



*Protecting and promoting the health and the environment  
of the people of Kittitas County*

# Annual Report 2017





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## Introducing Dr. Mark Larson, Health Officer



If you live in Kittitas County, you may have seen Dr. Mark Larson at KVH Family Medicine or out hiking or at an Ellensburg Cross Country track meet. Or, you may have seen the awards he received in 2015 including the Dr. John Anderson Memorial Award for Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner or the Statewide Family Physician of the Year.

What some in the county may not know is that Dr. Larson has a second job! The Kittitas County Public Health Department has been fortunate to call Dr. Larson our Health Officer since 2006. The Health Officer, per state law, has broad powers and duties in protecting the health of the public. Powers and duties include enforcing local regulations and ordinances, controlling the spread of diseases, and taking such measures as necessary in order to promote public health.

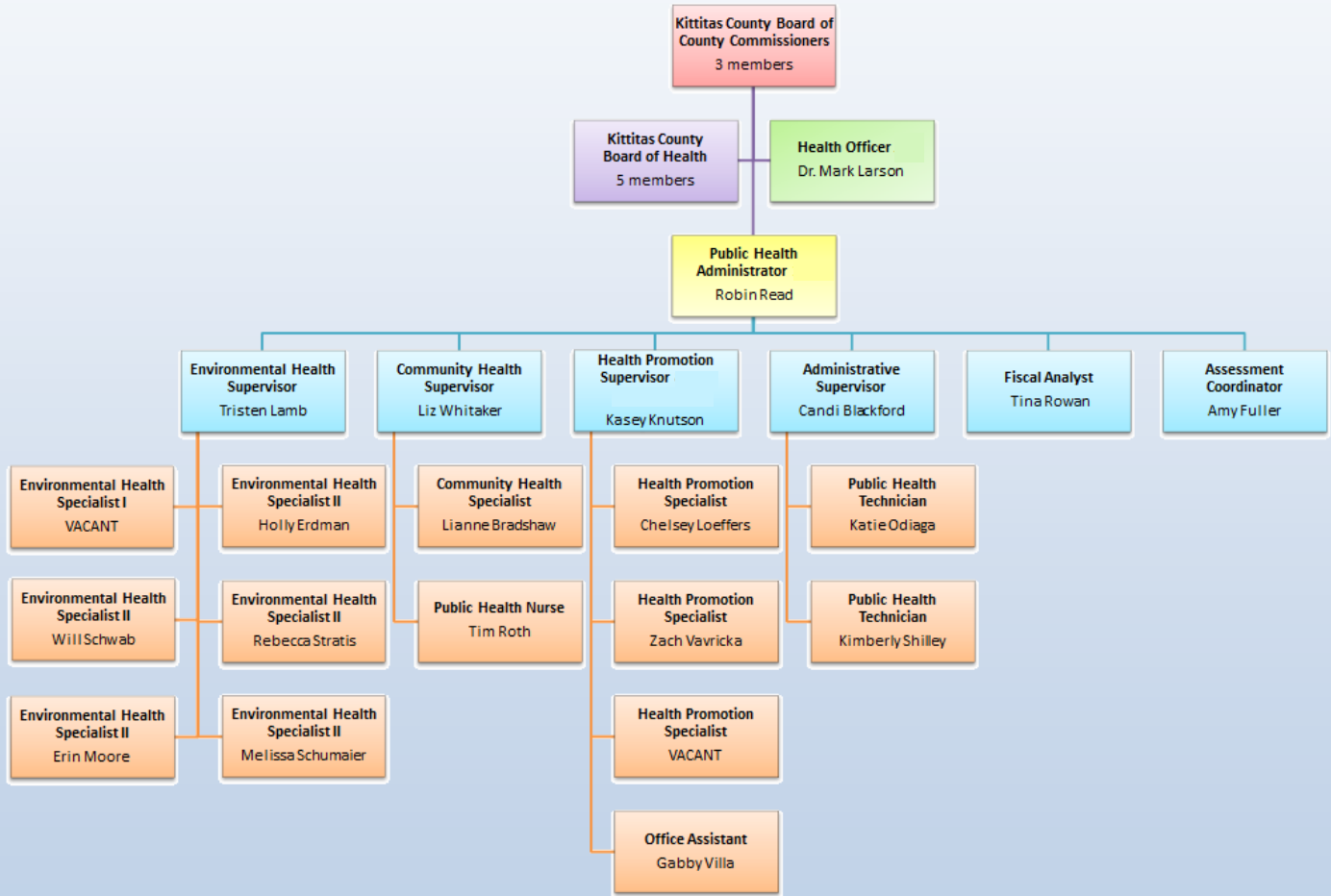
Over his career, Dr. Larson has experienced pertussis and E. coli outbreaks, flu pandemic response, the start of a local syringe exchange, wildfires, water mitigation, and more. “Dr. Larson always has his eye on health equity and how his actions and the actions of our health department might affect people who lack resources,” asserts Administrator Robin Read. “He strives to treat the public like he treats the staff here at KCPHD - taking the time to listen, ask questions, and generally care about an individual’s well being.”

