most of our clinical services except free adult vaccine. The need for the health department to provide these services still exists, and public health funding has been a concern for many years. Ms. Read discussed a graph which showed how services have previously been funded, and the impact of billing private health insurance companies for these services. It also shows the revenue received for clinic and tuberculosis services between 2011 and 2016. It was noted that while clinic revenues do not cover the cost of supplying the service, there are still many public health reasons to continue to provide these services.

Rich Elliott discussed issues with full cost recovery of services and explained how that may deter patients from using the public health department's services. The group discussed continued funding support from the board for these services and this will continue to be a discussion in the future until there is secure funding for these services. There was discussion about how free vaccines are distributed and how the department recoups full to partial costs. Ms. Read noted that even though we don't charge full cost recovery, there is a benefit to providing these services to the community. Mr. Elliott stated that if the services are not provided by public health now, eventually public health will pay for it if an outbreak happens and feels that the county will need to subsidize this.

Food bank/Workplace Wellness surveys

Tristen Lamb presented on Healthy Food Access, using the data that has been collected and the work done with the local food banks. The public health department is working with the local food banks to promote healthy foods and provided the following information to the board:

- Food bank assessments were done using the three local food banks (FISH, Easton Upper County Church food bank, and Cle Elum Hope Source food bank) and had a total of 177 survey respondents.
- Demographics:
 - 45% were between the ages of 45-64 years old
 - 79% household of 1-3 people
 - 72% do not take all food for various reasons
- Surveys included questions about dietary restrictions.
- Recipes are distributed with food products, but only 20% use them due to various different reasons.
- Some of those who use the food bank would like food storage procedures to help them with making the most out of the food they choose.

- Results showed that over 75% would like to have someone tell them the nutritional information, and 10% said they would like additional information about the food they are choosing.
- Almost 75% of the users of the food bank use a smart phone or device capable of sending and receiving text messages.
- Next steps: Create a community promotion of services and display board for existing clients and how to make this self-sustaining.

Discussion about Apoyo Food Bank, Kittitas Pantry, and PUSH (CWU) that are smaller food banks in the county and trying to work with these new groups that are establishing themselves in the community. Robin Read asked about donation restrictions and there was discussion about particular needs in the community.

Other

MRT Denial of Appeal

Motion to approve the Order Denying the Appeal of Mountain River Trails Camping Association Health Order.

Motion 02-02: Motion to approve the Order Denying the Appeal of Mountain River Trails Camping Association Health Order. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve the Order Denying the Appeal of Mountain River Trails Camping Association Health Order. Rich Elliott Second. Obie O'Brien abstained. Everyone else present moved to approve the Order Denying the Appeal of Mountain River Trails Camping Association Health Order.

Rich Elliott brought up the issue of significant delay and underuse of Hospice care in the county. Not necessarily a public health issue, but maybe being an advocate and having providers educate those on hospice. Entering hospice does not mean the patient is giving up, but sometimes given a better quality of life, health may be significantly improved and family is given more time.

Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (KVFR) continues to track alcohol and drug overdoses and in 2017, the trend is continuing to increase with alcohol just over 50% and prescription drugs just under 50%. Discussion about kids snorting Xanax and Ativan and other medications that cause some sort of a high. Patients are being airlifted and taken to hospitals.

The group also discussed the increase of highway fatalities and Laura Osiadacz noted that after attending the I90 meeting for planning for the summer season and discussions to try to decrease that trend and increase patrols for the summer season. Recommendations to have public health do some sort of education for distracted driving and maybe asking surrounding counties to participate in this. Rich Elliott also discussed the lack of use of seat belts and maybe putting some education about that out as well.

John Asriel, M.D. asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

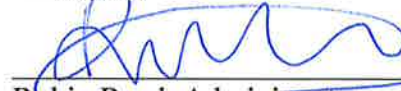
Motion 02-03: Motion to adjourn the meeting. Obie O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. Rich Elliott second. All approved. Motion 02-03 carried to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Next Board of Health Meeting will be held on March 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.



Laura Osiadacz, Vice-Chair of the Board
of Health



Robin Read, Administrator,
Kittitas County Public Health



Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health