

## KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)

### Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2024

Commissioners' Auditorium

#### Present

Board of Health (BOH): Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz, Linda Navarre, Danielle Bertschi, 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 to order at 10:00 a.m.*

#### Approval of Minutes

Brett Wachsmith asked for a motion to approve the August 15, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes and the August 15, 2024, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

09.01: Motion to approve the August 15, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes and the September 19, 2024, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Dede Utley moved to approve the September 19, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes and the August 15, 2024, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Danielle Bertschi second. All approved. Motion 09.01 carried to approve the August 15, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes and the August 15, 2024, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

#### Public Comment:

Open at 10:01 a.m.

Closed at 10:01 a.m.

#### Department Updates

##### Director Update

Chelsy Loeffers provided the following updates:

##### Staffing Updates

- Open positions
  - Communications Coordinator – closed September 16 with 19 applicants.
  - Human Services Manager- closes October 8 with 8 applicants so far.
  - Human Services Administrative Specialist – closes October 3 with 27 applicants so far.

##### Departmental Updates

- All staff retreat is September 27. The office will be closed to the public.
- Hoping to provide an update to the BOH about impacts of homeless encampments regarding Solid Waste.
- Managers have completed 3/6 management and leadership trainings with Nash Consulting.
- Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) Conference is coming up. The department is sending a lot of staff since it's in Yakima.

## Division/ Program Updates

- Health Promotion:
  - Quiet Room at the Fair/Rodeo was a huge success. All comments were positive, and users are thankful for the room. The Health Promotion team and the Kittitas County Breastfeeding Coalition are thankful for this partnership.
  - Rebekah Moon and Cambron Walker's abstract has been selected for the WSPHA conference next month. They will be presenting on creating trauma informed policy and resources.
- Environmental Health:
  - Staff Development: Dan has been diligently preparing for his Registered Sanitarian (RS) certification and is scheduled to take the exam in early October. Shane has also begun his RS study work, with plans to sit for the exam in 2025. These certifications are critical in maintaining the high standards of competency and knowledge within our department.
  - FDA Risk-Based Inspection Training: Both Kim and Shane are currently attending an FDA risk-based inspection training. This specialized training on risk mitigation. The skills and insights gained from this training will allow for more efficient and targeted inspections, ultimately improving food safety within our community.
  - Grant Opportunities: Staff are actively pursuing several grant opportunities aimed at increasing our capacity. Air Quality and pollution prevention which can negatively affect the health and safety of the public. Grants allow team to expand activities to meet needs outside of just fee-based activities.
- Communicable Disease:
  - Whitney and the Help Me Grow Program staff had the opportunity to be on Dr. Johns MS radio show on September 11th and they discussed this program, resource connection for parents, and assistance with early identification and intervention for kiddos with special healthcare needs.
  - Staff attended Morgan Middle Schools Bulldog day on August 28<sup>th</sup> and had a vaccine clinic at Ellensburg High School on September 10th. They administered 23 Tdap, 13 Meningococcal, and 14 HPV vaccines to students. It was a great success. This was our second year being invited to participate in these events. The department is pleased that ESD is reaching out to work with us.
  - International Overdose Awareness Day on September 10th. Staff provided resources, Naloxone training information and distribution, provided Sharps containers to those who wanted them.
  - A new cycle of Project NEXUS, the CDC funded program we participated in 2021-2022. The funding provided testing for Hep C, HIV and in depth interviewing of people who use drugs by researchers and data shared with us. New grantee, ICF, would begin in 2025 and possibly continue up to 5 years. We have been offered to participate as we were one of original 6 sites initially funded.
  - Currently we have two COVID-19 outbreaks in Long Term Facilities in our county. Kate is working closely with staff at these facilities for disease mitigation, education, and guidance.
- PH Infrastructure:
  - Lianne has been selected to be a part of a state pilot project around small numbers of data and is participating in an infection prevention champions program.
  - MacKenzie is working on strategic plan and will be for a long time. She is also planning her Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) "tour" to go tell other agencies about the CHIP and how they can be involved.