Potential decisions that a Health Officer might face include isolation and quarantine, or closing food establishments or daycare facilities, or approving specific health orders requiring action of local agencies or property owners. “Dr. Larson is modest in his use of Health Officer powers,” states Read. “He always focuses on prevention, but also balances what has to be done to maintain the health of our county.”





## KCPHD Organizational Chart





### Washington State Environmental Health Association honors Erin Moore, Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award

Erin Moore, Environmental Health Specialist, was recognized as the professional of the year for her work in the development and implementation of the Kittitas County Water Bank. Ms. Moore has extensive experience with water mitigation and compliance with the Washington State Growth Management Act. She has been involved with the process of determining water quantity per household, is knowledgeable about Kittitas County Water Code, and is an expert with mitigation zones for the County owned water bank.



*“Erin Moore has an unparalleled understanding of water mitigation in Kittitas County, which means that residents receive the highest level of customer service.”*

*~Commissioner Paul Jewell*

## The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee Recognizes 2017 Public Health Champion

On April 28, 2017, The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee named the Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition as the 2017 Public Health Champion. “We felt that the Early Learning Coalition deserves this year’s award because of their contributions to children’s education,” according to Andrew Lyons, BOHAC Chair. “Education plays an extremely important role in the health of children, families, and our community.”

The Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition helps parents prepare their children ages birth through five for kindergarten entry. They sponsor events to engage parents and their young children in science, technology, reading and writing, engineering, art, and math. The Public Health Champion Award provides \$500.00 to the recipient for current or future projects that enhance the health of Kittitas County.



The mission of the Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition is to support school readiness by developing, supporting and strengthening parent child early learning programs by engaging children from birth until entrance into kindergarten, their parents, teachers, administrators and other community partners.

## Kittitas County Public Health Champion Award

The Kittitas County Public Health Champion Award is sponsored by the Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC). The first award was announced in 2015 as a result of a monetary donation provided to BOHAC by Dr. Jim Gale. Dr. Gale was a previous Health Officer and felt that it was important to provide funds to BOHAC to further the mission of improving health through activities, policies, funding, and initiatives. Dr. Gale provided a \$6,000.00 award.

Since 2015, BOHAC has recognized the following individuals or agencies as Public Health Champions:

- **2015 City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department**
- **2016 Dr. Paul Schmitt**
- **2017 Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition**

The Public Health Champion Award call for nominations goes out annually in February and award recipients are announced in April. Any individual, group, or organization that has positively influenced the health of Kittitas County and its residents may be nominated. Anyone can submit a nomination for the award, including self-nomination.



2017 Public Health Champion Award. (Left to Right) Hartwig Vatheuer, BOHAC; Michele Cawley, Early Learning Coalition; Andrew Lyons, BOHAC Chair.

## Board of Health 2017 Year in Review

Per public health accreditation standards, the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) must document that we have consistently reviewed the governing entity's patterns of issues discussed and opinions of the governing entity members, as well as positions taken. In order to meet this standard, KCPHD will be reviewing Board of Health (BOH) meetings to create a document with all motions addressed during the year, including positions taken by each BOH member. Motions made for meeting minute approval and meeting adjournment have been omitted from the review.

On the opposite page is a table of meeting dates, issues discussed, as well as voting positions. Highlights for 2017 include code change (amendment to chapter 8.24) and the approval of the Public Health is Essential resolution.

