

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Heroin is a Public Health Concern

On June 18, Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) staff participated in a town hall meeting regarding heroin use in Kittitas County.

Julia Karns, Community Health Services Outreach Worker, was among panelists from agencies such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, doctors, and drug treatment, to talk about issues involving the increasing trend of heroin abuse.

Ms. Karns operates the Never Share Syringe Exchange in Kittitas County, which provides harm reduction services to people who are currently using intravenous drugs.

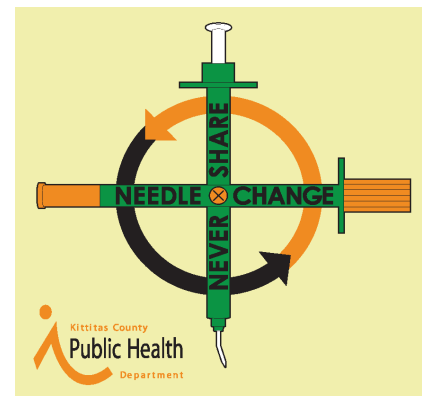
With prescription drugs harder to obtain illegally, there has been an

increase of heroin use. “The trend we are currently seeing is that people who became addicted to opioid drugs through prescription pain medicine are finding heroin less expensive and easier to obtain,” said Ms. Karns.

KCPHD Community Health Services is especially concerned about the potential rise of blood borne diseases related to intravenous drug use. People who use intravenous drugs and share needles are at risk for contracting HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

“It is the mission of KCPHD to protect and promote the health of the people of Kittitas County, and that absolutely includes people who are addicted to intravenous drugs,” asserts Ms. Karns.

Every Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and every Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. KCPHD provides services through the Never Share Syringe Exchange at 210 South Ruby Street. Free services include providing clean syringes, safe disposal of used syringes, HIV and hepatitis C testing, and referrals for wound care.



## A Note from the Interim Administrator:



Recently, I attended the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) annual meeting in

Chelan, Washington.

WSALPHO is an opportunity to collaborate with other leaders of local health departments throughout the state. During the meeting, leaders across the state had met with the new Secretary of Health John Wiesman,

DrPH, and MPH. Secretary Wiesman sought feedback about how to bridge the gap between the Washington State Department of Health and local health departments.

He also presented the vision, mission, foundational commitments, and five goals of Governor Jay Inslee. Governor Inslee’s five goals include world class education; prosperous economy; sustainable energy and clean environment; healthy and safe communities; and efficient, effective, and accountable government.

As I listened to these goals, I realized

that all of our state government goals are also public health goals. Each is something that ultimately affects peoples’ health.

The meeting was wrapped up with a presentation about the new financial and data collection tool, Public Health Uniform National Data System or “PHUND\$.” The system is intended to assist health departments during fiscally challenging times in order to assess financial and operation performance within the local health jurisdiction. KCPHD intends to utilize this system to our full advantage.

**Department-Wide**

*Financial*

New Grants Awarded	0
Other New Fund Sources	0
Grant Applications Submitted	0

*Staff*

FTEs Funded	17.7
Actual FTEs	14.7
Current Active Volunteers	2

*Assessment*

Health Data Requests	10
Quality Improvement Projects	0

*Communications*

Media Contacts	34
Health Care Provider Releases	5

*Other*

Community Mtgs & Presentations	166
Updates to Codes and Policies	1

**Vital Records**

Births	93
Birth Certificates Issued	257
Deaths Registered	50
Certified Copies of Deaths	231
Fetal Deaths	0
Child Deaths	0

**Tobacco Prevention and Control**

Smoking in Public Places Complaints	0
Educational Contacts with Tobacco Retailers	37

**Access to Baby and Child Dentistry**

New Enrollees	34
Referrals Received	72

## James Rivard Resigns as Environmental Health Supervisor

On May 31, James Rivard officially resigned his position as Environmental Health Supervisor. Mr. Rivard accepted a position with the Washington State Department of Ecology in Yakima as the Regional Section Manager of the Waste 2 Resources Division.