- Emergency Management (EM)
  - Kelly is working on our Flu Clinic to be held October 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - We are working on a contract with Central Washington Disability Resources to make sure that we are representing the people with access and function needs in our emergency response planning.
  - She is also training with the new EM inventory and credentialing software (in partnership with Kittitas County Emergency Management) and will hopefully be able to provide a demonstration at a meeting in the future.
- Veterans Services Program
  - Storey's Service Station is now participating in our gas vouchers for veterans (started in July).
  - Still working on food vouchers vendor in Upper County. Eddie Vader is currently working with the manager of the Upper County Safeway to see if they can participate.
  - We have secured a spot at the Upper County Senior Center. September 17, 2024, was the first day and our VSO's will be every other week from 10-2. They will be able to help veterans apply for disability claims and hand out vouchers.
  - Had a booth on the main path of the Ellensburg farmers market this time around and had increased interactions with the community.
  - Kristin Ashley, Vet Corps Member is working on a list of Kittitas County Businesses that provide Military/Veteran Discounts.

Request to set a Joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing on December 19 at 10 am to approve the Kittitas County Public Health Fee Schedule and Policy

Chelsey Loeffers asked for the board to set a joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing on December 19, 2024, at 10:00 am to approve the Kittitas County Public Health Fee Schedule and Policy.

**09.02: Motion to approve a joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing on December 19, 2024, at 10:00 am to approve the Kittitas County Public Health Fee Schedule and Policy. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve setting a joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing on December 19, 2024, at 10:00 am to approve the Kittitas County Public Health Fee Schedule and Policy. Linda Navarre second. All approved. Motion carried to approve setting a joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing on December 19, 2024, at 10:00 am to approve the Kittitas County Public Health Fee Schedule and Policy**

Preliminary 2025 Budget, Fees, and Core Services Presentation

Chelsey Loeffers discussed the 2025 Preliminary Budget and gave a brief update on the following:

Public Health budget:

- 2025 Preliminary budget breakdown.
- Estimated total revenue.
- Foundational Public Health Services.
- Environmental health fees cost recovery model.
- Estimated total expenses.
- Admissions tax breakdown.
- Fund balance breakdown.
- Staffing updates in 2025 budget.

Human Service budget:

- Estimated total revenue.
- Primary revenue sources.
- Estimated expenses for program.
- Community contracts review.
- Existing Human Services Positions and new positions.
- Department organizational chart.

- Core Services report.

#### Epidemiology Update

Lianne Bradshaw presented on the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Kittitas County Public Health Department collaboration at the Kittitas County Fair. Mrs. Bradshaw noted that the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the WDVA partnered to offer local health jurisdiction staff the opportunity to accompany their region's WSDA Field Veterinarian at the fair. They conducted routine animal health checks, animal and human health outreach and education, and a fair walk through. This year the focus was on poultry and avian influenza testing. There are three field veterinarian regions. West side of the mountains, Central Washington, and East side of the state. This was a great opportunity to collaborate with the WSDA and learn how we can improve education, collaboration, presence at the fair, increase partner building, biosecurity, and outreach for Kittitas County.

#### Health Literacy Presentation

Nea Alfaro presented to the board a basic overview on Health Literacy. Mrs. Alfaro reviewed the following:

- What is health literacy? How well people and organizations can help find, understand, use health information and services.
- Why we need to think about this.
- What we can do: use plain language, give information so that readers and listeners understand the first time, use appropriate facial expressions and tone of voice.
- Teach-Back: Explain, check, and re-explain.

There were no questions from the board.

#### Other Business

##### Board of Health Bylaws Update and Resolution to Approve Amended Bylaws

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the change to the by-laws due to the amendment to the schedule of BOH meetings that will change to quarterly if approved. Mrs. Loeffers asked for approval on BOH Resolution 2024-003.


**09.03: Motion to approve the BOH Resolution 2024-003 Amending the Kittitas County Board of Health By-Laws. Danielle Bertschi moved to approve the BOH Resolution 2024-003 Amending the Kittitas County Board of Health By-Laws. Dede Utley second. Motion 09.03 carried to approve the BOH Resolution 2024-003 Amending the Kittitas County Board of Health By-Laws.**

#### Member Updates

Laura Osiadacz noted to the board that Cle Elum High School has implemented a mental health curriculum. The students are required to do research about the risk of suicide for children between the ages of 14-19 and give presentations to their peers.

Concluded at 11:28 a.m.

  
Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner, Chair

  
Chelsey Loeffers, Director  
Kittitas County Public Health

  
Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health