

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Free Child Vaccination Clinics Take Place During Middle School Orientations

Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) partnered with three local school districts to offer free child vaccination clinics during middle school orientations. The vaccinations were offered to incoming sixth graders as well as any child 18 or under.

The clinics were held at Morgan Middle School in Ellensburg on August 23, Kittitas Secondary School on August 30, and Walter Strom Middle School in Cle Elum on August 31.

A total of 295 vaccinations were given to 95 children. KCPHD staff from a variety of divisions pulled together to put on the clinics which were held during afternoon or evening hours.

“Working with our local schools has

been extremely successful in vaccinating more children before school starts,” said Linda Navarre, KCPHD Community Health Services Supervisor. “The schools have been very accommodating and easy to work with.”

Certain vaccinations like Tdap, DTaP, hepatitis B, MMR, polio, and varicella are required for entry into kindergarten and sixth grade. These vaccination clinics before school starts are a perfect opportunity for families to make sure they meet school vaccination requirements.

This was the fourth year in a row that KCPHD has offered the school entry vaccination clinics.

KCPHD provides child immunizations on a sliding fee scale for those who qualify. Vaccinations are also available from your child’s primary care provider.



A Note from the Management Team: KCPHD Undergoes Multiple Staffing Changes

KCPHD staff and management team would like to welcome two new members to the team.

After 10 months of the position being vacant, Maria D. Canfield, BA, MS, started as the new Public Health Administrator on July 1st. Ms. Canfield moved to Ellensburg from Reno, Nevada after accepting the position. She has a strong background in public health, having worked at the federal and state level as well as in the non-profit sector. Her experience is in health administration, HIV/AIDS, mental health, substance abuse, and

maternal and child health. Ms. Canfield is looking forward to getting to know the Kittitas County community and making Ellensburg her new home.

Karen Hamel, BS, started on July 11th as the new Accountant for the department. Ms. Hamel previously worked as an accountant in the Kittitas County Auditor’s Office, the fiscal manager for Kittitas County Head Start, and as an



Karen Hamel,
Accountant

auditor for the Washington State Auditor’s Office. She has lived in Ellensburg for 11 years.

Additional staff changes include:

Amy Diaz, former Assessment Coordinator for KCPHD, resigned at the end of June to take on the role of Communications/Marketing Director at Kittitas Valley Community Hospital. Many of her duties were transferred to members of the management team.

Amber Simon, former Business Accountant for KCPHD also resigned

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Communicable Diseases

CD Cases Confirmed	6
Other Investigations	8
Food Illness Complaints	2
Lead Poisoning Cases	0
Chlamydia Reported	17
Gonorrhea Reported	1
Herpes Reported	6
Syphilis Reported	0

Child Vaccine Administered

DTaP	10
DT	0
Hep A	42
Hep B	5
HIB	1
HPV	38
Immune Globulin	0
Influenza	76
Meningococcal	44
MMR	12
Pediarix (DTaP + Polio + Hep B)	1
Pentacel (DTaP + HIB + Polio)	1
Pneumococcal Conjugate	2
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide	0
Polio	10
Rotavirus	0
Td	0
Tdap	53
Varicella	42

Tuberculosis Program

TOTAL TB Tests	44
TOTAL Positive TB Tests	0
Cases Active TB	0
Suspect TB Investigations	0
New Preventive Treatment	0
Finished Preventive Treatment	0

KCPHD Nurses Seek Continuing Education Opportunities

Public Health Nurses Linda Navarre and Tiffany Beardsley are completing a free online certificate program called “Public Health Nurse Ready.” The program is offered through the University at Albany Center for Public Health Continuing Education.

The certificate program is designed to enhance the skills of public health nurses and consists of approximately 15 hours of coursework. The courses are self-paced, however both nurses are working hard to complete the program and expect to be finished this fall.

“We are always looking for continuing education opportunities for our staff,” said Ms. Navarre, Community Health Services Supervisor. “This was a perfect opportunity for Tiffany and I to really sharpen our public health nursing skills.”



Linda Navarre and Tiffany Beardsley
Public Health Nurses

In addition, Ms. Beardsley has recently begun her coursework for a Masters in Mental Health Counseling degree through Central Washington University.