Mr. Rivard was hired in May of 2007. During his six years of service, he responded to a range of environmental health concerns. His top five accomplishments include the following:

- ▶ Lead the department through a highly contentious water moratorium without litigation.
- ▶ Increased revenue nearly thirty percent and decreased expenses twenty two percent.
- ▶ Increased local funding 400 percent.
- ▶ Awarded 1.5 million dollars in grant funding for the department.
- ▶ Abated 729 code violations and issued twenty nine

administrative orders with a ninety seven percent compliance rate.

Mr. Rivard has been a valuable asset to the department and will be missed.



## Kaitlyn Reddick Hired as New Accountant

On June 3, Kaitlyn Reddick was hired as the KCPHD accountant.

Ms. Reddick has lived in Ellensburg since she was young and is a graduate from Ellensburg High School as well as Central Washington University. She will be completing her Bachelor of Science in Accounting in the fall.

Previously, Ms. Reddick worked at Central Washington University as an Accounting Apprentice.

Ms. Reddick wanted to work in the business field and while taking an accounting class found that she had a passion for the topic.

She is excited to work in the government sector and be able

to live and work in a community that she loves.



## Lindsay Groce Hired as New Assessment Coordinator

Lindsay Groce began as the new Assessment Coordinator on May 1.

Ms. Groce has undergraduate degrees from CWU in Biology, Chemistry, and Spanish with a Masters of Science in Chemistry. Ms. Groce is looking forward to the opportunity of learning a new field and joins the KCPHD with experience in critical thinking

and presenting data in a meaningful way.

Ms. Groce previously worked for Central Washington University in the World Languages Department, where she worked full time as an Administrative Assistant while pursuing her Masters degree.

She will be working to bring the department up to standards

in the areas of quality improvement and performance management.



## Cle Elum-Roslyn School Vaccination Day

On April 11, three nurses from KCPHD and two volunteer nurses provided on-site immunizations for kindergarteners and sixth graders during an orientation day at the Cle Elum-Roslyn schools. In total, nearly 100 vaccines were given, including the Tdap, Dtap, MMR, Varicella, HPV, and Polio immunizations. All vaccines were administered free of charge. These school-based clinics provide a convenient

service for busy parents, as it gives them a “one stop shopping” option to have their children vaccinated as part of the orientation process. As certain vaccinations are required in order to attend Washington State public schools, this clinic provided a great opportunity for parents to help make sure their children are all ready to begin the new school year in the fall.

“We enjoy having a presence in the community and collaborating with the schools to help protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases,” said Tiffany Beardsley, RN.

These clinics benefit the schools as well, because

parents were asked to stop by the school nurse’s office to show documentation of which vaccines their child received. This streamlined the process of obtaining records and saved school staff from having to call parents later to ask that they bring in documentation of their children’s immunizations.

Immunizations keep diseases from spreading quickly in schools. If a disease outbreak occurs at school, children who are unimmunized will be sent home until the outbreak is over or until they get vaccinated. The Community Health Services staff want Kittitas County students to be at school and be healthy at school.



## KCPHD Receives Prevention and Public Health Funds

KCPHD will receive \$21,297.00 as part of the Public Health Reimbursement Grant.

Federal funds through CDC Prevention and Public Health Funds were awarded to the State of Washington. Washington Department of Health (DOH) is providing funds to increase public health billing to private insurers. Seventy percent of the health departments in the United States do not bill private health insurance for services.

Washington DOH dispersed the funding in phases with the initial project funding creating local health jurisdiction (LHJ) mentors. Phase I funding provided participation in fiscal assessment and training. Phase II funding will assist LHJs to

put billing practices in place in their clinics.

Goals of Phase II project funding include working with mentor LHJs to overcome barriers to billing private insurance, bill private insurance for vaccine services, and submit monthly progress reports and data based on revenue.