### 2017 Board of Health Members

**Obie O'Brien,  
Commissioner**



**Paul Jewell,  
Commissioner**



**Laura Osiadacz,  
Commissioner**



**Dr. John Asriel, CHCW**



**Deputy Chief Rich Elliott, KVFR**





## KCPHD 2017 Annual Report

		<i>Commissioner O'Brien</i>	<i>Commissioner Jewell</i>	<i>Commissioner Osiadacz</i>	<i>Dr. John Asriel</i>	<i>Deputy Chief Elliott</i>
2017 Date	Issues Discussed	Position Taken				
1/12	Approve John Asriel, M.D, as Vice Chair .	✓	✓	✓	ABSENT	✓
	Deny Mountain River Trails Camping Association (MRTCA) appeal in overturning liability and reporting. Affirm appeal of \$9,600 assessment to MRTCA.	✗	✓	✓	ABSENT	✓
2/16	Approve denying appeal of MRTCA Health Order.	✗	ABSENT	✓	✓	✓
3/16	Recognition of National Public Health Week, April 3-9,2017.	✓	ABSENT	✓	ABSENT	✓
	Approve BOH letter of support for the 5 year path forward air quality plan.	✓	ABSENT	✓	ABSENT	✓
	Public hearing to consider amending the 2017 public health fee schedule.	✓	ABSENT	✓	ABSENT	✓
4/28	BOHAC recognition letter as presented for Freida Ellison.	✓	✓	✓	✓	ABSENT
	Approve inclusion of new Farmer's Market fees in 2017 fee schedule.	✓	✓	✓	✓	ABSENT
6/15	BOHAC recognition letter as presented for Guadalupe Huitron.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7/15	Approve resolution to adopt KCPHD's Emergency Operation Plan.	✓	ABSENT	✓	ABSENT	✓
7/26	Public hearing to amend Kittitas County Code Title 8.24 Smoking and Vaping.	✓	✓	✓	ABSENT	ABSENT
8/17	Public hearing to consider amendments to Kittitas County Code Title 13.25 Cistern Water System Requirements.	ABSENT	✓	✓	✓	ABSENT
8/27	BOHAC recognition letter as presented for Nancy Jewett.	ABSENT	✓	✓	✓	ABSENT
	Approve amending Chapter 8.24 of the Kittitas County Code.	ABSENT	✓	✓	✓	ABSENT
9/21	Approve amending chapter 13.25, 13.35, and 13.40 of the Kittitas County Code in addition to changes with fee schedule policy.	✓	✓	ABSENT	✓	ABSENT
	Public hearing to amend Kittitas County Code 13.75, Enforcement costs of Health Orders.	✓	✓	ABSENT	✓	ABSENT
10/19	Approve KCPHD's Smoking and Vaping in Public Places Policy and Procedures.	✓	ABSENT	✓	✓	ABSENT
	BOHAC recognition letter as presented for Anne Johansen.	✓	ABSENT	✓	✓	ABSENT
12/22	Approve resolution 2017-005 to support legal sales age of tobacco increasing from 18 to 21.	ABSENT	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Approve resolution 2017-006 to authorize the health department fund balance policy.	ABSENT	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Approve Obie O'Brien as Vice-Chair.	ABSENT	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 2017 Year in Review: Top Stories for KCPHD

### Narcan Saves Lives

Narcan, or naloxone, is an antidote for opioid overdose and can temporarily stop the effects of the opiate (hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, and heroin are examples). KCPHD gave out 70 naloxone kits along with education about recognizing the signs of overdose and how to administer the medication in 2017, with two overdose reversals being reported to our department. KCPHD recommends that anyone who spends time with someone who is using, or suspected of using opioids, should carry naloxone and have overdose prevention training.

### Water Access Expanded in Kittitas County

KCPHD partnered with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to issue an “over the counter” (OTC) permitted water right for parcels located within a large portion of the green zone in Kittitas County. The new permit was the first of its kind in the state and allows for a more efficient process to customers. The new option for customers in the Wilson Creek/Cherry Creek meant a mitigation certificate could be issued in less than 10 days versus a 12 month permit process with Ecology. The OTC process is located in an extremely popular housing development area and covers most of the lower county.

### County works on plan to improve air quality



Greg Armstrong, owner of Armstrong Stove and Spa in Ellensburg, shows a certified woodstove on Tuesday. Newer woodstoves help reduce air pollution.

