

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

The 2017 Community Health Assessment is Finalized

The 2017 Kittitas County Community Health Assessment (CHA) has been finalized.

The CHA is a collaborative process that is lead by the Kittitas County Health Network and facilitated by the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD).

Using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework, the CHA is actually composed of multiple assessments that include Community Themes and Strengths, Local Public Health System Assessment, Community Health Status, and the Forces of Change Assessment.

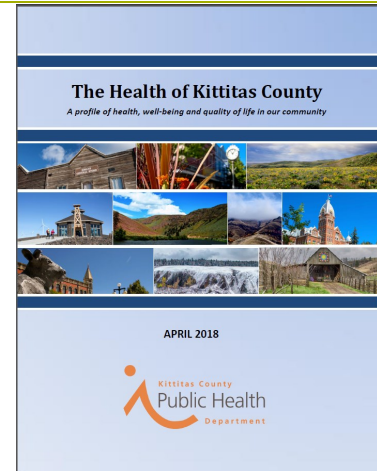
The collaborative process, which began in June of 2017, uses partners from various agencies and sectors to complete

and compile all of the information gathered throughout the MAPP framework.

The final document contains the vision and values, general data about Kittitas County, health information about our residents, along with factors that occur in our community that affect our health.

The information that results from the CHA will be used to inform the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which provides strategies and goals identified in order to improve the health of Kittitas County.

“We want to thank our partners for their participation and the time they put into this process,” states Administrator Robin Read. “We want to recognize partners



like Amy Diaz, Kittitas Valley Healthcare, who attended every scheduled meeting and participated in subcommittees.”

The CHA is available via the Kittitas County Public Health Department website. The next phase is to complete the CHIP by the summer of 2018.

2018 Public Health Champion Named

The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) is pleased to announce the 2018 Public Health Champion, the Open Door Health Clinic.

The award is in recognition of the clinic’s mission to provide basic medical care for low-income people without insurance or readily accessible healthcare. The award will be presented during the Kittitas County Board of Health meeting on Thursday, April 19 at 10:00 am in the Commissioners’ Auditorium.

The Public Health Champion Award is intended for any individual, group, or organization that has positively

influenced the health of Kittitas County. The 2018 award is the fourth annual award and made possible by a generous donation from a previous Kittitas County Health Officer, Dr. Jim Gale.

Previous recipients include the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department (2015), Dr. Paul Schmitt (2016), and the Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition (2017).

The Open Door Health Clinic is a non-profit organization that has provided healthcare, free of charge, to the Central Washington community in Washington State since 1999. Open Door provides healthcare resources for those who are

currently under-served in Ellensburg and Cle Elum.



Department Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	1
Volunteer Hours	515.75
Health Data Requests	3
Quality Improvement Projects	0
Health Provider Releases	8
Community Engagements	133
Code/Policy Updates	0
Total Number of Clinic Appointments Provided	43

Vital Records

Hospital Births Registered	78
Birth Certificates Issued	336
Deaths Registered	62
Death Certificates Issued	344

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	385
Referrals to Dentists	3

Communicable Disease (CD)

CD Investigations	32
Confirmed CD Cases	17
STD's Reported	77
TB Tests	9
HIV Tests	1
Hepatitis C Tests	2
Syphilis Tests	1
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Tests	0

Harm Reduction Activities

Syringe Exchange Participants	212
Syringes Distributed	9661
Naloxone Kits Distributed	17
HIV Education Participants	28

KCPHD has New Staff and New Positions.

KCPHD has hired four new staff for various departments this quarter. Liane Bradshaw began on January 2 as a Community Health Specialist who works predominantly with the Never Share Syringe Exchange.

Kim Shilley, Public Health Technician, began on February 2. Ms. Shilley is the new “face of public health” and will be the first person people see when they enter our building.

Lastly, the Health Promotion

Division has two new staff, Chelsey Loeffers and Nea Alfaro. Both Ms. Loeffers and Ms. Alfaro are new Health Promotion Specialists. Ms. Loeffers started on February 5 and Ms. Alfaro is our most recent hire, starting on March 12.

