

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 15, 2023**  
**Commissioners' Auditorium**  
**10:00am**

**Present**

Board of Health (BOH): Cory Wright, Laura Osiadacz, Dede Utley, John Asriel M.D., James Donaldson

Absent: Brett Wachsmith

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Jesse Cox, Chelsey Loeffers, Marie Marchand, Erin Moore, Cambron Walker, MacKenzie Carter, Lianne Bradshaw, Kate Johnson, Audi Martinez, Dora Beukelman, Whitney Wheelock, Mark Larson M.D., Katie Odiaga

Others: Andrew Lyons, Hope Source (BOHAC), Troy Jackson KCFD #6 Public Champion Awardee

*Meeting called to order at 10:38 am*

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the May 18, 2023, Board of Health meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion 06-01**: Motion to approve the May 18, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. John Asriel M.D. moved to approve the May 18, 2023; meeting minutes as presented. James Donaldson second. All approved. Motion 06-01 carried to approve the May 18, 2023; meeting minutes as presented.

Public comment open at 10:39 am

Public Comment done at 10:39 am

**BOHAC Presentation of Public Health Champion Award**

Andrew Lyons, HopeSource and BOHAC Chair, reviewed the Public Health Champion Award background and this year's Public Health Champion Award nominations that were received this year. It was voted on by BOHAC and this year's award winner is Kittitas County Fire District #6 for its Paramedicine Program. In 2022 they hired Community Health Program Manager and discussed data gathered from community since program has started. The program helps reduce call volume on the fire districts associated with the program with assistance with transportation challenges, medication management, fall prevention assessment and housing and food stability while partnering with community partners. Chief Jackson accepted the award and \$500.00. He noted that the call volume during the first 5 months was reduced by 28% for this program this year while fire and all other calls are up 6%. Dede Utley acknowledged the program and the work that it does to help community members with minor medical needs and reduce non-emergency calls.

**Department Updates**

**Director/Administrative Officer Report**

Chelsey Loeffers reported on the following:

BOH updates:

- July BOH canceled
- Moving bylaws to August with Stephanie

Staffing Updates:

- Zac Bales gave his resignation.
- Joe Rainwater gave his resignation.
- The EH position has posted and closes June 21.

- LERC position posted is closing June 16, 2023.

Departmental Updates:

- Finalizing contract with Jeff Ketchel/WSPHA, activities to take place this summer regarding department reorganization.
- Katie and Jesse working to begin 2024 fee schedule development, first major budget development step.

Program Updates:

- The 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% Board met on May 25<sup>th</sup> and reviewed bylaws. They'll vote on the revised bylaws at their next meeting, which is June 29<sup>th</sup>. They will then start reviewing the RFP draft. After they approve the RFP, it will be sent to the BOCC for approval at its August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, then it will be published for the community on September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 6 Staff attended the WSALPHO annual conference, participating in committee meetings with statewide partners.
- Rebekah Moon MPH!
- CD team attended KVH's Senior Health Day- had COVID-19 boosters for seniors and got our information out about our COVID vaccine clinic.
- Kasey has completed 0-305 Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team Introduction Course. This was an intense weeklong in person course.
- Cambron Walker traveled to San Diego to present at the Rural Health Equity Conference on Rural COVID-19 Resiliency. Her presentation was about how the COVID-19 Health Equity Coalition, facilitated by KCPHD, awarded nearly \$200,000 to support resiliency in Kittitas County. She shared information about the mini grant process and how some grantees are using their funds. Grantees included APOYO, ESD, KCHN and other community partners.

Health Officer Report

Dr. Mark Larson stepped to the microphone and noted that wildfires are changing air quality. Dr. Larson reviewed the air quality measurements through the Air Quality Index (AQI). Dr. Larson reviewed the AQI Index levels:

0-50 Good-

51-100 Moderate

101-150 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

151-200 Unhealthy

201-300 Very Unhealthy

301 and Higher Hazardous

Dr. Larson discussed the length of time recommended for kids outside during unhealthy air quality. The state will be recommending that the 101-150 range, unhealthy for Sensitive groups, that we at public health recommend cancelation of outdoor activities greater than 4 hours. The state landed on the words that would be used in this box on the AQI handout be "recommend considering cancelation of outdoor activities". There was not confirmed update on this today but should come out within the next week and will send out an update when he gets this. There was a brief discussion about indoor air quality and how to make box fans and the potential for the county to obtain more air filters to be distributed in the county.

Dr. Larson also noted that he will be going to the west side to present about wastewater testing here in Kittitas County.

James Donaldson left the meeting at this time.

Foundational Public Health Services Update Presentation

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the FPHS core services and funding structures. Foundational Public Health Services are population health services and programs that are focused on prevention in which the governmental public health system is the only or the primary provider. The following information was reviewed with the board:

- Foundational Capabilities: Assessment, Communications, All Hazards Preparedness and Response, Community Partnership Development, Policy Development and Support, Organizational Competencies.
- Foundational Areas: Communicable Disease Control, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Environmental Public Health, Maternal, Child, and Family Health, Access/Linkage with Clinical Healthcare, and Vital Records.
- FPHS Key Takeaways: Implementation of core public health services, biennial funding, direct appropriation to public health system from state legislature. All funding decisions made by the system through the FPHS Steering Committee.
- Current funding: Reinforcing capacity, Assessment and CHA/CHIP, LifeCourse

- New Funding: Emergency Management, Immunizations Outreach and Education, EH Leadership, Communications, Finance.
- 2024 estimated total department budget \$3,713,149.00.

Public Health Workforce Development Presentation

Mackenzie Carter reviewed the National, State, and Local Public Health workforce presentation. The presentation examined public health workforce trends nationally and in Washington State. The presentation also provided information about the successes and barriers within the Kittitas County Public Health Department compared to state and national levels from the information from the following surveys:

- National: PH WINS survey
- State: WSALPHO Local Public Health Workforce report
- Local: Kittitas County Public Health Employee Satisfaction Survey

Board of Health Membership Update

Dr. Asriel informed the board of his retirement, and he will be resigning from the Board of Health too. Chelsey Loeffers informed the board that the health department will be posting for the position and use BOHAC to review applications. Department staff along with BOHAC will perform the interviews and bring a recommendation to the board.

Dede Utely updated that the hospital has been very busy; the ER has seen record numbers. Ms. Utley also noted that there has been construction for the expansion project. Building construction is expected for 18 months to two years. The Rapid Access Clinic is available for KVH patients who've had care in the last 3 years via KVH. Clinic is for same day visits and walk in.

Meeting concluded at 11:59 am



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Cory Wright, Commissioner



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Chelsey Loeffers, Director  
Kittitas County Public Health



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Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health