### Five year effort focuses on woodstove use, education

**By TONY BUHR**  
staff writer

The Kittitas County Public Health Department is about to start a new five-year effort to reduce air pollution in Kittitas County.

Last year the public health department joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Advance Program to reduce particulate emissions and improve air quality said Kimberly Harvey, Kittitas County Environmental Health Specialist.

Officials are concerned about fine particulate pollution — particles of dust, dirt and smoke that are 2.5 microns in diameter or

This graph shows the number of days where air quality monitors detected particulate matter to be at or above 20 micrograms per cubic meter over the

**HOW TO HELP**  
Minor things can make a difference when heating with wood:  
 ■ Burn only dry wood. Split, stack it, and cover it for at least a year before burning.  
 ■ Burn small, hot fires. Putting too much wood in your stove or dampering down the fire reduces air flow. It wastes wood, creates smoke and produces heat loss.  
 ■ Check your chimney annually. You should see only heat waves from the chimney. If you see smoke, you're wasting fuel and the fire won't burn as hot.

### PATH Forward Plan to Address Air Quality

In March of 2017, KCPHD completed the PM Advance Program: Path Forward Plan, which is a plan to avoid non-attainment in regard to air quality. Non-attainment means that an area has air quality levels that are not meeting national standards. The PM Advance Program is run by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and provides support to communities to improve air quality. Projects under the plan include things like woodstove change outs, responding to smoke complaints, and providing air quality education.



## 2017 Year in Review: Top Stories for KCPHD



### **Tobacco and Electronic Vape Product Prevention and Control**

2017, the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners and Board of Health approved voted to amend Kittitas County Code to include designated smoking and vaping areas at the Kittitas County Event Center. With the new amendment, designated smoking and vaping areas were effective for the 2017 Fair. KCPHD worked with the Kittitas County Fair Board and Event Center staff to identify designated areas, provide signage, and promote the code change.

### **KCPHD and City Partners Address Complete Streets**

In January, the City of Cle Elum and the City of Ellensburg were selected for the Complete Streets Award from the Transportation Improvement Board. Cle Elum was awarded \$125,000 and Ellensburg received \$250,000 to pursue infrastructure projects that allow everyone safe access to walking, biking, or riding/driving in an automobile. Both cities were nominated by KCPHD, since both municipalities have adopted complete street ordinances.

### **KCPHD Responds to the Jolly Mountain Fire**

In 2017, KCPHD was out in the field for emergency response to the Jolly Mountain Wildfire- testing indoor air quality for schools, ensuring multiple distribution sites for N95 masks, answering phones at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), providing logistical support in the EOC, and putting out public messaging about changing air conditions, school air monitoring, and temporary shelter information.



## KCPHD Annual Program Data

Department Wide	2015	2016	2017
New Grants and Fund Sources	5	1	5
Total Volunteer Hours			1903.5
Health Data Requests	17	18	16
Quality Improvement Projects	3	0	1
Media Contacts	122	109	109
Health Care Provider Releases	10	17	25
Community Engagements	535	483	606
Updates to Codes and Policies	10	8	26

Vital Records	2015	2016	2017
<b>Births</b>			
Births Registered	311	312	327
Birth Certificates Issued	1012	1112	1131
<b>Deaths</b>			
Deaths Registered	255	239	281
Death Certificates Issued	1076	1231	1397

Immunizations	2015	2016	2017
Total Vaccinations Given	1045	828	648
Flu Vaccinations Given	350	349	262
Specialty Travel Vaccinations	29	52	30
Adults Receiving Vaccinations	517	391	376
Children Receiving Vaccinations	285	251	187
Travel Consultations	39	40	26
Total Clinic Appointments	N/A	N/A	511

Access to Baby & Child Dentistry	2015	2016	2017
Outreach contacts made	466	196	1018
Referrals to Dentists	13	3	25

## KCPHD Annual Program Data

Communicable Disease (CD) & Tuberculosis (TB)	2015	2016	2017
<b>Investigations</b>			
TB Investigations	1	1	0
CD Investigations	270	153	198
<b>Cases</b>			
Confirmed CD Cases	53	57	66
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	233	240	275
<b>Testing</b>			
TB Tests Administered	143	102	90

