



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

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Special Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2025
Commissioners' Auditorium**

Present

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

Absent: Laura Osiadacz

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Jesse Cox, Chelsey Loeffers, Erin Moore, Kate Johnson, Lauren Wickerath, Mackenzie Carter, Lianne Bradshaw, Rebecca Moon, Melissa Schumaier

Dede Utley called the Board of Health meeting to order at 9:01a.m.

Public Comment:

Open at 9:03 a.m.

Closed at 9:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Dede Utley asked for a motion to approve the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

03.01: Motion to approve December 19, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Linda Navarre moved to approve the December 19, 2024; Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Danielle Bertschi second. All approved. Motion 03.01 carried to approve the December 19, 2024; Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

Dede Utley asked for a motion to approve the December 19, 2024, Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented.

03.02: Motion to approve December 19, 2024, Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. Danielle Bertschi moved to approve the December 19, 2024; Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. Brett Wachsmith second. All approved. Motion 03.2 carried to approve the December 19, 2024; Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented.

Department Updates

Health Officer Update

Dr. Mark Larson reported on the current measles situation around the U.S. He noted that approximately 900 out of 1000 kids got measles in their childhood before the vaccine was created in 1961. Symptoms of the disease are:

- High fever, cough, runny nose, red/watery eyes, maculopapular rash that occurs typically 2-4 days after symptoms begin and starts at the hairline and spreads downward.

The current outbreak in Texas has 259 cases as of yesterday. Vaccination rates in general are down across Washington and discussed who does and does not need a measles booster. Vaccinations are still the best defense against measles.

Dr. Larson also discussed the recent pertussis outbreaks at our local high school and local college in town. Both had great collaboration when working with the Public Health Communicable Disease Team. The group discussed how the high school and college outbreak investigations were different and why. The group also discussed kids today and the changes teachers are seeing in the classroom. Dr Larson noted that science works but there is still some research that needs to be done. The group also discussed TDAP and DTAP

Director/Administrative Officer Report

Chelsey Loeffers reported the following funding updates:

- Federal Funding
- State Funding
- Foundational Public Health Services Funding
- Covid funding ends in June 2025
- Funding most likely to be impacted is FPHS
- Discussed FPHS budget proposals: Current Biennium budget, Inslee proposed budget, and Ferguson proposed budget with impacts to FPHS budget
- Reviewed state budget next steps
- Reviewed budget reduction strategies

Discussion about specific funding categories and how funding cuts are decided for which programs and who gets the cuts. Mrs. Loeffers informed the board that she is on the FPHS steering committee and will be a part of that discussion.

2024 Year End Finance Report

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the 2024 year end finance report that was prepared by Katie Odiaga, Accountant.

- Budget vs. Actuals: Income/Expenses

No surprises and under budget. The board had no questions.

2024 Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

Lianne Bradshaw reviewed the 2024 communicable disease update. The 2024 cases are pulled from the state data systems and are subject to change with validation and review. Numbers are based on case definitions as confirmed or probable. Case counts reflect reported cases only.

Disease reporting in Washington State is defined in the Washington Administrative Code Chapter 246-101 and outlines disease reporting requirements. The code requires disease reporting for labs and physicians within a required timeframe. This report lives on the Washington State Department of Health website. Mrs. Bradshaw discussed the process of reporting a case and contact information for reporting one.

In 2024 the county saw higher numbers of Campylobacter and Chlamydia. She also reviewed other diseases that were seen in Kittitas County and discussed vaccine preventable diseases. In 2024 our Long-Term Care Facilities saw outbreaks of covid and norovirus. Mrs. Bradshaw reviewed data for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and data for Kittitas County.

Vector Program Presentation

Melissa Schumaier reviewed the following vector born illnesses that are concerns here in Kittitas County:

- West Nile Virus
- H5N1-Avian Influenza
- Rabies Lyssavirus
- Hantaviruses
- Tickborne diseases
- Random pest complaints

Mrs. Schumaier reviewed the process for collecting mosquitoes:

- Mosquitos are collected and sent for testing
- They use dry Ice (CO2) collection traps
- The labs are looking for genus Culex Pipiens that carry West Nile Virus
- Unfortunately, funding has been pulled from Kittitas County to focus on counties with positive pools. We have wind here in the county and probably helps with the lower rates of West Nile Virus.

The other program that is popular has to do with ticks. Kittitas County has 4 types:

- Western Black Legged
- Western Dog Tick
- Rocky Mountain Wood Tick
- Soft Tick

When the county is collecting ticks, it is looking for the Western Black Legged tick that is responsible for Lyme disease. The Western Black Legged Tick loves forested, brushy, and grassy areas. It is found where deer and other mammals travel and love water and moisture. These ticks are found from the top of the pass down to the east side of Cle Elum. With evolving climate, it is believed that the Western Black Legged Tick is expanding its range. Longer summers and milder winters extend their active months and longer active times gives them more time to transmit disease and travel. We test ticks so that we can map out their active areas and better understand their range. This summer the county will be doing tick drags every other week and reviewing the data to see if it is changing and if we need to change what we are educating to the public.

Other Business

None

Board of Health Member Updates

Danielle Bertschi noted

- Wildland season is right around the corner and there will be slight cuts to the Forest Service.
- KVH Home Health waits are down

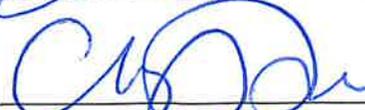
Linda Navarre noted

- increased vaccines
- Possibility to partner with Open Door Clinic to help increase vaccines

Concluded at 10:55 a.m.



Laura Osiasz, Commissioner, Chair



Chelsey Loeffers, Director
Kittitas County Public Health



Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health