

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 25, 2024**  
**Commissioners' Auditorium**

**Present**

**Board of Health (BOH):** Brett Wachsmith (Webex), Laura Osiadacz, Cory Wright, Linda Navarre

**Absent:** Danielle Bertschi, Dede Utley

**Public Health:** Candi Blackford, Chelsey Loeffers, , Jesse Cox, Kate Johnson, Audi Martinez, Cambron Walker, Mackenzie Carter, Dan Suggs, Dora Beukelman, Mark Larson, Lauren Wickerath, Colleen Hauser, Kim Shilley

*Laura Osiadacz called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.*

**Approval of Minutes**

Laura Osiadacz asked for a motion to approve the June 20, 2024, Public Hearing/Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

07.01: Motion to approve the June 20, 2024, Public Hearing/Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Cory Wright moved to approve the June 20, 2024, Public Hearing/Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Linda Navarre second. All approved. Motion 07.01 carried to approve the June 20, 2024; Public Hearing/Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

**Public Comment:** Open at 1:01pm  
Closed at 1:01pm

**Department Updates**

**Director Update**

Chelsy Loeffers provided the following updates:

**Staffing Updates**

- Public Health has a new Public Health Tech. Colleen Hauser. Ms. Hauser introduced herself.
- Maggie Amoth in HP resigning, and her last day is July 31. The department is not planning to fill the position at this time.
- Shane Johnson and Clay Parrott are both being promoted to EHS II. After a year in the department, they have worked hard for the required certificates to move them to the next step.

**Departmental Updates**

- Strategic planning has started. It is a five-year cycle, and a large focus will be on FPHS. The department will engage BOCC and BOH as the process progresses.
- The department has started the prelim budget narrative and fees that were sent out via email in August. The department is working to make some of the food fees for 2025 easier for customers and staff.
- Kate Johnson received Best Nurse of Kittitas County 2024!
- Air purifier distribution program. Over 120 distributed throughout the county, with about 75 more to go. The purifiers were purchased through regional partnership funding.

- Management is participating in management training with NASH. The team will participate in six sessions.
- Starting to plan for annual all staff retreat. This will be in September and staff will complete the required training, strategic planning, and staff development activities.
- The department has two staff attending NACCHO in Detroit, Michigan.

## **Division + Program Updates**

- Health Promotion:
  - The COVID health equity coalition is officially done and Cambron Walker wrote a great report on the program.
  - The team also working hard on child mortality review planning. They will bring a presentation to the board soon.
- Environmental Health:
  - Staff are working hard to fill the Holly void, Melissa Schumaier has stepped up to be new drinking water lead.
  - Kim Shilley has hit the ground running as newest EHS 1. She is doing a great job and is already working solo.
  - The team is reviewing two possible new grant fund sources through Ecology for Air Quality and Pollution Prevention.
- Communicable Disease:
  - The Department of Health Care a van vaccination event just ended. They were at the department providing vaccinations for adults and children.
  - Charlie Divine worked with local retailers, providing education on a recall of shruumz products. Mr. Divine visited 26 locations.
- PH Infrastructure:
  - The Community Health Improvement Plan is in final the final edits stage.
  - Kittitas County Health Network is looking for a new Executive Director.
- Human Services:
  - The RFP draft will be sent to committees in the next couple of weeks. The RFP process is set for late August release with timeline for January awards. This has been a ton of work and thanked Erin Moore and Candi Blackford for their unwavering commitment and Mackenzie Carter for her eval expertise.
  - Working with the City of Ellensburg to partner on opioid settlement process.
  - Working with Cold Weather Shelter planning group as KCPHD will provide contract management.
  - The Kittitas County Veterans Services VSOs are out in the community. They are making themselves visible at local events and the farmer's market.

## **Health Officer Update**

Mark Larson M.D, informed the board that COVID cases were on the rise, but not as aggressive as it was and no recent deaths from COVID.

