

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Public Health Partners with The County and Cities for Built Environment Work

The environment we live and move around in, or the built environment, affects our health. Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) staff is excited to be involved in numerous projects around built environment work.

In early 2016, KCPHD began working with Kittitas County on the county's comprehensive plan. More recently, staff have provided input and feedback to the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas on their comprehensive plans. "These plans contain our community goals and we want to ensure that public health is represented in those goals," asserts Public Health Administrator Robin Read.

In addition to participating in the planning processes, KCPHD has also worked with city personnel in Ellensburg

and Cle Elum.

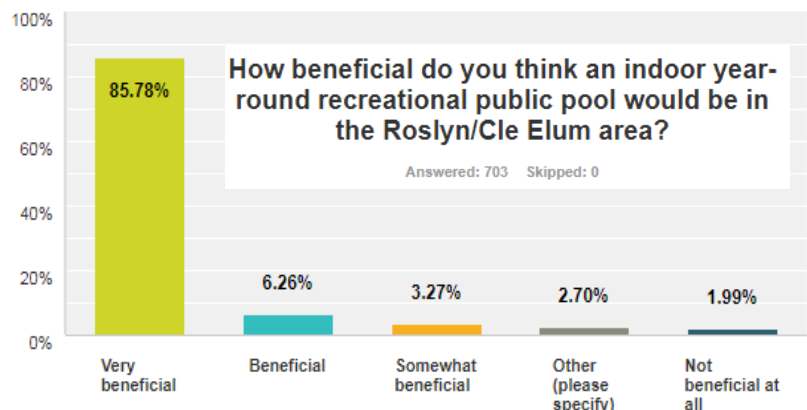
The City of Ellensburg recently received a Complete Streets grant, but have not yet started those projects. In the interim, the city has completed the new bike avenue in Ellensburg along 7th street. KCPHD worked with the city to promote the new bike avenue.

Lastly, on June 30, KCPHD closed a survey that was created for the City of Cle Elum around an

upper county recreational center and pool.

The survey received 703 responses and showed that 85.78 percent of the respondents would find a year round recreational pool very beneficial.

"We look forward to more of this kind of work in the future," states Ms. Read.



Particulate Matter Advance Program Plan

KCPHD staff is working to address the increasing levels of PM 2.5 (particulate matter in the air that is smaller than 2.5 micrometers) air pollution in our county. In partnership with the Kittitas County Board of Health, Kittitas County is now part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) PM Advance Program, which promotes local, proactive efforts to improve air quality.

A 5 year path forward plan was submitted in March of 2017. The plan includes air quality education for the public and for local schools.

Recently, KCPHD partnered with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Kittitas County Solid Waste for a Free Yard Waste Disposal Day, which provided an alternative to outdoor burning (one source of PM 2.5 air pollution). KCPHD staff also provided education at the Easton Memorial Day Parade and the Kittitas County Farmers Market.

Kaitlyn Kelly (pictured right), an intern via the National Environmental Health Association, has been working on an air quality educational toolkit to

be implemented in the schools during the 2017-2018 school year.





SNAP Ed Begins in Kittitas County

SNAP Ed, or the nutrition education program for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, has started in Kittitas County.

The program is intended to teach SNAP users how to be healthier in eating. This is the first year we have had SNAP Ed funding in our county. Sonora Stampfly started in May as the SNAP Ed

Coordinator and will be working closely with the Kittitas County Farmers Market in Ellensburg to promote EBT (electronic benefits transfer) usage.

Ms. Stampfly will promote the SNAP Ed program in addition to providing some nutritional information during the market season.



KCPHD Receives and Distributes Free Naloxone

KCPHD received 73 free doses of naloxone from the University of Washington, funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Naloxone is the antidote for a narcotic (or opiates) overdose. Twenty-five injectable doses are intended for syringe exchange participants. The remaining nasal mist doses will be distributed to people who may

observe an overdose, such as friends or family of people who use opiates.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), heroin overdose death rates have more than quadrupled since 2010. In response, KCPHD is working to get information about and doses of naloxone into the community.

