



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

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2024**  
**Commissioners' Auditorium**  
**10:00 am**

**Present**

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

**Absent:** Laura Osiadacz

**Public Health:** Candi Blackford, Chelsey Loeffers, Jesse Cox, Cambron Walker, Kate Johnson, Mackenzie Carter

*BOH meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.*

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve December 21, 2023, Board of Health meeting minutes and December 21, 2023 Joint BOH and BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion 01.01: Motion to approve the December 21, 2023 BOH meeting minutes and the December 21, 2023 joint BOH and BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. Cory Wright moved to approve the December 21, 2023, Board of Health meeting minutes and December 21, 2023 Joint BOH and BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. Danielle Bertschi second. All approved.**

**Motion 01.01 carried to approve the December 21, 2023, Board of Health meeting minutes and December 21, 2023 Joint BOH and BOCC Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented.**

Public comment open at 10:03 am

Public comment closed at 10:03 am

**Department Updates**

**Health Officer Update**

Kate Johnson reported for Dr. Mark Larson, who was not able to attend today's meeting. Mrs. Johnson reported there is currently lots of upper respiratory viruses in the community including RSV, COVID, and influenza. The department continues to monitor and share communicable disease data with Kittitas Valley Hospital. Mrs. Johnson updated the board on local COVID outbreaks and medical transports out of the county.

**Director Update**

**Staffing Updates**

- Steph Mifflin is back with the building department. The Public Health Technician position was reposted, and interviews are being set for next week.
- CH project specialist position accepted by Charlie Divine, start date is not yet set.

It is legislative session and wanted to share the policy and budget priorities from our WSAC affiliate WSALPH:

- Our budget focus will be FPHS.
- Policy up-dates: staff are currently in the planning stages of bringing back child death review work to Kittitas County.

#### Departmental Updates

- We were informed today that one of our COVID funding streams is being extended through June 2024.
- Kelly, Kasey, Candi, and MacKenzie participated in a two-day Mass Casualty Incident Victim Care Support with CWU partners.
- Eleven staff will be participating in a three-day in-person ICS-300 course next week.
- Danielle Bertschi, a new Board of Health member, visited this week and spent time with Health Promotions supervisor, Audi Martinez, and Environmental Health Supervisor, Jesse Cox, to learn more about their division programs.

#### Program Updates

- The COVID-19 Rural Health Equity mini grants have come to an end. \$192,000 was invested in community programs and because of the success of this program, HP staff have been invited to speak at the Northwest Rural Health Equity conference in March.
- Erin has completed the 1/10<sup>th</sup> contracts, and she will bring them to BOCC at the next agenda session for approval.
- Mrs. Loeffers recognized the Environmental Health staff for continuing to complete fieldwork during inclement weather.

#### 2022 Community Health Assessment Presentation

Lianne Bradshaw and Mackenzie Carter presented the Community Health Assessment final report that included the following:

- What is a Community Health Assessment?
- Why is a Community Health Assessment important.
- Reviewed the history of the Community Health Assessment.
- Reviewed how the Community Health Assessment is structured.
- Discussed the Four MAPP Assessments.
- The Community Health Assessment strategic issues results.
- Community Health Assessment Prioritization Criteria.
- Final strategic issues: Access to care, Behavioral Health, and Children, Youth, and Families
- How to navigate the Community Health Assessment.
- How can the Community Health Assessment be used?

The final Community Health Assessment is over 100 pages and will be completed and handed out in the near future.

#### Washington State OSS Rule Revisions

Jesse Cox informed the board that in late 2017, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) conducted a review of Chapter 246-272A WAC, On-site Sewage Systems to determine the chapter's overall effectiveness and areas needing revision. DOH reported the results of the rule review and made recommendations to the State Board of Health (SBOH) to begin rule making.

In March 2018 the SBOH began consideration of revisions to the chapter. Priority issues included local management plans, property sale inspections, treatment levels, ultraviolet disinfection, and licensing of operations and maintenance providers.

In October 2023 the SBOH proposed rulemaking for the On-Site Sewage Systems chapter 246-272A WAC. The proposed rules include revised and new standards for the site requirements, design, installation, use, care, and management of small on-site sewage systems.

Once the rules have been adopted, they will go into effect in the next couple of years. The local board of health will be updated on what is happening with the WAC and the required changes for our local regulations such as internal policies, and local ordinances that will need to be revised to meet the new WAC standards. At which point we will prepare a draft of local rule changes for legal review and update the local BOH/BOCC. The next step will be to distribute to public and stakeholder comments for further review, and changes made as necessary. Then a final draft will be prepared and brought to the Board of Health at a public hearing to adopt the new revisions.

Other Business

Elect Kittitas County Board of Health Vice Chair

Chelsey Loeffers informed the board that with a new year we need to elect a vice chair for 2024. Dede Utely noted that she would continue to be the vice chair.

**Motion 01.02: Motion to elect Dede Utely as the Board of Health Vice Chair. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve Dede Utely as the Board of Health Vice Chair. Cory Wright moved to approve Dede Utely as the Board of Health Vice Chair. Danielle Baertschi second. All approved. Motion 01.02 carried to elect Dede Utely as the Board of Health Vice Chair.**

Board of Health bylaws discussion re: quorum

Celsey Loeffers brought to the board the following changes to the bylaws due to recent vacancies on the Board of Health that prevented the meeting from happening due to no quorum. Mrs. Loeffers recemented the following language:

Article VI item 3 currently reads: *Four (4) members of the Board of Health shall constitute a quorum for the dispatch of business.*

Suggested change: *Four (4) members of the Board of Health shall constitute a quorum for the dispatch of business. A majority of members of the Board of Health shall constitute a quorum in the event that any member seats at the time of the meeting are vacant.*

The board members would like Mrs. Loeffers to bring back these changes to next month's meeting for discussion and vote.

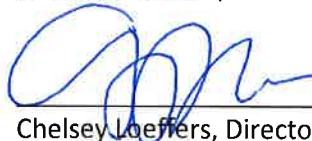
Board of Health Member Updates

No updates this month.

Meeting concluded at 10:50 am.



Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner, Chair



Chelsey Loeffers, Director  
Kittitas County Public Health



Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health