KCPHD received phase II funding. Our goal is to be billing private insurance by the beginning of next year, if not sooner,” said Liz Whitaker, Community Health Services Supervisor.

People are often surprised to discover that we are unable to bill for services like adult influenza vaccinations or tuberculosis testing. “I would

like for people to not have to pay cash at any appointment,” stated Ms. Whitaker. If private insurance pays for vaccines then we want to be able to bill for services.

Currently, we bill Medicaid fee for service and offer the Vaccine for Children (VFC) programs. People are welcome to apply for a sliding fee scale. Families of four that self report a gross income of \$2554.00 qualify for one hundred percent coverage, and do not pay for children’s services.



### Communicable Disease (CD) & Tuberculosis (TB)

Active TB Confirmed Cases	0
Suspect TB Investigations	0
CD Confirmed Cases	18
Other CD Investigations	4
STDs Reported	56
Food Illness Complaints	5
Tuberculosis Tests	18
Latent TB Infection Referrals	1

### Immunization

Total Vaccinations	186
Adults Receiving Vaccinations	92
Children Receiving Vaccinations	94
Flu Vaccinations	2

### Overseas Travel

Travel Consultations	23
Specialty Travel Vaccinations	21



**HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C**

*Testing*

HIV Tests	6
Hepatitis C Tests	6

*Syringe Exchange*

Syringe Exchange Participants	8
Syringes Exchanged	305

*Education*

High Risk Presentations	8
People in Attendance at High Risk Presentations	60
Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP) & HIV/AIDS Awareness Classes	0
People in Attendance at BBP & HIV/AIDS Awareness Classes	0

**Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health**

New Clients Enrolled	0
Total Clients Screened	8

In the last decade, 647 women received services in Kittitas County through the Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health



## Kittitas County Breastfeeding Coalition Breathing New Life

In June 2013, KCPHD reinvigorated the Kittitas County Breastfeeding Coalition (KCBFC). The Coalition, previously dissolved in 2010 due to funding cuts, has recruited members from KVH, CHCW, KCPHD and the community. All three organizations are in the process of achieving different grant funding goals specifically

related to increasing access to breastfeeding support services and education in Kittitas County. This coalition will act as a hub for the agencies and individuals involved, informing them of available resources as well as community needs for breastfeeding support services. KCBFC will aim to support breastfeeding mothers of

Kittitas County through a variety of methods such as individual lactation counseling, policy creation, community outreach and education.



## Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health Program Ends at KCPHD

For fifteen years, Kittitas County has had a Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health program (BCCHP). The state-wide program is funded through grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state

funds, and support from Susan G. Komen For the Cure. The funds are contracted with regional agencies, which is the Yakima Health District for our region.

As of June 30, 2013, KCPHD Community Health Services staff was unsure as to whether or not local providers would still be providing BCCHP services.

As of July 1, KCPHD will no longer receive funds to administer the BCCHP program in Kittitas County. Potentially eligible patients

will need to contact the Yakima Health District for services. Currently providers include Sakura Women's Health, OBGYN of Ellensburg, KVH Family Medicine, Cle Elum Family, Community Health of Central Washington, and KVH Internal Medicine.



## New Resources Available for Partner Notification

Partner notification is an important aspect in stopping the spread of sexually transmitted infections. The Kittitas County Public Health Department Community Health Services Department can assist with partner notification for HIV, syphilis, and gonorrhea. All other sexually transmitted diseases are considered the responsibility of the treating clinic and the patient.

A new website, [www.sotheycanknow.org](http://www.sotheycanknow.org), has been created to help people inform their partners of exposure to an infection. Patients can use the site to inform partners, either anonymously or tips to tell them in person.

Tips include suggestions to learn about the disease before informing partners, speaking with confidence, and considering personal safety.