“The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.”

-Dr. Paul Farmer

The Community Health Assessment Process Begins

On June 29, KCPHD held the first Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) meeting.

The meeting was held to familiarize the work group members with the CHA/CHIP process as well as the Mobilizing for Action through Planning (MAPP) Process.

Twenty six people attended the meeting from various sectors

from healthcare to social service.

The CHA will be used to identify issues in Kittitas County and will be used to later implement a plan to address the issues (CHIP).

The next steps include participant feedback on the original vision and values from the 2012 CHA/CHIP.

Participants also had a chance to sign up for committees.



Department Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	0
Health Data Requests	4
Quality Improvement Projects	1
Health Provider Releases	5
Media Contacts	21
Community Engagements	205
Code/Policy Updates	8
Total Clinic Appointments	106
Volunteer Hours	648

Vital Records

Hospital Births Registered	88
Birth Certificates Issued	325
Deaths Registered	51
Death Certificates Issued	264

Health Promotion

Oral Health Outreach Contacts	158
Referrals to Dentists	6
Health Insurance Assists	28

Communicable Disease (CD)

CD Investigations	53
Confirmed CD Cases	24
STD's Reported	70
TB Tests	27
HIV, Hep C, STD Tests	8
Number of People Tested for HIV, Hep , STDs	4

Immunizations

Total Vaccinations Given	90
Flu Vaccinations Given	1
Specialty Travel Vaccinations	16
Adults Receiving Vaccinations	50
Children Receiving Vaccinations	7
Travel Consultations	10

Harm Reduction Activities

Syringe Exchange Participants	105
Number of Exchanges	60
Syringes Distributed	7350
Syringes Received	5900
Naloxone Kits Distributed	22
HIV/Hepatitis C	
Education Participants	91

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Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	23
EH Incident Response	1

Water Resources

Water Mitigation Certificates Issued	20
Water Mitigation Applications	19
Meter Inspections	2

Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	0
Group B Water System Inspections	0
Individual Well Site Review Applications	23
Adequate Water Supply Determinations	101
Well Delegation Inspections	1
Well Site Inspections	1

Solid Waste

Permits Issued	9
Inspections	10

On Site Septic

Installation Permits Issued	58
Inspections	10
Finalized Permits Issued	31
Site Evaluations	101

Land Use

New Land Use Applications	13
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Food Safety

Permanent Food Establishment Applications	10
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	29
Food Handler's Permits	742
Permanent Food Establishment Inspections	158
Temporary Food Establishment Inspections	19

Living Environment

Pool Facility Permits Issued	2
Pool Facility Inspections	8
Camps & Parks Permits Issued	13
Camps & Parks Inspections	0
School Inspections	1

Environmental Health Staff Receive Awards

On Tuesday May 2, 2017, Kittitas County Environmental Health Staff attended the annual Washington State Environmental Health Association Education Conference. This conference is an opportunity for Environmental Health personnel from both the private and public sectors to connect and network, identify emerging environmental health issues, and receive education and training on various Environmental Health topics.

On the second day of

this conference, there is an awards lunch. Six different awards are given each year and the Kittitas County Public Health Department staff were awarded two of them.

Kimberly Sarver, Environmental Health Specialist, was hired as a

project position for the Air Quality Program. Ms. Sarver was awarded the Rookie of the Year award for her amazing work on our PM advanced program and plan this year.

Erin Moore, Environmental Health Specialist, was awarded the Environmental Health

Professional of the year award for her work in the development and implementation of the Kittitas County Water Bank.



Left to right: Kimberly Sarver, James Rivard (Ecology), Holly Myers

Mountain River Trails Association in Compliance

As of May 10, 2017, the Mountain River Trails Campground Association (MRTCA) was in full compliance with requirements via KCPHD for groundwater and septic issues.

Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor, conducted the final inspection and found that the remaining noncompliant campground sites were all compliant with the health order issued in 2016.