“I am really excited about having the opportunity to continue my education,” said Ms. Beardsley.

Ms. Beardsley’s position at KCPHD has been changed to part-time status to accommodate her school schedule and the department is currently seeking to hire another part-time public health nurse.

KCPHD Emergency Response Plan Overhauled

Health Educator Sarah Bedsaul and Public Health Nurse Tiffany Beardsley collaborated with local emergency preparedness officials to overhaul KCPHD’s emergency response plan. Ms. Bedsaul and Ms. Beardsley used their own experience with the health department as emergency response specialists as well as the expertise of others to make

the plan as functional and current as possible.

“The department was due for a major revision of the emergency response plan,” said Ms. Beardsley. “Now it is much more up to date and reflective of our current emergency response procedures and actions.”

In addition to updating the plan

and preparing for an upcoming emergency response exercise in conjunction with the drive-through flu clinic, health department staff were encouraged to put together emergency evacuation kits containing necessary items and supplies in case they weren’t able to return home immediately from work due to a public health emergency.

NACCHO Releases National Profile of Local Health Departments

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced the results of a local health department (LHD) profile study. The purpose of the study was to “advance and support the development of a database for LHDs to describe and understand their structure, function, and capacities.”

Highlights from the report include:

- 63% of LHDs serve populations less than 50,000.
- The median LHD per capita expenditure was \$41.
- In Washington, about 37% of LHD revenue comes from local sources.
- The median number of FTEs for LHDs was 17.

- The median number of public health nurses for LHDs serving populations between 25,000 and 49,999 is four.
- LHDs received a median of \$2 per capita for emergency preparedness.

For the complete report visit www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/profile/resources/2010report/index.cfm.

KCPHD Awarded \$35,000 for Community Health Improvement

The Kittitas County Public Health Department was selected by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to receive grant funding to complete a comprehensive community health improvement process. This process will prepare the health department for new voluntary national accreditation for public health departments launched this fall. The funding will help the health department complete a community health assessment and a community health improvement plan. This will fulfill two of the three prerequisites for accreditation. KCPHD is among 12 local

health departments across the nation to receive the award.

“We are proud to be selected by NACCHO as a demonstration site for this project. The grant is evidence of our long-standing commitment to improving the health of our community and to advancing public health standards,” said KCPHD Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson.

The health department will begin the community health improvement process by engaging community members and local public health system partners. Major partners include Central Washington University, Kittitas County

Board of Health Advisory Committee, Kittitas Valley Community Hospital, and Department of Social and Health Services.

In addition to working on issues affecting the health of the community, the health department will investigate why some groups of people might not be as healthy as others and create a plan to address these health inequities. A full range of issues that impact health (such as social and economic factors) will be considered in the community health assessment and community health improvement plan.

Yearly AFIX Visit Conducted

Linda Navarre, Community Health Services Supervisor and Kasey Knutson, Health Educator, conduct Assessment, Feedback, Incentive, and eXchange (AFIX) visits with local health care providers every year.

AFIX is a quality improvement tool used with local Vaccine for Children (VFC) providers to ensure that immunization rates and standards of practice continue to improve in Kittitas County.

The AFIX strategy began in Georgia as a statewide program in public health to increase immunization coverage. As a result of the AFIX strategy, Georgia’s immunization rates increased from 40% to 91% between 1986 and 2001. It is now

considered a national model.

Prior to an AFIX site visit, the local provider is notified of the upcoming visit and asked for a selected sample of patients between 19 to 35 months of age. The provider works with a Public Health Nurse to answer questions ranging from how the practice screens for eligibility for the VFC program to ensuring that vaccines are stored correctly. In addition, a chart review is completed, which shows the vaccination rate and coverage for each different age-required vaccine.

The AFIX site visit is an opportunity for providers and staff to voice concerns, ask questions, and receive feedback from the assessment. Providers have an opportunity

to compare their office immunization rates to other county and state rates. It is a local partnership created for continuous quality improvement.

Each year, KCPHD staff conducts AFIX visits with at least 25% of VFC providers in the county.



