

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Local Health Jurisdictions Attend Public Health Legislative Education Day

Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) staff attended the 6th annual Public Health Legislative Education Day on February 2nd.

Legislative Education Day is an opportunity to meet face to face with legislators to talk about the importance of public health work.

KCPHD staff had the opportunity to learn about the legislative process, latest legislative proposals, as well as meet and talk to local lawmakers.

Representative Matt Manweller, Representative Tom Dent, and Senator Judy Warnick made time to meet with local health department staff. Staff then had an opportunity to provide

education about some of the issues facing public health today, including issues around sustainable funding and emerging issues like electronic cigarettes and vaping devices in regard to our youth.

The event is made possible by partners like the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), Northwest

Center for Public Health Practice, Washington State Nurses Association, and PTE Local 17.



Left to right: Kelly Cronic, Robin Read, Todd Phillips, Theresa Adkinson, Senator Warnick, Representative Dent, Shawta Sacket, Holly Myers

Never Share Syringe Exchange Receives Free Naloxone

The Kittitas County Never Share Syringe Exchange has been operating in Kittitas County since 2007. In the spring of 2015, the Never Share Exchange collaborated with the University of Washington (U.W.) to cohost an Opioid Overdose Summit for stakeholders in eastern Washington at Central Washington University. In addition, our local syringe exchange participated in the 2015 Washington State Drug Injector Health Survey, a U.W. sponsored survey.

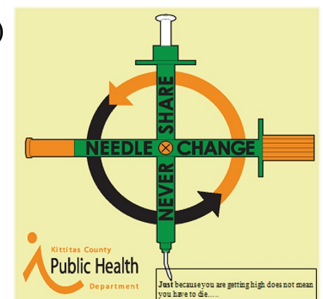
As a result of this collaboration, the Never Share Syringe Exchange

received 20 naloxone kits from the U.W. Naloxone, sold under the brand name of Narcan, is used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose. These kits are intended for distribution at no cost to people who are at risk of observing an opioid overdose.

In addition to providing clean syringes in order to prevent disease outbreaks, the Never Share Exchange provides overdose prevention education, training on administering Narcan, and free Narcan kits to clients. Clients must be trained before receiving a Narcan kit.

In return for receiving the free doses of Narcan, KCPHD will be required to report back to U.W. some basic data about the recipient, such as age, gender, and whether an overdose has been observed in the past.

Anyone wishing to access Narcan may contact Never Share at (509) 962-7028 or their local physician.



Department-Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	0
Active Volunteers	5
Health Data Requests	8
Quality Improvement Projects Completed	0
Media Contacts	26
Health Provider Releases	11
Community Engagements	151
Code/Policy Updates	0

Vital Records

Births Registered	65
Birth Certificates Issued	265
Deaths Registered	53
Death Certificates Issued	342

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	196
Referrals to Dentists	0

Communicable Disease (CD)

Tuberculosis Investigations	1
CD Investigations	59
Confirmed CD cases	16
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	78
TB Tests Administered	17

Immunization

Total Vaccinations	159
Flu Vaccinations	35
Travel Vaccinations	3
Adults Receiving Vaccine	74
Children Receiving Vaccine	31
Travel Consultations	16

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

HIV Tests	0
Hepatitis C Tests	0
Syringe Exchange Participants	332
Syringes Exchanged	3860
Education Participants	44

KCPHD Takes On Safe Kids Work

Safe Kids is a worldwide organization dedicated to protecting kids from unintentional injuries. Locally, Safe Kids was operated out of the Kittitas County Community Network and Coalition (KCCNC). Unfortunately, that agency lost funding and KCPHD has since taken over the duties for injury prevention around car seat safety.

Currently KCPHD is focusing on providing the most needed community services including free car seats to families in need and car seat safety checks for residents at no cost.

Car seat safety checks are occurring on a monthly basis by appointment. “We are lucky to have dedicated, trained individuals who are willing to volunteer their time to provide these much needed safety checks” asserts Robin Read, Public Health Administrator. To date, almost every seat that has been checked has received recommended changes for safety reasons, which speaks to the importance of providing this service in our county.

In addition to providing car seat services, KCPHD has been facilitating a local coalition for

this program. The coalition is made up of local law enforcement, local fire response agencies, county personnel, and private agencies.

Safe Kids Worldwide works to reduce traffic injuries, drowning, falls, burns, poisoning and more. Locally, as we establish the car seat safety prevention, the hope is to address bicycle helmet safety.



KCPHD Staff Attends Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Training

As part of KCPHD’s work with the Investing in Children Regional Coalition, Amy Kocher, was able to attend a networking workshop in North Carolina, Roadmaps to Health: Action Awards Convening.

Investing in Children is one of 10 early learning regional coalitions in Washington State.

The coalition serves Yakima

and Kittitas Counties.

The networking workshop was made possible by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) grant, which was awarded to the regional coalition.

Essentially, all of the agencies that were awarded this Action Award grant, came together and shared the public health

projects that had been implemented with RWJF funds.

Ms. Amy Kocher attended Roadmaps to Health for two days. She was able to network with other community partners, learn about strategies and tools to enhance community networks, as well as hear stories of other local efforts.

Food Access Coalition Creates New Goals

The Food Access Coalition for Kittitas County met on January 30th, to discuss the mission of the group and to prioritize future projects.