Dr. Larson discussed the collaborative work being done to prepare for the fair this year with Avian Influenza (H5N1) cases on the rise. Although as of today there have been no infected dairy cows or poultry yet in Washington State. There have been 10 human cases as of today and those numbers could increase. Dr. Larson discussed transmission of H5N1 and reported cases in humans, dairy cows, poultry, and birds. Dr. Larson discussed PPE measures that would need to be taken if there was a reported case when working with farm animals. Also discussed were testing measures for interstate movement and recommendation of testing any lactating dairy cattle within seven days of exhibition at a fair. The Washington State Department of Agriculture is in close communication with fair managers in case things change. Dr. Larson discussed protection measures that the fair can take to reduce the risk of diseases

spreading and ended by stating the following:

- Know what animals carry germs that can make people sick
- Never eat, drink, or put things into your mouth in animal areas
- Older adults, pregnant women, and young children should be extra careful around animals
- Wash your hands with soap and water right after visiting the animal area

Dr. Larson also noted the smoke in Kittitas County is from fires that are in Yakima County. Currently the air quality is good but can change.

Request public Hearing to consider changes to Kittitas County Code 13.04 and 13.12

Jesse Cox requested that the Board of Health approve setting a public hearing to consider changes to Kittitas County Code at the next regular Board of Health meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00am.

07.02: Motion to approve setting a public hearing to consider changes to Kittitas County Code at the next regular Board of Health meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00am. Cory Wright moved to approve setting a public hearing to consider changes to Kittitas County Code at the next regular Board of Health meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00am. Linda Navarre second. All approved. Motion 07.02 carried to approve setting a public hearing to consider changes to Kittitas County Code at the next regular Board of Health meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00am.

Harm Reduction Syndemic presentation

Dora Beukelman presented on Harm Reduction Care Navigation (HRCN). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is the agency within the US Department of Health and Human Services that is the program lead and Department of Health is providing funding. Mrs. Beukelman provided the following information on the new program:

Goals of HRCN:

- Health and wellness of SSP participants
- Strengthen capacity and enhance performance
- Provide a framework for future of HRCN work

Only Six Counties awarded funds:

- Jefferson
- Grays Harbor
- Lewis
- Spokane Regional Health District
- Walla Walla
- Kittitas

What is Harm Reduction Care Navigation:

- Small and intense caseloads
- Physical outreach
- Participant centered planning
- Intentional referrals
- Accompanying participants to appointments and facilitating transportation
- Prioritize relationship building

Navigator Activities:

- Harm reduction education
- Linkage to infectious disease medical care
- Treatment readiness and adherence support
- Retention in care and return to care

Service Model:

- Engagement and outreach
- Enrollment
- Assessment
- Service and planning
- Referrals

- Linkage to care
- Ongoing navigation

Mrs. Beukelman noted that since the program has been in place they have:

- Supported a participant in finding a full-time job.
- Connected participants to more than 10 appointments for mental health and other appointments in the last 2 months.
- Working with participants to find permanent and safe housing.
- Support participants on their journey to recovery.
- Connected participants to resources for pets.
- Helped initiate social community connections.

Mrs. Beukelman expressed excitement for this program and opportunities to enact positive change for clients and the community.

#### Solid Waste Environmental Health presentation

Jesse Cox and Clay Parrott presented on the county Solid Waste Program. Mr. Cox informed the board the purpose of the solid waste program was to ensure proper management of solid waste, protect public health and protect the environment, and make sure the county complies with state and local regulations.

Objectives: Reduce waste generation, ensure safe disposal of hazardous waste, and minimize environmental impacts.

Key Functions: Inspections, permitting, enforcement, and education.

Facilities: Currently have 10 permitted facilities in that include landfills, transfer stations, composting, moderate risk waste, and piles facilities.

Hazardous Waste Management: Hazardous waste management is handled by Kittitas County Solid Waste Department.

Complaints: Complaints are taken in by the staff at KCPHD and routed to the environmental health team. The team investigates the complaint and attempts to find resolution if there is enforcement by ordinance or health hazard. Our environmental team follows up with the complainant.

Future Goals: Enhance public outreach and educational efforts and address homeless encampment cleanup.

The group discussed homeless encampments and obstacles that will need to be worked through for this type of cleanup. The group also discussed cleaning up in upper county for those who are vacationing and leaving behind trash.

#### Other Business

Commissioner Wright would like to discuss the possibility of going to quarterly meetings at the next Board of Health meeting. Chelsey Loeffers will put together "what it could look like" if the board chose to go to quarterly meetings.

#### Member Updates

None.

Concluded at 2:22pm



Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner, Chair



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Chelsey Loeffers, Director  
Kittitas County Public Health



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Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health