Adult Vaccine Administered

Hep A	6
Hep B	5
Twinrix (Hep A + Hep B)	6
HPV	0
Immune Globulin	0
Influenza	14
Meningococcal	2
MMR	1
Pneumococcal	0
Polio	1
Td	2
Tdap	18
Varicella	0

Travel Clinic

Travel Consultations	16
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Adult Vaccine Administered

Japanese Encephalitis	3
Injectable Typhoid	8
Oral Typhoid	2
Rabies	5
Yellow Fever	2

Child Vaccine Administered

Japanese Encephalitis	0
Injectable Typhoid	0
Oral Typhoid	0
Rabies	0
Yellow Fever	1

Children with Special Health Care Needs

Home Visits	2
Office Visits	2
No Shows	0
New Referrals	10

School-based Sealants

Cle Elum-Roslyn School District	0
Damman School District	0
Easton School District	0
Ellensburg School District	0
Kittitas School District	0
Thorp School District	0
Child Care Centers	0
Other	0

Volunteer Oral Health Clinics

Dental Patients	0
Senior Dental Patients	0

Fluoride Varnishes

Children Receiving Varnish	0
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Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Newly Enrolled	46
Number of Dental Visits	N/A
Number of Referrals Rec'd	6

Living Environment

Schools

Plans Reviewed	0
Building Inspections	0
Playground Inspections	0
Complaints	0

Public Pools & Spas

New Permits	0
Renewal Permits	2
Routine Inspections	13
Re-inspections	5
Complaints	1

Camps & Parks

New Permits	0
Renewal Permits	3
Routine Inspections	12
Re-inspections	0
Complaints	0

James Rivard Attends Regional FDA Seminar

James Rivard, Environmental Health Supervisor, received a scholarship to attend the Pacific Regional Retail Food Seminar during August in Spokane. The seminar was a joint effort between the Western Association of Food and Drug Officials and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Changes to the FDA 2011

Food Modernization act were a primary topic at the seminar. The new act provides the FDA the authority to deny entry of foreign food products to the United States without FDA inspection. The act also requires that fast food chains with 20 or more establishments place calorie information on their menus.

Issues surrounding the

regulation of cannabis (marijuana) were a controversial topic. There was discussion about whether cannabis in food should be regulated as food product or regulated as a drug. Also, regulating a substance that is illegal under federal law creates multiple challenges.

New Funding for ABCD Program

The Kittitas County Public Health Department has been awarded Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) grant funding for the second year. Washington Dental Service Foundation provides a three-year start up grant to counties in order to implement the ABCD program.

KCPHD also unexpectedly received additional funds from the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to support coordination, outreach,

and case management with dental providers in Kittitas County for the ABCD program.

“The legislature’s continued support of local ABCD funding illustrates their commitment to the program’s decade-plus success in increasing access to care and improving the oral health of young children,” according to Preston W.Cody, Director, HCA Healthcare Services Division.

ABCD works to increase the number of Medicaid-eligible children from birth up to age six accessing dental services in Kittitas County. To date, 443 ABCD eligible children have been referred to an ABCD participating dentist since 2010.



Administration Proposes Changes to Public Health Fees

KCPHD Management Team, under direction from the Board of Health has submitted a proposal for a new public health fee schedule for 2012.

Many public health fees have not been increased or re-calculated since the 1990s. In increasingly difficult budget times, it has become more important for the department to recover total costs for services through fees.

The department’s management team worked to develop a consistent and fair system of cost recovery that would work for all department fees—from septic system inspections to overseas travel consultations to blood borne pathogen classes.

Each fee covers staff time, administrative support, supplies, and indirect and overhead costs.

In addition the department presented a proposed refund

policy and removed fees for specific items like certain vaccines that fluctuate in price. The cost of these items will be based on the current market price.

A public hearing for the 2012 fee schedule took place on September 22 and will be continued on Wednesday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Quiet Season for West Nile Virus

In 2011, the Vector Control program at the state level was cut. According to James Rivard, KCPHD Environmental Health Supervisor, the Washington State Department of Health was unable to contribute any funding to local health jurisdictions this year.