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## KCPHD Seeks Community Input to Address Water Resources

KCPHD staff and Kittitas County Community Development Services (KCCDS) partnered on June 26, to hold an open house. The open house provided an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns and questions about county code changes.

Kittitas County has received extensions to come into compliance with the Growth Management Hearing Board's requirements to protect surface and ground water among land use actions. The deadline to comply is October 12, 2013.

The county requested the extension to comply in order to incorporate public comment into policies and procedures.

The county is moving forward with the following to be implemented on November 1, 2013:

- ▶ Limit new permit-exempt ground water withdrawals outside the upper county rule area (WAC 173.539A) to an annual average of 350 gallons per day for residential use.
- ▶ Require that new outdoor water use from permit-exempt wells be fully mitigated or that new outdoor water use come from an alternate source.
- ▶ Require that new residential uses from permit-exempt wells be metered. There will be a monitoring and reporting program for new residential uses.
- ▶ Require that all applications for subdivision of land into lots less than one acre in size within the UGAs shall utilize municipal water services if the applicant's project is within 100 feet of an existing water line.



## Community Education to Secure Vehicle Loads

“Obey the Code, Secure your Load” is the new mantra that KCPHD wants to get out in the community. KCPHD provided four outreach events to reduce the number of unsecured vehicle loads travelling on the road and entering transfer stations in Kittitas County.

Erin Moore, Environmental Health Permit Technician, and an Environmental Health Intern, Skylar Griessel, were on site at the Cle Elum and Ellensburg Transfer Stations providing education, handing out materials with the secure load message, and asking customers to complete a brief survey.

Survey results indicate that people are unaware of the severity of the fine, which is

\$194.00. The majority of respondents also felt that enforcement at the transfer stations was not ideal. Most of the people surveyed felt that enforcement should happen proactively.

Every year, people are injured and killed from debris and garbage, because of unsecured loads traveling on the road. Last year, a six month old child was killed in Kittitas County when the vehicle he was in tried to avoid a cooler that had fallen out in front of the car.

RCW 46.61.655 *Dropping load, other materials*—covering requires vehicles to secure their loads regardless of the material or the size of the load.

### Zoonotics and Vector

Animal Quarantine Required	0
Animals Tested for Rabies	3
Dead Bird Phone Calls	1
Dead Birds Collected	0
Mosquito Clusters Collected	0

### Living Environment

#### Schools

Plans Reviewed	0
Building Inspections	7
Playground Inspections	3
Complaints	0

#### Public Pools & Spas

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

#### Camps & Parks

New Permits	0
Renewal Permits	14
Routine Inspections	0
Re-inspections	0
Complaints	0

Obey the code...Secure your load! RCW 46.61.655  
Secure your load in 4 easy steps!

1.   
**COVER**

2.   
**SECURE**

3.   
**DOUBLE CHECK**

4.   
**GO!!**

**Solid Waste**

New Facility Applications	0
New Exempt Facility Applications	0
Permit Renewals	0
Permitted Facility Inspections	8
Exempt Facility Inspections	0
Complaints	27
Incidents	0

**On-Site Sewage (OSS)**

Records Requests	24
Complaints	0

*Permits & Inspections*

New Installation Permits	45
Repair Installation Permits	10
Renewal Installation	2
Site Evaluations	54
Final Inspections	40
Final Permits	7

*Short and Long Plats*

Plat Applications	3
Soil Logs	1

## KCPHD Provides Consistency of Services

Joe Gilbert, Environmental Health Specialist II, was recognized for his consistency of service. Dr. Mark Larson, Health Officer, and James Rivard, Environmental Health Supervisor, awarded Mr. Gilbert a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Gilbert recently completed an on-site

sewage inspection of Sno Park Tract. Upon completion of the recent inspection, it was discovered that Mr. Gilbert had inspected the property six years ago. Both inspection results were identical.

Mr. Gilbert is a Registered Sanitarian with six years of experience.