In August of last year, KCPHD staff inspected the MRTCA after receiving an anonymous complaint. During the initial inspection, staff verified that at least over half of the sites

observed were in violation of wastewater disposal regulations.

On August 22, 2016 KCPHD issued a health order for proper disposal of all wastewater into existing septic systems.

In September of 2016, 212 sites were posted as "out of compliance" from the 460 plus sites at MRTCA.

In response to an appeal from MRTCA, the Kittitas County Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting in the Commissioners' Auditorium on January 12, 2017. The appeal was to address liability, reporting requirements, and assessment of enforcement costs.

The BOH denied the appeal to overturn liability and the reporting requirements issued in the health order.

However, the BOH affirmed the appeal in regards to the assessment of \$9,600.00 in enforcement costs.



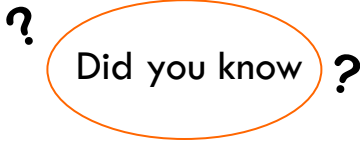
Violation of proper disposal of wastewater observed at Mountain River Trails Campground Association in 2016.



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- April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness month.
- STDs are transmitted during vaginal, anal, and oral sex.
- According to Washington State Department of Health (DOH), about 1 in 4 young adults have an STD.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 15 -24 year olds account for half of all new STD infections.
- Anyone under 25 and sexually active should get tested annually (DOH).
- Kittitas County has a higher rate of chlamydia versus the state rate.
- Abstaining from sex, reducing the number of sexual partners, and consistently and correctly using condoms are all effective in preventing STDs (CDC).

Board of Health Approves New Farmers Market Fees

On April 28, BOH approved a resolution to adopt the amended 2017 fee schedule to include the new Farmers Market fees.

During the initial fee schedule presentation in December, there was concern voiced regarding the single fee for all

farmers market vendors. As a result, KCPHD partnered with representatives from the market to complete a quality improvement project to establish a new permit process.

The new fee schedule reflects the multiple permit types for vendors, Type A or Type B,

versus the previous flat fee for all market vendors.

After the resolution was approved, Commissioner Paul Jewel thanked KCPHD staff and Farmers Market Board Members and vendors for their work with creating the new fee schedule.

Public Health Champion Award Presented



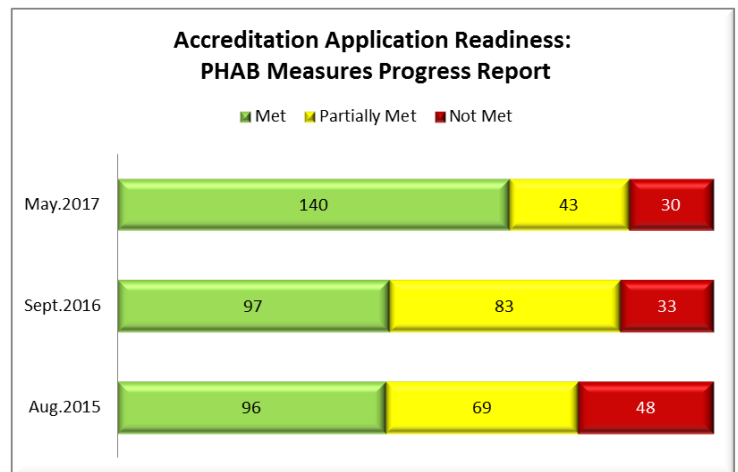
Left to right: Hartwig Vatheuer, Michele Cawley, Andrew Lyons

On April 28, the Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) presented the third annual Public Health Champion Award to the Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition.

The coalition helps parents and their children from birth up to the age of five prepare for kindergarten entry. The coalition received a \$500 award to be used for current or future projects that contribute to the health of Kittitas County.

Accreditation Application Progress

As of June, KCPHD has met 65% of the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB's) Standards and Measures. The goal is to apply for Accreditation in the summer of 2018. Areas that still need work are in the PHAB Domains of Assessment, Administration and Management and Investigation. The Accreditation Support Team meets monthly to monitor progress in these areas.



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