In order to continue West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance, KCPHD staff and volunteers helped set mosquito traps around the county as a measure to continue services without funding. In 2011, seven traps were set and five samples were submitted for testing.

Kasey Knutson, KCPHD Health Educator, was amazed at how easy the trap was to set up. "It took me less than five

minutes to set up and take down."

Of the five samples submitted for testing, none of them contained a mosquito positive for WNV.

In 2010, seven traps were tested resulting in no positives. In 2009, two of 14 samples contained a mosquito positive for WNV, and 16 horses and two birds tested positive. In 2008, there was one horse that tested positive. To date, no human cases have been identified or reported in Kittitas County.

Only four mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV statewide this year. The samples were from Yakima and



Grant Counties. No human or animal cases have been identified or reported this year to date. Since 2002 when WNV surveillance began in Washington, there have been 46 human cases, 38 of which occurred in the 2009 season.

For more information about WNV in Washington State, visit www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/WNV.html

Health Watch Articles Published in the Daily Record

During the third quarter, three Health Watch articles by KCPHD staff were published in the Daily Record.

The July article written by Julia Karns, Outreach Worker, and presented the concept of harm reduction in public health. Harm reduction is the idea of reducing the risk of an individual who is engaging in unhealthy behavior. It's taking something that is bad for you and trying to make it not as bad for you. Some examples of harm reduction would be someone who is diabetic eating less sugary foods or someone who smokes cigarettes cutting down on the amount they smoke each day. A harm reduction method could be as simple as using a designated

driver or drinking decaffeinated coffee. Harm reduction doesn't necessarily try to stop the behavior; it tries to lessen the risks as a result of the behavior.

The August article written by Joe Gilbert, Environmental Health Specialist, discussed septic system basics. Most people don't usually think about where their wastewater goes until it is backing up in the house or surfacing in the yard. However, it is important to prevent premature failure of septic systems with a few of the tips included in the article:

- Conserve water—fix leaks and drips, install low flow fixtures
- Don't overload the system by using too much water at one

time

- Don't overwater or flood the drainfield
- Avoid compacting the soil over a drainfield

James Rivard, Environmental Health Supervisor, wrote the September article about solid waste disposal. Disposing of garbage requires an enormous amount of resources.

Reducing, reusing and recycling are important tasks that everyone can do to reduce the amount of waste that needs to be properly disposed of.



Zoonotics and Vector

Animal Bites/Complaints	0
Quarantine Required	0
Animals Tested for Rabies	0
Dead Bird Phone Calls	0
Dead Birds Collected	0
Mosquito Clusters Collected	5

Solid Waste

New Applications Received	0
New Exempt Facility Permits	0
Permit Renewals	5
Permitted Facility Inspections	8
Exempt Facility Inspections	0
Complaints	4
Incidents	0

On Site Sewage

Realtor Requests	40
Complaints	1

Permits

New Applications Received	34
New Permits Issued	33
Repair Applications Received	9
Repair Permits Issued	9
Renewal Applications Rec'd	6
Renewal Permits Issued	5
Site Evaluations Applications	29
Site Evaluations Performed	35
Final Inspections	42
Final Re-inspections	9
Final Permits Issued	15

Short and Long Plats

Plat Applications	7
Soil Logs Performed	1

Video Conferencing Equipment Up and Running

In 2010, health departments in Washington State received funding to purchase video conferencing equipment to be able to better communicate with emergency preparedness partners.

After a year of technical difficulties, KCPHD finally got their equipment functioning in

September!

Now that the video conferencing equipment is working, staff can attend meetings that are being held in other statewide locations by video conference.



KCPHD Management Team tests the equipment out for the first time with Information Services Specialist, Davis Steffens

Kittitas County Food Establishment Update

This quarter, the Board of Health (BOH) requested a presentation on the status of food establishments in Kittitas County. James Rivard, Environmental Health Specialist, reported during the July BOH meeting.

- From 2001 to 2010 the number of food establishments permitted in Kittitas County increased by 67 or 20.8%.
- Since 2006 the number of yearly food establishment closures has decreased from 22 or 8.15% to approximately 3 or 0.70%.

