

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Performance Management is Measured at the Kittitas County Public Health Department

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) is currently moving forward with development of a performance management (PM) system. Using a performance management system, KCPHD can track how well we did at certain task and measure our success. We can also use PM to determine issues that need to be addressed within a program. For example, one task might be to vaccinate a certain number of kids each year. If we were tracking how many kids we vaccinated, and compared that to other vaccination numbers from previous years, then we could use that information to tell us how well we are doing it right or if we need to change something.

Picture a vehicle dashboard, where you have all sorts of indicators telling you what's going on in your automobile. In the same way, PM indicators can be used to determine how well programs within the department are doing.

“Performance management can help with our long term goals and planning, but it also improves the quality of our current work,” states Amy Fuller, Assessment Coordinator.

If issues come up, then quality improvement tools and techniques would be used to determine how we need to

get back on track.

Ms. Fuller and Fiscal Analyst Kaitlyn Reddick have taken the lead to create a dashboard for PM indicators KCPHD. Completion is slated for end of year.



A Note from the Department: Progress on Funding with Strategic Plan

Sustainable funding has been a department priority since 2009, when KCPHD saw a significant budget decrease. In 2015, that priority was formalized when the first strategic initiative of KCPHD's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan was to increase sustainability and stability of public health funding.

Between 2009 and 2012, KCPHD had a budget decrease from \$1,634,310 to \$1,049,147 and is still working to recover from the loss of funding. Funding continues to be a priority. There has been significant progress in

increasing funding stability. To date, KCPHD has decreased the use of county contribution and the department's fund balance use by five percent in the annual budget. In fact, KCPHD eliminated the usage of fund balance in the annual budget request for 2016.

KCPHD has also increased revenue internally as well as increased the number of alternative funding sources from zero to one.

Clinic revenue has increased by ten percent annually and KCPHD is now contracted with six health insurance

companies.

In early 2016, the Kittitas County Commissioners approved an admissions tax. According to Kittitas County Code Chapter 3.22, the first \$100,000 collected will be dedicated for use by the Kittitas County Public Health Department.

Department-Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	0
Active Volunteers	5
Health Data Requests	2
Quality Improvement Projects Completed	0
Media Contacts	18
Health Provider Releases	2
Community Engagements	115
Code/Policy Updates	1

Vital Records

Births Registered	88
Birth Certificates Issued	284
Deaths Registered	53
Death Certificates Issued	221

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	50
Referrals to Dentists	0

Communicable Disease (CD)

Tuberculosis Investigations (TB)	0
CD Investigations	32
Confirmed CD cases	15
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	38
TB Tests Administered	20

Immunization

Total Vaccinations	88
Flu Vaccinations	5
Travel Vaccinations	3
Adults Receiving Vaccine	41
Children Receiving Vaccine	13
Travel Consultations	21

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

HIV Tests	3
Hepatitis C Tests	1
Syringe Exchange Participants	265
Syringes Exchanged	4691
Education Participants	43

Bright Beginnings Offers Free Car Seat Safety Checks

As of May, Bright Beginnings for Kittitas County (BBFKC/ Head Start) is providing free car seat safety checks to the public.

In early 2015, the Safe Kids program via the Kittitas County Community Network & Coalition lost funding to provide these much needed services in Kittitas County. KCPHD has worked with

community partners to bring the services of the Safe Kids program back to the county. “BBFKC has been phenomenal in providing these checks” asserts Public Health Administrator Robin Read. BBFKC will check a seat for anyone on Wednesday or Friday with a scheduled appointment. Parking and translation services are



available.

There is no cost to this service. To schedule an appointment, please call BBFKC at 509-607-1705.

New STD testing offered

In addition to testing and counseling for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis, the Kittitas County Public Health Department is now providing expanded services for certain sexually transmitted diseases.

These services, called “Safety Net Clinic,” will offer free testing and treatment for chlamydia and gonorrhea, as well as syphilis and HIV.

Free treatment is available for Safety Net Clinic patients and their partners for chlamydia,

gonorrhea, and syphilis.

Free testing and treatment is offered to individuals at high risk for contracting STDs or who have barriers to going to a medical provider for a checkup.

For example, risk factors might include having multiple, anonymous, sexual partners or intravenous drug use. And barriers might include an individual not having insurance or being underinsured. Or, if an

individual is insured, but disclosed they’ll not seek care because they do not want to disclose information to their provider, then KCPHD would provide services to those individuals.

The goal of Safety Net Clinic services is to reduce the rate of disease and the rate of death from sexually transmitted diseases in Kittitas County by ensuring testing, education, referrals, and treatment.

KCPHD Participates in Wildcat Tabletop Emergency Exercise

On April 22, KCPHD and regional partners participated in an annual emergency functional exercise that was held at Central Washington University.

Kittitas County participates in Washington State Region 7, North Central, as part of the public health emergency preparedness program. Region 7 holds an annual exercise and different counties within the region (Okanogan, Chelan,

Douglas, Grant, and Kittitas) host the exercise.

The exercise utilized the region’s numerous alternate care facilities (ACF), which are mobile medical facilities, and the scenario was based on a wildfire. In the scenario the wildfire results in multiple evacuations of residences and business, which required a 50 patient bed ACF to be set up and operational.

The exercise tested command functions, issues with pharmacy needs, patient tracking, and staffing for the ACF.