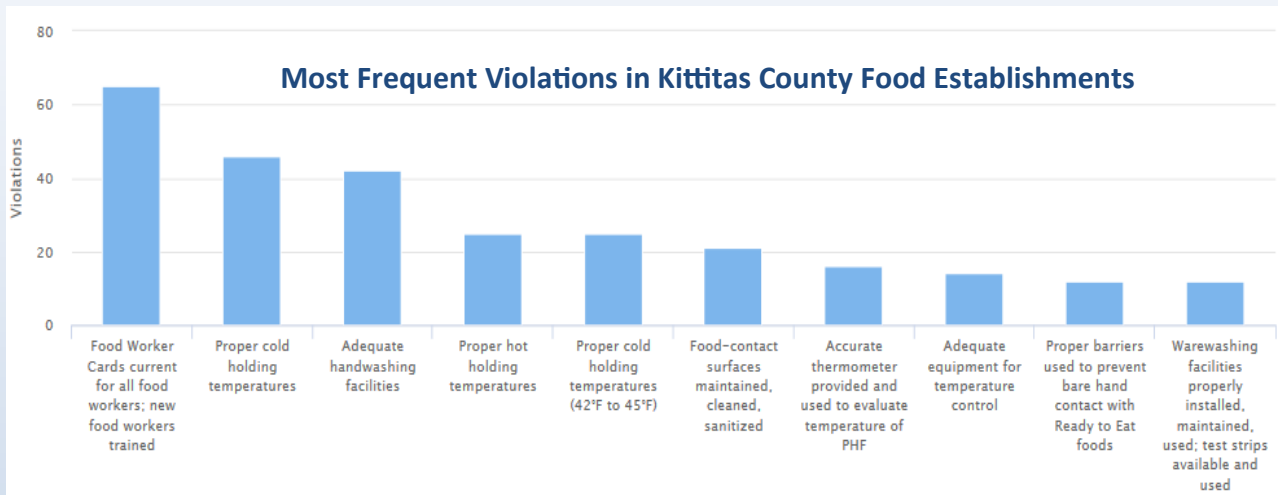
HIV /AIDS & Hepatitis C	2015	2016	2017
<b>Testing</b>			
HIV Tests	5	8	9
Hepatitis C Tests	13	8	15
<b>Syringe Exchange</b>			
Syringe Exchange Participants (duplicated)	118	911	675
Syringes Exchanged (clean syringes given out)	9,382	15,551	23,681
Naloxone Kits Distributed	17	34	70
<b>Education</b>			
HIV and Hepatitis C Education Participants	210	246	221



2007 Annual Drive Thru Flu Clinic. KCPHD has been providing this service for a decade.

# KCPHD Annual Program Data

Food Safety	2015	2016	2017
<b>Permits</b>			
Permanent Food Establishment Applications	338	301	329
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	88	84	86
Food Handler Permits	3056	2982	2752
<b>Inspections</b>			
Permanent Food Establishment Inspections	585	613	592
Temporary Food Establishment Inspections	171	74	124



Environmental Health Complaints	2015	2016	2017
All Complaint Types	101	108	102



## KCPHD Annual Program Data

<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Permits Issued	8	9	9
Inspections	31	34	28
<b>On-site Sewage</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Permits Issued	238	145	234
Finalized Permits	163	178	208
Site Evaluations	232	222	276
Inspections	164	158	171
<b>Drinking Water</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	9	10	7
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	104	56	93
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	374	239	267
Well Delegation Inspections	34	27	20
Water Mitigation Certificates	108	23	65
<b>Living Environment</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<i>Schools &amp; Playgrounds</i>			
Inspections	27	23	18
<i>Public Pools &amp; Spas</i>			
Permits Issued	16	30	32
Inspections	50	59	64
<i>Camps &amp; Parks</i>			
Permits Issued	13	13	15
Inspections	13	14	16
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Plat Applications	10	7	N/A
Soil Logs	6	2	0



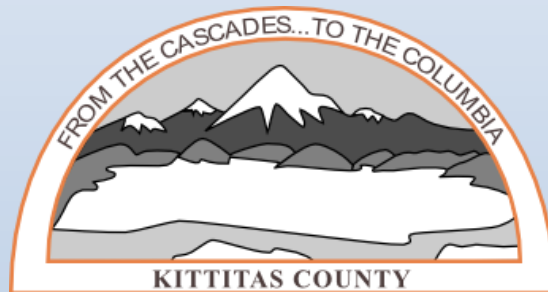
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