

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2024
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:00 am

Present

Board of Health (BOH): Brett Wachsmith, Dede Utley, Cory Wright, Danielle Bertschi, Linda Navarre
Absent: Laura Osiadacz

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Chelsey Loeffers, Jesse Cox, Cambron Walker, Kate Johnson, Mackenzie Carter, Kelly Bacon, Charlie Divine, Whitney Wheelock, Dora Beukelman, Audi Martinez, Lucy Garcia, Lianne Bradshaw, Katie Odiaga, Timothy Paxton

Others: Kelsie Young, RN, WSU student furthering her nursing degree and shadowing Dede Utley.
BOH meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve January 18, 2024, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

Motion 02.01: Motion to approve the January 18, 2024 BOH meeting minutes as presented. Cory Wright moved to approve the January 18, 2024, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Dede Utley second. All approved. Motion 02.01 carried to approve the January 18, 2024, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

Public comment open at 10:00 am
Public comment closed at 10:00 am

Department Updates

Health Officer Update

Kate Johnson reported that there were higher levels of RSV, COVID and influenza in the last couple of weeks. Reminder to get vaccinated and stay home when ill.

Director Update

General Updates

- Chelsey Loeffers reported that she will start reviewing the BOH orientation this month and will be breaking it up into two parts.
- Over the next several months we'll be including more staff presentations.

Staffing Updates

- Charlie Divine, new Community Health Project Specialist, started this week.
- Nicole Paxton, new Public Health tech starts February 20th.
- Rebekah Moon promoted to Health Promotion Specialist II.

Departmental Updates

- 10 staff participated in a three day in person ICS-300-Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents. Kelly conducted training and lead the After-Action Report (AAR). The next step is to hold an ICS 400 to continue building depth.
- 5 staff will be attending weeklong All Hazards O-0305 Type 3 IMT training at the end of the month.
- Danielle Bertschi visited last week, spent time with Communicable Disease Supervisor, Kate Johnson, Chief Administrator, Candi Blackford, and Dr. Mark Larson. Linda Navarre will be scheduled to visit the department for similar education meetings.
- The deputy director position is almost ready and should post soon.
- The department is starting to work on our 2023 department annual report.

Division/ Program Updates

- Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee update:
 - Updating the website and documents that are out of date.
 - Posting vacancies on board and working on communication/attendance.
 - Updating process and procedures for funding applications.
 - Working with the Auditors office to transition contract oversight and to tease apart funding streams and related RCWs.
- Community Health Assessment is almost done.
- Staff are supporting the Hazard Mitigation plan, including Kasey Knutson working directly with a consultant on outreach and promotion.
- Staff partnered with City of Ellensburg to provide educational flyers on rat infestations after city reported increased complaints.
- The department is working with Central Washington University to increase the number of job carves for individuals with disabilities, and will be meeting with Brett Wachsmith and the Chamber tomorrow to partner on expansion to top 10 employers.
- Working with Brett Wachsmith and Stephanie Hartung to define a process for Developmental Disability millage funds.
- We are about a month away from offering online permit submittals and payments for customers through Smartgov as well as moving the environmental health inspection platform from an in-house made software, Macchiato, into SmartGov. This process, in theory, will eliminate most of the paper records for EH. Erin Moore has been working with SmartGov on this process for about a year.
- Audi Martinez is preparing to present at the NW Rural Health Conference next month re: COVID rural health equity.

Q4 Financial Update

Katie Odiaga reviewed the 2023 financial year end review to include the following:

- 2023 Revenue
- 2023 Expenses
- 2023 Actuals vs Budget

Board of Health Annual Orientation

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the 2024 Local Board of Health part one orientation with the board and reviewed the following:

- Public Health review
- Governmental Public Health in WA

Veteran Services Program Update

Timothy Paxton, Kittitas County Veteran Service Officer, reported to the board on the Veteran Services program updates:

- We have new spreadsheets for tracking veteran appts, voucher program information, VSO appointment demographics.
- Veteran VSO appts vary between 6-10 appts a week.
- Since the beginning of January, we have had 48 appts (NOTE: some vets must have multiple appts).
- Kristin Ashley, Vet Corps volunteer, has been working with the Veteran Service Officer and reaching out helping connect veterans to resources.
- The VSO finished his VSO TRIP (Training, Responsibility, Involvement, and Preparation of Claims) portal training.
- Timothy will be talking with Safeway about the veteran vouchers program.

One Health Presentation

Lianne Bradshaw, KCPHD Epidemiologist, and Jesse Cox, Environmental Health Supervisor, discussed the concept of One Health with the board. The One Health concept is recognizing that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment and reviewed the following;

- Discussed why One Health is important
- Reviewed examples of One Health
 - Ecological changes
 - Travel and commerce
 - Technology and industry
 - Microbial evolution
 - Public health measures breakdown
- All changes equal opportunity for disease/illness to pass and to spread
- Changes are not mutually exclusive
- Able to look at issues from multiple perspectives for prevention efforts
- Traditional One Health Issues
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Zoonotic diseases
 - Vector-borne diseases
 - Water contamination
 - Newer issues: such as chronic disease, mental health, non-communicable diseases, injuries, pollution, and wildfire smoke
- One Health and KCPHD Environmental Health encompasses:
 - Food Safety
 - Sanitation
 - Biological hazards
 - Wildfire Smoke
 - Algae
 - West Nile Virus
- Discussed the benefits of One Health approach

Food Safety Program Presentation

Lucy Garcia, Environmental Health Specialist, presented about the food safety program. Ms. Garcia presented about:

- The importance of Environmental Health services.
- What food safety is and why it is important.

- KCPHD Food inspections (numbers and data from 2023).
- Provide protection from cross contamination.
- Make sure establishments are getting food from approved sources and not altered.
- Make sure food is in good condition and safe

Other Business

Request joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing to consider revisions to Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.04 On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.20 Solid Waste Handling

Jesse Cox requested that the Board of Health authorizes and schedules a joint BOCC/BOH Public Hearing to consider revisions to Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.04 On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.20 Solid Waste Handling during the next regularly scheduled Kittitas County Board of Health meeting on March 21, 2024 at 10:00am.

02.02: Motion to approve a joint BOCC/BOH Public Hearing to consider revisions to Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.04 On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.20 Solid Waste Handling during the next regularly scheduled Kittitas County Board of Health meeting on March 21, 2024 at 10:00am. Cory Wright moved to approve a joint BOCC/BOH a consider revisions to Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.04 On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.20 Solid Waste Handling during the next regularly scheduled Kittitas County Board of Health meeting on March 21, 2024 at 10:00am. Dede Utley second. All approved. Motion 02.02 carried to approve a joint BOCC/BOH a consider revisions to Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.04 On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and Kittitas County Code Chapter 13.20 Solid Waste Handling during the next regularly scheduled Kittitas County Board of Health meeting on March 21, 2024 at 10:00am.

Amendment to the Bylaws of the Board of Health

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the recommended changes requested by the board last month. It was suggested that the bylaws be changed to update the following language:

Four (4) members of the Board of Health shall constitute a quorum for the dispatch of business. A majority of members of the Board of Health shall constitute a quorum in the event that any member seats at the time of the meeting are vacant.

02.03: Motion to approve the Board of Health bylaws amendment. Dede Utley moved to approve the Board of Health bylaws amendment. Danielle Bertschi second. All approved. Motion carried to approve the Board of Health bylaws amendment.


Board of Health Member Updates

No updates this month.

Meeting concluded at 10:50 am.


Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner, Chair
CORY WRIGHT, ACTING CHAIR

Chelsey Loeffers, Director
Kittitas County Public Health


Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health