Jim Allen, Director of Cardiopulmonary Services and Disaster Coordinator, at Kittitas Valley Healthcare was the lead for this year’s exercise in Kittitas County.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Meet Liz Whitaker and New Staff at KCPHD

Liz Whitaker, Community Health Supervisor, was recently highlighted on the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) Member Profiles. Ms. Whitaker has been working in public health for 14 years and believes that “public health means providing prevention and early intervention policies, programs and activities, so that people can live healthy lives.”

Ms. Whitaker’s member profile can be found on the WSPHA association



website at www.wspaha.org. KCPHD has recently hired three new staff positions. Joann Schaan started on June 6 as the new Developmental Disabilities Coordinator. Ms. Schaan comes to KCPHD with 25 years of experience working with the Department of Social and Health Services. On June 27, Kimberly Sarver began as an Environmental Health Specialist, dividing 32



Left to right: Liz Whitaker, Joann Schaan, Kimberly Sarver, Tristen Lamb

hours per week between the Air Quality and Solid Waste programs. Ms. Sarver’s position is supported by an Ecology Air Quality grant as well as a Coordinated Prevention Grant for Solid Waste.

Lastly, Tristen Lamb moved positions within KCPHD and has moved from Environmental Health to Health Promotion.

Presenting Kittitas County Water Bank

On May 26, Environmental Health Supervisor Holly Myers and Administrator Robin Read, presented at the Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA) Conference.

Ms. Read began by explaining that in 2014, Kittitas County entered into the Interim Phase of the Settlement Agreement, which allowed a transition period to meet the same level of water restrictions as those placed on Upper County by Ecology’s Upper County Rule. She then described the details of the permanent regulations that began in December of 2015.

Ms. Myers spoke about the specifics of creating the local water bank process, including the partnerships with other agencies and community members, including work done by the Water Quantity Advisory Committee. Ms. Myers insisted that community input was key to the decision of how much water to sell from the water bank.

To date, residents interested in building will qualify for one of four paths in accessing water mitigation through the Kittitas County water bank. The presentation ended with lessons learned through this process; which included the

need for communication, the need for compassion with consumers, and the need for flexibility since this is the first process of its kind in Washington State.

Kittitas County is the first to utilize a local water bank to assist residents with mitigation for water usage. Kittitas County is also the first water bank that includes a local metering program that monitors and reports water bank usage to the Washington State Department of Ecology, in order to verify efforts to offset impacts to the Yakima River are made according to the signed settlement



Environmental Health (EH)	
EH Complaints	7
Living Environment	
<i>Schools</i>	
Building Inspections	7
<i>Public Pools & Spas</i>	
Permits Issued	0
Inspections	3
<i>Camps & Parks</i>	
Permits Issued	8
Inspections	9
Solid Waste	
Permits Issued	0
Inspections	8
On-Site Sewage	
Installation Permits Issued	N/A
Finalized Permits	N/A
Site Evaluations	65
Inspections	58

Food Safety	
<i>Permits</i>	
Permanent Food	13
Temporary Food	20
Food Handler’s Permits	773
<i>Inspections</i>	
Establishment Inspections	125
Temporary Event Inspections	20

Drinking Water	
Group A Water System	0
Group B Water System	N/A
Individual Well Site	15
Adequate Water Supply	93
Well Delegation Inspections	9

? Did you know ?

- Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)
- The above conditions are known as the social determinants of health.
- According to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) US households pay more than 50 percent of their incomes for housing.
- High housing cost place burdens on low-income families to choose between food, heating, and other basic needs (RWJF).
- Substandard housing can be a source of exposure to cancer causing air pollutants.
- Residential crowding has been linked to physical illness and psychological distress.
- Exposure to extreme temperatures have been associated with increased mortality.



Board of Health Approves Joint Hearing

On June 16, the Kittitas County Board of Health motioned to approve a joint Board of Health and Board of County Commissioner hearing to consider an ordinance to amend chapter 8.24 of the Kittitas County Code.

The public hearing will address changing the current smoking in public places law to include vaping in public places as well.

The ordinance is in compliance with new state law regarding vaping .

The ordinance also provides clarification on sampling and exemptions for locations with a primary retail business from selling vapor devices.



Dr. Paul Schmitt Named As Public Health Champion 2016

On April 21, the Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee awarded the 2016 Public Health Champion award to Dr. Paul Schmitt.

The award recognized Dr. Schmitt's years of service as a healthcare provider and his

dedication to the health of his community.

Dr. Schmitt has practiced medicine in Cle Elum since 1977. In addition to embracing being a "country doctor" for nearly 40 years, he has participated in the ski patrol at Snoqualmie Pass,

volunteered as a physician for the Roslyn Fire Department and high school sports, and was one of the founders of the Runner Stumbles Race which is going into its 37th year.

The award provides \$500 to be used for current or future health related projects.

QI Team Member Presents at WSEHA Conference

On May 26, Environmental Health Specialist Tristen Lamb presented information from KCPHD's Quality Improvement Leadership Team regarding its most recent project.

The project looked at inspection rates and determined that an issue to address was around temporary food events.

Based on the team's solutions, inspection rates increased.

Quality improvement is somewhat new to the environmental health (EH) field, so the presentation really aimed at educating EH staff around quality improvement tools and processes.

The presentation showed that through quality improvement,

there is the possibility for policy or systems change, which can ultimately make work lives better and protect the public.