- From 2001 the number of recorded complaints has increased from 27 to 51 in 2010.
- During the years of 2009-2010 KCPHD performed at least 75 more inspections

than in the years of 2005-2007.

- In 2005 the state food code changed and required two inspections for high risk establishments.



KCPHD Conducts Food Handler's Classes at Parke Creek

The Kittitas County Public Health Department has coordinated services with Parke Creek Home to providing food handler classes and permits to its residents. Parke Creek is a residential, in-patient treatment center that works with young men. Most residents stay an average of 90 days. Parke Creek sponsors the cost of the \$10 permit for the residents.

Previously, Parke Creek was transporting several students to the computerized classes available at KCPHD every week. Now Health Educator Kasey Knutson visits Parke Creek every other month to provide the class on-site. By providing the class on-site, KCPHD is able to serve more people at once.

"It's one of my favorite parts of my job" says Ms. Knutson.

"Every time I have the opportunity to go out there, I am always impressed with how engaged the residents are. They always ask great questions and are eager to participate. I think it's great that the staff at Parke Creek give these young men an opportunity to walk away with something positive to add to their job applications."

Food Safety

Permits

New Applications	7
Renewal Applications	57
Temporary Applications	42
Food Handlers Permits Issued	606
Design Plans Reviewed	0

Inspections Conducted

Pre-Opening Inspections	5
Routine Inspections	119
Re-inspections	1
Temporary Event Inspections	53

Contractual Inspections Conducted

CWU Quarterly	1
Jail Quarterly	1
School Kitchens	0

Enforcement Activities

Red Item Violation >35 pts	1
Red Item Violation >70 pts	0
Operating without a Permit	0
Complaints	8
Temporary Closures	0

Drinking Water

Sewage or Water Evaluations	0
Sanitary Surveys	2
Group B Water Inspections	2
Well Site Plan Reviews	19
Well Site Inspections	1
Water Availabilities	56
Well Delegation Inspections	5
Prvt Bacteriological Sampling	1
Private Nitrate Sampling	0
Group B Paperwork Received	1
Group B Systems Approved	1
Farm Exemptions Received	0
Farm Exemptions Approved	0
Group A/B Sources GPS'd	0
Group A Nitrate Samples	0
Complaints	0

BCCHP Undergoes Several Changes for 2011-2012

From July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, 124 women in Kittitas County received breast, cervical, and/or colon cancer screening through the Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health Program (BCCHP). Unfortunately, for the upcoming 2011-2012 enrollment year, those numbers may be drastically reduced.

Budget reductions have left the BCCHP region (including Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla and Columbia counties) with

only enough funds to serve approximately one third the amount of women regionwide.

Although KCPHD's funding for staff will remain stable, it is unknown exactly how the reductions will affect Kittitas County's enrollments.

In addition, there is very limited funding for colorectal cancer screening. Previous eligibility for colorectal cancer screening included individuals between 40 and 49 with a family history of colorectal cancer and

individuals 50 and older with a family history or a positive fecal occult blood test (FOBT). Now, individuals 40 to 49 will not be eligible for colorectal cancer screening regardless of

family history. Those 50 and older must have a positive FOBT to qualify for a colonoscopy.

"The changes and reductions in BCCHP are disheartening," said Robin Read, Health Promotion Manager. "However, the infrastructure for the screening program remains intact and the hope is that there will be other funding sources to fill the gap."

Other changes to the program include a new component called "Ask Me" that encourages cancer screening among both uninsured and insured individuals. KCPHD staff will be working with local clinics to help the Washington State Department of Health evaluate the effectiveness of the Ask Me campaign.



CDC Representatives Visit Kittitas County

On September 21, 2011, KCPHD staff had the opportunity to show the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) what has been done in Kittitas County to make it a healthier community.

"We are very pleased and honored to have visitors from the CDC and DOH," stated Maria D. Canfield, Public Health Administrator. "It is a unique opportunity for us to be able to show the wonderful things our staff have been instrumental in making happen to these federal and state level agencies."

Health Promotion team members Robin Read and Sarah Bedsaul gave four people from

DOH and two from CDC in Atlanta a tour of local environmental and policy changes to enhance physical activity and nutrition opportunities in Kittitas County.