Attendees ranged from local farmers, to community members as well as school and university staff, and the Kittitas County Farmers’ Market.

The group started with a year in review and discussed cause, action, and impact of the Food Access Coalition. This information provided themes, which in turn provided an updated mission statement.

The new mission statement is “to promote a healthy community, economy, and environment in Kittitas County

by actively supporting local food and farms.

The coalition went on to use a prioritization matrix to address future projects like community classes, conducting media campaigns, etc.

Anyone interested can volunteer to participate in the coalition by contacting KCPHD at 509-962-7515.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

KCPHD's Air Quality Project Presented in Spokane

Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor, was asked by the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide a presentation at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 Smoke Management Group. The EPA Region 10 Smoke Management Group meets annually to discuss all smoke related issues. Agencies that attend include the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Environmental Quality (Oregon and Idaho), and the Washington State Department of Health.

The meetings are held to discuss agency coordination and increase communication in order to protect the public from exposure to particulate matter (PM 2.5) and other smoke related risks.

Ms. Myers was one of two presenters discussing issues around federal non-attainment. Federal non-attainment occurs when the EPA designates an area as not meeting the standard of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

The Kittitas County Public Health Department received two grants from the Washington State Department of Ecology to prevent non-attainment in our community.

Ms. Myers shared the work that has been done around assessing and educating the public around cleaner burning practices, specifically around home heating season.

The second presentation around non-attainment was provided by a representative from Silver Valley, Idaho, who has been designated as non-attainment area.

Environmental Health Staff Begins Cross Training

The Environmental Health staff at KCPHD have begun cross training. Cross training enhances efficiency and provides opportunities for staff to learn new skills as well.

Staff that typically works with water mitigation is training to work in aquatic facilities. Personnel who have spent over a decade working in drinking water are training to conduct food inspections. And, the “go-to” employee for aquatic facilities is trained in zoonotic and vector-borne disease.

“Depending on the season, staff availability, and any potential outbreaks or environmental hazards that occur, cross training ensures we have someone trained and available to respond,” states

Environmental Health Supervisor Holly Myers.

The following staff have received training certifications:

- Erin Moore - National Recreation and Park Association Aquatic Facility Operator
- Melissa Schumaier - Washington State Department of Health Zoonotic Disease Program, National Recreation and Park Association Aquatic Facility Operator
- Holly Duncan - Washington State Department of Health Food Inspector Training, National Recreation and Parks Association Certified Playground Safety Inspector.



Erin Moore



Melissa Schumaier



Holly Duncan

Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	17
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Living Environment

<i>Schools</i>	
Building Inspections	9
<i>Public Pools & Spas</i>	
Permits Issued	0
Inspections	15
<i>Camps & Parks</i>	
Permits Issued	0
Inspections	0

Solid Waste

Permits Issued	0
Inspections	8

On-Site Sewage

Installation Permits Issued	42
Finalized Permits	35
Site Evaluations	40
Inspections	14

Food Safety

<i>Permits</i>	
Permanent Food Establishment Applications	7
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	9
Food Handler's Permits	667
<i>Inspections</i>	
Establishment Inspections	155
Temporary Event	6

Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	0
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	7
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	52
Well Delegation Inspections	3

? Did you know ?

- Public Transportation provides basic mobility and accessibility for people who are physically and economically disadvantaged.
- Public transportation improves access to social and recreational activities.
- Studies show that people who use public transportation get over three times the amount of physical activity per day of those who do not.
- People who use public transportation walk and bike more.
- Public transportation lowers the need for a personal motor vehicle, which decreases cars on the road, and the resulting emissions.



Board of Health Approves Local Draft Vape Ordinance

On March 17th, the Kittitas County Board of Health motioned to approve a public hearing to consider an ordinance to amend Chapter 8.24.

The Chapter includes language around the prohibition of vaping or using electronic cigarettes in public places,

similar to the smoking in public places law, which addresses “traditional” tobacco products like cigarettes.

The ordinance would allow the use of vapor/electronic cigarette products in places that only sold those products and would prohibit minors.



Board of Health Advisory Committee to Assist Safe Kids

On February 8, The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) made a motion to allow BOHAC to accept and hold donations for Safe Kids car seats.

With KCPHD taking on Safe Kids work, the focus has been

on providing seats to families in need and car seat safety checks to all families.

The motion allows community members and agencies to donate money to BOHAC in order to purchase car seats.

The purchased car seats will be provided to families who are in

need and do not have access to safe car seats for their children.

Food Inspector Quality Improvement (QI) Project Recapped

The Quality Improvement Leadership Team with Tristen Lamb, EH Specialist, taking the lead, has completed a QI project to determine why rural health departments struggle to inspect temporary food establishments (TFE).

The QI project began with data collection. The data showed that uninspected TFEs were held outside of business hours,

inconveniently located, or had late application submissions.

The next step was benchmarking, or finding out what other solutions were used at other health departments.

Based on the data and the benchmarking, Ms. Lamb created realistic solutions, which included changes to current policies. For example, there is now a new low-risk

TFE category. For low risk TFE, they are allowed to “self inspect.”

So, if someone is serving pre-cooked hotdogs, for example, they can complete a temperature log form provided by KCPHD.

The project has already shown an increase in TFE inspections.