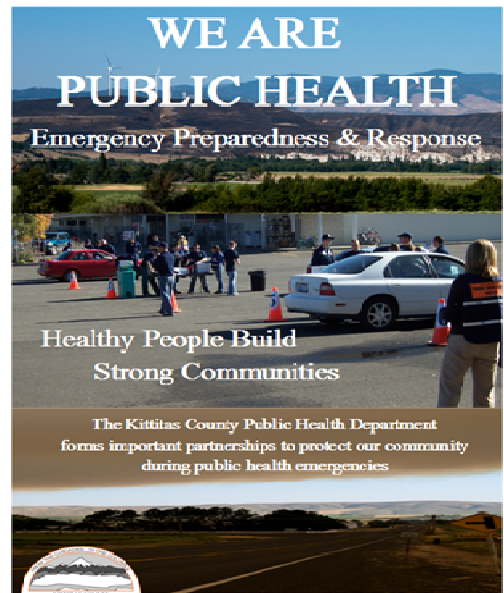


## Emergency Preparedness Postcard Distributed

Public Health Associate Alisa Spieckerman created the next postcard series of *We Are Public Health*. The postcard series aims to educate the community about KCPHD's role in emergency preparedness and response.

In an emergency situation, public health coordinates emergency health support for communicable disease, emergency food, environmental health hazards, sanitation needs, and emergency medical services.

Cards will be distributed to the community.



## Staff Trained in Incident Command and Disaster Support

Three staff at KCPHD now have completed some advanced training in incident command. Robin Read, Liz Whitaker, and Kasey Knutson have participated in locally taught courses. On April 24, Robin Read and Kasey Knutson participated in Incident Command for Command and General Staff, Complex Incidents.

Two staff and a volunteer from

the medical community also had the opportunity to complete the Basic Disaster Life Support course (BDLS) targeted for medical volunteers.

On June 1, in Olympia, the BDLS course covered the all hazard approach to emergencies, but also covered detailed information related to specific events, such as a mass casualty incident.

For instance, participants were

trained in the "SALT" method of triage in the case of a mass casualty. Medical volunteers were taught to sort, assess, lifesaving interventions, and transport.

In the future, those participants will be eligible to complete the Advanced Disaster Life Support course.



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Ellensburg School District Hosts Chef Training

On May 22, the Ellensburg School District's Food Service and KCPHD collaborated to host a professional chef to train the Food Service staff. Allissa Eiser, Food Service Director, hosted Kent Getzin from Wenatchee. Mr. Getzin is a trained chef with over twenty years of experience. He currently works for the Wenatchee School District and specializes using the farm to school technique.

The training was purchased with community transformation grants (CTG), in order to increase healthy foods at the schools.

"Allissa Eiser is already doing amazing things that will increase the nutrition and health of students," encouraged Robin Read, Administrator.

Mr. Getzin provided a food demonstration for Ellensburg Food Services personnel. He prepared an Asian bar lunch sampler including Thai curry sauce and stir fried vegetables.

The training focused on prep work, useful cooking and chopping techniques, and the benefits of connecting with local farms to increase locally grown produce in school meals.

In addition to the training, KCPHD and Ellensburg School District Nutrition Services have partnered using the CTG grant research healthy food policies and promote the healthy changes Ms. Eiser has started instituting at the District.



## New ABCD Provider is Pediatric Dentist

The Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program has a new dental provider. Dr. Neal Smith and his wife, Dr. Amy Smith. Central Washington Pediatric Dentistry, located at 315 N. Sprague, has been established in Yakima and part of their ABCD program. Central Washington Pediatric Dentistry specializes in pediatric dental services to infants, children, and adolescents.

Dr. Neal Smith received his undergraduate degree at Central

Washington University and he went on to get his certificate in Public Health at University of North Carolina. He received his Doctorate of Dental Medicine from the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health and completed his residency with University of Washington. Yakima is Dr. Smith's hometown.