Places featured were the connector trail between Rotary Park in West Ellensburg and Irene Rinehart Park, Safe

Routes To School projects at Mt. Stuart Elementary in Ellensburg and Kittitas Elementary, Healthy Retail projects at 18th Street Deli and Grocery in Ellensburg and Johnny's Market in Kittitas, FISH Food Bank's nutrition and fresh produce projects, and the Ellensburg Community Garden.



HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

Presentations	6
People in Attendance	68
Blood Borne Pathogen Classes	3
People in BBP Classes	33
Case Management Clients	2
Syringes Exchanged	99
HIV Tests Conducted	2
Hepatitis C Tests Conducted	4

Breast and Cervical Health

New Clients Enrolled	N/A
Total Clients Screened	N/A
BCHP Interpretation	2

Administrative Services

Births	88
Birth Certificates Issued	267
Deaths Registered	161
Certified Copies of Deaths	203
Home Births Registered	0
Fetal Deaths	1
Child Deaths	0

Child Care Health

Nurse Consultant Visits	12
Other Consultations	4
Presentations	0
People in Attendance	0

Tobacco Program

Compliance Checks	0
Compliance Rate	-

? Did you know ?

- KCPHD offers on-site group Blood Borne Pathogen and HIV Education classes. Call Kasey at (509) 962-7090 to schedule a class for your staff!
- Hepatitis C is the most common blood borne infection in the United States with an estimated 3.2 million people infected (CDC). About 6,000 people are diagnosed annually in Washington State (DOH).
- There is a significantly higher incidence rate of chlamydia in women than in men in Kittitas County (STD Profile 2009, DOH).
- Thirty-six of 50 states in the U.S. have syringe exchange programs (North American Syringe Exchange Network).
- There are 39 free clinics operating in Washington State. Kittitas County has two clinics—one in Ellensburg and one in Cle Elum (Washington Free Clinic Association).



Dr. John Asriel Selected as New Board of Health Member

Dr. John Asriel, MD, has been chosen to serve on the Kittitas County Board of Health. Dr. Asriel is a family medicine physician at Community Health of Central Washington in Ellensburg.

“I am very pleased to be joining the Board of Health,”

said Dr. Asriel, “and I look forward to being actively involved in public health.”

“Dr. Asriel’s medical perspective and experience in public health will be a great asset to the Board of Health,” said Joan Baird Glover,

member of the Board of Health

Advisory Committee and commissioner of Kittitas County Public Hospital District No. 1.



Dr. John Asriel, MD
Board of Health

BOHAC Participates in Public Health Prioritization Exercise

During the September Board Of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) meeting, members were asked to provide input into prioritizing KCPHD programs that are not adequately funded and/or are discretionary. Each member was given 12 votes to place all

on one program area or spread out among programs in order to visually represent the different priority areas.

According to Maria D. Canfield, Public Health Administrator, “Having BOHAC members participate in this exercise provided

valuable community input and will help the Board of Health make important decisions.”

Some of the areas that were ranked highly after the prioritization include HIV testing, syringe exchange, chronic disease prevention, and immunizations.

QILT Activities Temporarily On Hold

Between the loss of the department’s assessment coordinator, budget season, new staff, and shifting duties, the Quality Improvement



Leadership Team (QILT) has put its activities on hold temporarily.

Some of the assessment coordinator duties like health assessment, quarterly reports, public information officer, and community health improvement have been shifted to Robin Read, Health Promotion Manager. Board of Health Advisory Committee

duties have been shifted to Candi Blackford, Administrative Assistant.

Communicable disease data systems has shifted to Linda Navarre, Community Health Services Supervisor. Other activities like QILT and program evaluations will start up again under the department management team in 2012.

A Note from the Management Team, continued

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at the end of June to be the accountant for Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue.

Both Amber and Amy contributed significantly to the department and will be missed greatly!

Despite the fact that change can be challenging for staff, the KCPHD team maintains a positive and collaborative working environment and is enjoying getting to know their new co-workers!

-KCPHD Management Team