On March 27, long time Environmental Health Specialist Erin Moore took on a new role as the Water Resource

Program (WRM) Coordinator. Ms. Moore will be overseeing a new staff person as well as overseeing one of two Washington State pilot programs, which entails metering all mitigated water in the county.

“We are excited with our new staff and new roles,” stated Administrator Robin Read. “We have so many staff, new staff, and interns, that our challenge now is finding space for everyone in our department.”



New Staff (left to right): Lianne Bradshaw, Kim Shilley, Chelsey Loeffers, Nea Alfaro

2017-18 Flu Season

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu activity in the U.S. peaked in early February. However, flu and influenza-like -illness remained above baseline levels throughout the quarter.

Dr. Mark Larson, Health Officer, reported rapid local increases in influenza in January, with two flu-

associated deaths reported in Kittitas County residents. Both of the deaths were in people over the age of 75 who had underlying health issues, and influenza A was identified.

The KVH system reported that flu activity peaked in January, with a second, smaller peak at the end of February. Influenza A was the predominant strain in January, but influenza B has

also been seen throughout the season. Influenza B activity increased at the end of January.

While flu vaccine this season was not as effective as hoped, CDC estimates that being vaccinated “reduced the risk of having to go to the doctor due to flu by 36% overall.”

New Upper County Services

KCPHD has been coordinating with Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (KVFR) along with upper county policy makers and, most recently, Medic One in order to provide mobile services in Cle Elum

Initially, KCPHD was asked to provide syringe exchange services in Cle Elum, which lead to the work with KVFR who will be providing a mobile

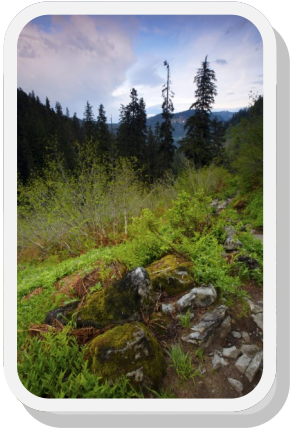
response vehicle for our use. However, in addition to syringe exchange services, KCPHD will also be providing additional services including administering vaccine and assisting with health insurance enrollment.

The mobile unit will be parked behind KVH Cle Elum at Medic One.



Snoqualmie Pass and Boil Water Advisory

On January 25, KCPHD was notified that the Snoqualmie Pass Water Utility District system had a leak, which required a boil water advisory. The affected areas included Summit and Village, Alpental, Yellowstone, Conifer, and Hyak.



During a boil water advisory, residents are asked to use either boiled water or purchased bottled water for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, et cetera.

In addition to getting information out about the boil water advisory, KCPHD staff worked closely with food service establishments in the affected area. Without a water system, food service establishments were not allowed to prepare or serve food.

Almost 20 establishments were affected and KCPHD staff completed site visits on January 25 and worked with those establishments to explain

the requirements and ensure establishments were not serving the public.

On February 1, the boil water advisory was lifted and KCPHD staff returned to work with local business to assist them with the reopening process. Establishments were required to wash, rinse, and sanitize with uncontaminated water prior to opening.

“We appreciated the patience and understanding of affected establishments,” stated Tristen Lamb, Environmental Health Supervisor.

KCPHD Responds to Food Incidents and Complaints

In addition to regularly scheduled inspections of food service establishments, KCPHD also responds to complaints and to incidents that are reported via emergency personnel.

“We have a complaint based system,” explains Environmental Health Supervisor Ms. Lamb. “Each permitted establishment receives a set number of inspections based on their permit each year, but we rely on the public to notify us of concerns observed outside of those inspections.”

During the first quarter of 2018, KCPHD received 16 number of complaints. In response to complaints, staff will gather information and determine the best course of

action, specifically if that entails an on-site visit.

