

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2026

Commissioners' Auditorium

Present

Board of Health (BOH): Laura Osiadacz, Cory Wright, Linda Navarre, Dede Feddema

Absent: Brett Wachsmith; Danielle Bertschi

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Melissa Schumaier, Chelsey Loeffers, Erin Moore, Lauren Wickerath, Dora Beukelman, MacKenzie Carter, Lianne Bradshaw, Rebekah Moon, Katie Odiaga, Kasey Knutson, Whitney Wheelock, Audi Martinez, Nea Alfaro, Denise Payton

Public Works: Arden Thomas, Samantha Cox

Cory Wright called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Public Comment:

Open at 10:01 a.m.

Closed at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Cory Wright asked for a motion for approval for the March 19, 2026, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

06.01: Motion to approve the March 19, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve the March 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented. Dede Feddema second. All approved. Motion 06.01 carried to approve the March 19, 2026, meeting minutes as presented.

Other Business:

Request to Schedule a Joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing to Consider Revisions to the following Kittitas County Code on September 17, 2026, to receive public comment on the following:

Chapter 13.40 Mitigation and Metering Program:

Currently those who purchase water mitigation must submit a residential building permit application within 2 years, or the water mitigation expires. The proposed amendment would enable either the submission of a residential building permit application or Group B water system application to satisfy mitigation certificate timelines and prevent water mitigation expiration for non-use.

Chapter 13.25 Cistern Water System Requirements:

The use of cistern water systems has increased in development proposals in areas where there is no adequate water. Now that the cistern water systems code is being implemented, staff are currently evaluating regulations to ensure they adequately protect public health and safety while providing clear and workable standards for property owners seeking to develop their land. Staff have identified several

areas of improvement and anticipate multiple amendments to be presented in September after legal review.

06.02: Motion to approve a joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing to consider revisions to the following Kittitas County Code on September 17, 2026. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve a joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing to consider revisions to the following Kittitas County Code on September 17, 2026. Linda Navarre second. All approved. Motion 06.02 carried to approve a joint BOH/BOCC Public Hearing to consider revisions to the following Kittitas County Code on September 17, 2026.

Director/Administrative Officer Report

Chelsey Loeffers reported on the following:

- Jesse Cox has accepted the position of Solid Waste Director after almost eight years at the health department.
- Melissa Schumaier has accepted the Environmental Health Manager position, bringing over 20 years of experience to the position.
- Dan Suggs was promoted to Environmental Health Specialist III.
- Congratulations to Lucy Garcia, Environmental Health Coordinator, and Colleen Hauser, Permit Technician, they have both graduated from Central Washington University.
- The department has added Denise Payton to the department as the new Veteran Service Officer.
- Thank you to Cory Wright, this is his last BOH meeting. Well wishes as he moves to the Kittitas County Economic Director.
- Mrs. Loeffers noted that Mark Larson M.D is out sick today and there will not be a Health Officer update, but if the board had any questions, she would send them to him. No questions currently from the board.

Mrs. Loeffers noted the full list of department updates is in the packet for them to review.

Mrs. Loeffers reviewed the June budget update and reviewed the following:

- FPHS Budget distribution amongst public health programs and 2025-2027 Budget reductions
- FPHS funding of staff positions
- FPHS reductions for 26/27
- FPHS Steering Committee decision making process
- Previous and new Local Health Jurisdiction allocation models
- 2026 Budget impacts with reductions
- 2027 Budget planning with reductions
- County contribution to help offset some of the reductions, but not sustainable for long term reductions
- State long session 2027 budget planning timeline
- Review of other possible impacts to budget

Mrs. Loeffers noted that all the numbers are tied to people.

Health Officer Report

No health officer update.

Measles Response Update

Lianne Bradshaw reviewed the latest outbreak of measles in two students at Valley View Elementary in April 2026. Mrs. Bradshaw gave an overview of the timeline of events from the outbreak and sequencing information on the cases. Mrs. Bradshaw reviewed sequencing of cases and how that allows public health to connect local measles cases with other active outbreaks and better understand disease transmission.

Q1 2026 Financial Report

Katie Odiaga reviewed the 2026 revenue and expenses for Quarter 1. There were no questions or discussion from the board.

Veteran Services Program Update

Denise Payton, Veteran Service Officer, reported the following:

- A couple success stories from veterans benefiting from local resources and collaboration between programs in the community.
- Increase in voucher program due to outreach in the community.
- Community engagement with local resources.
- 2026 program priorities.
- 2026 Veterans Resource Fair summary and plans for 20207 Resource Fair.

Other Business

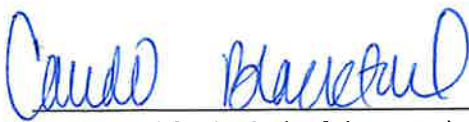
None

Board of Health Member Updates

Dede Feddema updated the board on discussions with KVFR in regard to transfer of patients who are in the hospital waiting to be transported to another hospital or facility. Transferring patients is becoming more challenging with restrictions placed on KVFR for overnight transport and limited private companies in our area.

Cory Wright shared about a discussion with Department of Ecology about the potential closure of the of Ryegrass Septage Pond in Upper County and discussed the impact that would have on our county. Mr. Wright will work with public health on this matter and possibly have a presentation at a future BOH meeting.

Concluded at 11:40 a.m.


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