The ABCD program wants to ensure that children are seen by a dentist early, by their first birthday or first tooth. Pediatric dentists are trained to work

specifically with kids and know that a child's first experience with a dentist can shape their views for the rest of their lives. Dr. Smith believes "as a pediatric dentist, it is imperative that I am proficient in all areas of oral health care for children."

Central Washington Pediatric Dentistry has the philosophy that every child is different and they apply behavioral and educational techniques that are unique to every child.



Access to  
Baby & Child  
Dentistry™

### Food Safety

#### *Permits*

New Food Establishment Applications	19
Renewal Food Establishment Applications	2
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	31
Food Handler's Permits Online	558
Food Handler's Permits Office	91

#### *Inspections*

Pre-Opening Inspections	3
Routine Inspections	63
Re-inspections	0
Temporary Event Inspections	1

#### *Contractual Inspections*

CWU Quarterly	1
Jail Quarterly	1
School Kitchens	11

#### *Enforcement Activities*

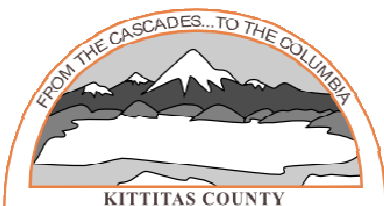
Red Item Violation >35 pts	0
Red Item Violation >70 pts	0
Operating without a Permit	0
Temporary Closures	0
Complaints	6

### Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	0
Group B Water System Inspections	1
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	30
Well Site Inspections	0
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	124
Well Delegation Inspections	0
Group B Paperwork Received	2
Group B Systems Approved	0
Complaints	0

? **Did you know** ?

- Rabies is a severe viral disease that affects the central nervous system.
- Humans as well as all warm blooded mammals are susceptible to rabies.
- In the last twenty years, there have been two cases of human rabies in Washington State.
- Bats are the primary animal carrying rabies in the northwest United States.
- In 2012, nine rabid bats were identified in the entire state.
- Kittitas County has not had a rabid bat identified since 2010. In 2010, one bat was identified as having rabies.
- In developing countries, worldwide, dogs are the main carriers of rabies.
- Do not keep wild animals as pets, do not approach wild animals, and teach young children to never touch or handle bats, even dead ones.



## Board of Health

The Board of Health (BOH) was busy last quarter, approving multiple contracts and gearing up for business with septic codes and adequate water supply policy.

Multiple contracts and agreements were approved including an agreement with

CWU to provide food safety inspections and training, a data share agreement with DSHS, an MOU with 211, and amendments to the consolidated contract.

KCPHD staff and the Board discussed updating on-site sewage code to reflect new

septic technology and include a sewage monitoring and maintenance piece. In addition, there was discussion about adopting a policy that will establish standards when reviewing adequate, potable water sources for obtaining building permits.

## Board of Health Advisory Committee

The Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) has nominated a new member, Elizabeth Ketterer.

Ms. Ketterer has recently moved to Cle Elum from California. She has a B.S. in Health Science and is interested in being involved in

the community.

BOHAC members are assisting KCPHD and BOH with reviewing the current services provided and determining the importance of current services.

The group will review a list of services, current funding

available, as well as Revised Code of Washington in order to recommend maintaining services or using community partners to provide those services.

## BOHAC History Revealed

Twenty years ago, the Kittitas County Board of Health (BOH) established BOHAC through a resolution.

In 1993, the same year as “Don’t Ask and Don’t Tell,” the Davidian Compound Fire, the Brady Bill passing, BOHAC started with the mission to promote the public participation in the identification of public health

needs, development of public health policies, and assist in assuring health needs are met.

Since then, BOHAC has met regularly and seen successes with recommendations to BOH. In 1997, BOHAC successfully lobbied the county commissioners to expand Board of Health. In 2005, Jim Gale, a former Health Officer, made a donation to BOHAC in

the amount of \$6,000 as seed money or means to leverage funds to benefit KCPHD.