“Unfortunately,” asserts Ms. Lamb, “most people who call after getting sick believe it is the most recent food that has caused the illness. Oftentimes, foodborne illness takes 24 hours or even days for the onset of symptoms.”

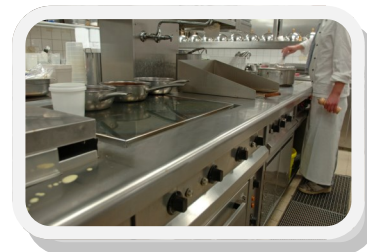
However, KCPHD still responds to numerous complaints and incidents ranging from foodborne illnesses, to kitchen fires, to food contaminates.

In February, KCPHD Environmental Health responded to an after hours phone call regarding a food contaminate in a local food service establishment.

Based on the complaint,

KCPHD staff immediately went on-site to the establishment, worked with administration, put a hold order on specific food items, and coordinated with other agencies to ensure future food safety.

According to the Washington State Department of Health, one in six Americans get sick from eating contaminated foods or drinks every year. Foodborne illness is especially risky for children under 5, adults over 65, and people with weakened immune systems.



Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	29
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Living Environment

School Inspections	0
Pool Facility Permits Issued	0
Pool Facility Inspections	12
Camp & Park Inspections	0

Solid Waste

Permits Issued	0
Inspections	0

On-Site Septic

Installation Permits Issued	51
Finalized Permits	63
Site Evaluations	49
Inspections	18

Food Safety

Permanent Food Establishment Applications	10
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	7
Food Handler’s Permits	723
Establishment Inspections	125
Temporary Event Inspections	3

Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	0
Group B Water System Inspections	0
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	25
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	84
Well Delegation Inspections	11
Well Site Inspections	3

? **Did you know?** ?

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), annually there are 20 million new sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the US.
- 15 to 24 year olds account for half of all new infections in the US.
- According to Planned Parenthood, STD versus STI is disease versus infection. Infections are only called diseases when they cause symptoms.
- If you are sexually active, getting tested for sexually transmitted infections is the most important thing you can do to protect your health.
- There is no way to know for sure if you have an STD without being tested.
- Watch for the STD Awareness month in April.



Board of Health Recognizes Public Health Week 2018

On March 15, 2018, the Kittitas County Board of Health recognized National Public Health Week (NPHW) as April 2-6, 2018. This is a time to highlight issues that are important to improving our nation's health. Kittitas County Public Health Department, in cooperation

with the Board of Health, urges all residents to acknowledge the importance of NPHW. This year's theme for NPHW is Generation Public Health, and is supported by the five sub-topics of the week: Behavioral Health, Communicable Disease, Environmental Health, Injury

and Violence Prevention and Ensuring the Right to Health. A media release was created to provide the community with more information about how they can participate in National Public Health Week 2018.

BOHAC Gains New Members

The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) has added new members Ms. Doughty (CWU) and Ms. Burfiend (Valley View) represent education, Ms. Pfeiffer (CHCW) and Mr. Clark (Bi-Mart) represent the medical profession, and Ms.

Herrera and Ms. Benavides who are currently Central Washington University students.

BOHAC currently has 17 members with by-laws allowing for a maximum of 20 members.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Bob Davis, Kate Doughty, Carin Thomas, Darren Higashiyama, Elizabeth Frederick, Brian Clark, Nancy Pfeiffer, Hope Cusack, and Andrew Lyons.

Amy Fuller, Assessment Coordinator, Earns MPH

In March, Assessment Coordinator Amy Fuller graduated from the University of Washington with a Master of Public Health (MPH).

Ms. Fuller worked towards her degree while performing Assessment Coordinator duties including her work on the Community Health Assessment.

Ms. Fuller completed a workforce assessment at KCPHD as her practicum project. And, most recently, worked locally with Kittitas Valley Healthcare for her capstone project, specifically on the topic of care coordination in rural areas.

"Kittitas County is fortunate to have an Assessment

Coordinator, especially a Coordinator of Ms. Fuller's caliber with her level of intelligence and hard work," asserts Administrator Read.

