

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2024
Commissioners' Auditorium

Present

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

Absent: Cory Wright

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Chelsey Loeffers, Erin Moore, Jesse Cox, Kate Johnson, Lianne Bradshaw, Cambron Walker, Katie Odiaga, MacKenzie Carter

Brett Wachsmith called the Board of Health meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Brett Wachsmith asked for a motion to approve the July 18, 2024, Board of Health cancelled meeting minutes and July 25, 2024 Special Meeting minutes.

08.01: Motion to approve the July 18, 2024, Board of Health cancelled meeting minutes and July 25, 2024, Special Meeting minutes. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the July 18, 2024, Board of Health cancelled meeting minutes and July 25, 2024, Special Meeting minutes. Linda Navarre seconded. All approved. Motion 08.01 carried to approve July 18, 2024, Board of Health cancelled meeting minutes and July 25, 2024, Special Meeting minutes.

Public Comment: Open at 10:05 a.m.
Closed at 10:05 a.m.

Department Updates

Director Update

Chelsy Loeffers provided the following updates:

Staffing Updates

- Charlie Divine has resigned. There is still funding for this position, but the department is currently assessing how we want to move forward.
- The department will be posting the Communications Position.
- Cambron Walker earned her Certified in Public Health from the National Board of Public Health Examiners

Departmental Updates

- The department has started strategic planning.
- The department has begun planning for annual drive through vaccine clinic for October 25th.

- The preliminary budget will be presented in September, with final in December. The department will present two budgets this year.
 - 3.86 million Public Health that includes:
 - 45 different funding sources.
 - Continued reduction of COVID specific funds.
 - Fee revenue decreasing slightly and reflects staffing changes with conservative volume estimates and fee consolidation and simplification.
 - FPHS funding makes up 46% of total funding.
 - 4.3 million Human Services that includes:
 - 11 different funding sources.
 - Vast majority of funding is subcontracted out to community partners (almost 4 million).
 - Includes Developmental Disabilities Administration, community services millage, 1/10th tax revenue homelessness and affordable housing tax and fee, and the opioid settlement.
 - Working closely with the Auditors Office to create a three year financial with capacity building plan.
 - Katie has done amazing work sorting out these two budgets and increasing accuracy in our time distribution planning for each individual fund source – 56 in total!

Division and Program Updates

- Health Promotion:
 - Health Promotion recently was able to purchase a limited amount of child life jackets for families that qualify. Thirteen life jackets were distributed during the Community Connect Day event. Twelve more are being ordered soon.
 - After much success last year, the Health Promotion team is going to be setting up a nursing room located in the Armory during Fair and Rodeo. There was so much positive feedback from community members, and we are happy to be able to coordinate this much needed resource.
 - Some feedback from last year. “This room is amazing, hope it’s here for years to come”, “A distraction free area to nurse my baby so my family can stay longer at the fair.”
- Environmental Health:
 - EH is busy prepping for fair, thank you to staff who will work all weekend.
 - Jesse Cox is working to identify new funding streams to support EH activities outside of fee based.
 - Front desk staff and EH staff are tackling our first season of online food permit renewals. There are so many obstacles with this being a first ever, but everyone is jumping in and helping each other out through this process. Proud of our team!
- Communicable Disease:
 - There is a COVID outbreak in local LTCF, with 21 positive cases between staff and residents. The CD team is monitoring and working closely with the facility.
 - School vaccinations will be provided at upcoming Bulldog Day (Morgan middle school) August 28 to get middle schoolers up to date with vaccinations.
- PH Infrastructure:
 - The department is having an Avian Flu table top this afternoon in partnership with Emergency Management.

- The Community Health Improvement Plan is complete, and MacKenzie Carter will be officially unveiling today.
- Human Services:
 - The Veterans Advisory Committee has gone to quarterly meetings. Next committee meeting is September 12.
 - Funding RFP for HAHC and 1/10th draft goes to BOCC approval next week.

Second Quarter Finance Update

Katie Odiaga gave a brief mid-year update on Public Health finances and reviewed:

- Revenues to date
- Expenses to date

Quarterly Epidemiology Report

Lianne Bradshaw presented on the current West Nile Virus season. Mrs. Bradshaw reviewed the following:

- West Nile Virus- history
- Causes and Spread
- West Nile Virus signs and symptoms
- West Nile Virus in Washington State and Kittitas
- Washington State Surveillance
- 2024 Season overview
- 2024 Kittitas trapping
- Encephalitis Vector Surveillance
- Prevention

Kittitas County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

MacKenzie Carter handed out the final Community Health Improvement Plan report to the board members. Mrs. Carter reviewed specific pages in the report including the one that notes how to use the Community Health Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan, review of strategic issues, and monitoring and evaluation. The board was appreciative for the final product and look forward to being able to look at this in more detail.

Other Business

Board of Health Meeting Frequency discussion and decision

Chelsey Loeffers noted that at the July 25th meeting Commissioner Wright requested consideration of reducing the meeting frequency to decrease time burden on board members and increase quorum ability. Mrs. Loeffers brought a proposed meeting schedule and discussed the changes to the bylaws that would need to be implemented. Below is the proposed schedule for meetings that would have specific agenda items:

- March
- June
- September
- December

The board agreed and would like to move to quarterly meetings. There was discussion about annual orientation and the different possibilities for this including a possible video orientation that could be sent out to new members.

08.02: Motion to approve moving Board of Health monthly meetings to quarterly meetings. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve moving Board of Health monthly meetings to quarterly meetings. Dede Utley second. All approved. Motion 08.02 carried to approve moving Board of

September is a quarterly meeting and will start in September with new schedule.

Member Updates

Dede Utley noted the access to care expansion project is halfway through. Some of the additions are:


- Surgical Services
- Materials Department
- Diagnostic Imaging- second CT scan and MRI machine in house
- Echocardiogram
- Fourth operating room
- Surgical Outpatient
- Sterile procedures department

It was also noted that the 2nd cohort of nursing is complete and KVH is finishing up with its first month of inpatient dialysis. The KVH Rodeo Barbecue is 08/21/2024 at 11:30- don't forget to purchase tickets.

Linda Navarre gave kudos to FISH for the upper county summer nutrition program and picnic in the park. The program is doing good work with families in upper county. Ms. Navarre also thanked Kasey Knutson for the 2023 KCPHD Annual Report and appreciated the blurbs about staff who have completed 15+ years with the department. Ms. Navarre also noted concerns with back to school and education on cross walks. With speed limits set at 35 and cross walks by schools this increases risk of kids getting hit. She just wanted to bring attention to this and maybe start education about school and cross walks.

Laura Osiadacz mentioned that with the recent human and bear interaction that education about recreating and living where wildlife would be beneficial. Maybe education about cleaning up garbage and things that attract bears.

Concluded at 11:07 a.m.


Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner, Chair
Chelsey Loeffers, Director
Kittitas County Public Health
Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health