

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Budget Finalized for 2019

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) has received a “green light” for its proposed 2019 budget. KCPHD’s budget is comprised of several fund sources including state, federal, and private grants. Budgeted funds also include fees, the county admission tax funds, and county contribution.

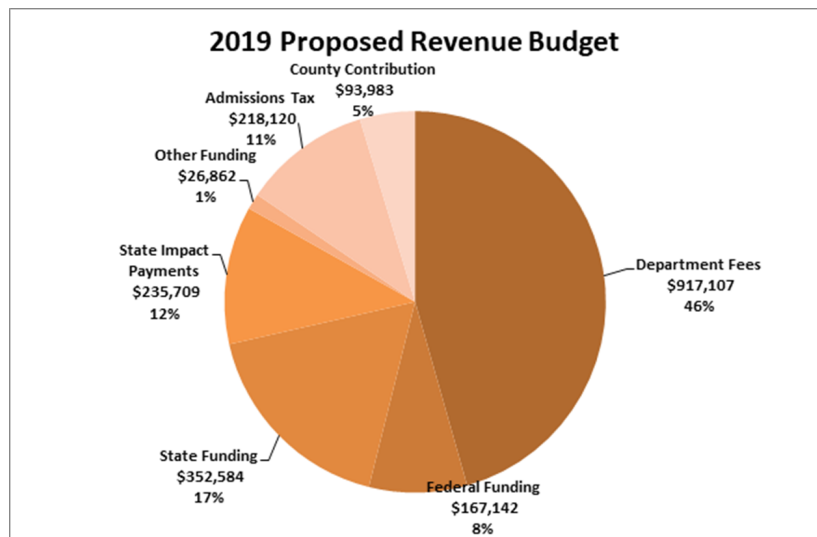
“The budget is always difficult,” states Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson. “The public health department needs financial assistance from the county in order to operate.”

Highlights from the 2019 budget include three new staff added to the team (three positions are grant funded and one position was a necessity and funded by fees). KCPHD has also requested the

“lowest ask” for county contribution that has occurred in several years.

Sustainable funding has been identified as a focus area for the

Kittitas County Public Health Department since the 2011 Strategic Plan.



## Robin Read, Administrator, Resigns

KCPHD Administrator, Robin Read, resigned at the end of 2018. Staff were saddened by the news, but also happy for Ms. Read, since her family welcomed baby girl, Aila. During her time at KCPHD, Ms. Read was instrumental in foundational work with food access, the first Community Health Assessment, and the Community Health Improvement Plan. Ms. Read played a key role in the first community garden in Kittitas County, along with the first assessments around access to food.

She has gone on to facilitate numerous large-scale projects and has overseen some unique programs. She oversaw programs like Water Resource Management, Syringe Exchange, and Air Quality. Most importantly, though, would be Ms. Read’s accomplishment at modeling public health policies within the department and creating a culture of compassion at KCPHD. “We talk about resilience and we talk about health equity and numerous other public health issues, but Robin created an atmosphere that led by

example,” states Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson. “She will be missed, but the environment she has created will continue.”



### Department Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	
Volunteer Hours	955.75
Health Data Requests	3
Quality Improvement Projects	1
Health Provider Releases	5
Media Contacts	9
Code/Policy Updates	0
Total Number of Clinic Appointments Provided	224

### Vital Records

Hospital Births Registered	72
Birth Certificates Issued	277
Deaths Registered	55
Death Certificates Issued	312

### Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	858
Referrals to Dentists	8

### Communicable Disease (CD)

CD Investigations	47
Confirmed CD Cases	7
STD's Reported	78
TB Tests	11
HIV Tests	1
Hepatitis C Tests	4
Syphilis Tests	1
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Tests	1

### Harm Reduction Activities

Syringe Exchange Participants	200
Syringes Distributed	16130
Naloxone Kits Distributed	37
HIV Education Participants	0

## WA State Public Health Association's Annual Conference

On October 15 - 17, the Washington State Public Health Association hosted their 25th Annual WSPHA Conference. KCPHD staff from Community Health and Health Promotion attended the conference. In addition, Health Promotion Specialist Chelsey Loeffers presented on Rural Community Level Programs, Policies, and Supports for Breastfeeding.

Representatives from Kittitas County and neighboring counties provided information about current breastfeeding promotion practices and support efforts, which aim at increasing

breastfeeding initiation, duration, and improve child health outcomes.

"We have a fantastic local coalition with a range of participants from breastfeeding moms to medical professionals," states Administrator Tristen Lamb. "The coalition, Kittitas County Breastfeeding Coalition (KCBC), is active and utilizes key partnerships like Central Washington University (CWU)."

Dr. Tishra Beeson, assistant public health professor at

CWU, presented with Ms. Loeffers.

To date, KCBC has implemented a family friendly breastfeeding location annually at the Kittitas County Fair, provided that same service at CWU's commencement, and also partnered with CWU's Fashion Club to sew rice heat packs for new moms who are breastfeeding.

New members are always welcome - inquire at KCPHD.

## KCPHD Staff Receives CHES Certification

Lianne Bradshaw, Community Health Specialist, received her Certified Health Education Specialist certification or CHES.

In order for an individual to receive the certification, they must meet academic requirements during their post secondary education work. Academic qualifications must be reviewed and the individual

must be determined eligible in order to take the CHES examination. Once the review process is completed, the individual must pass a competency based examination.

"We are proud of Ms. Bradshaw and proud to have her be a part of KCPHD's team," states Administrator Tristen Lamb.



## Integrated Emergency Management Comes to Kittitas County

Kittitas County Emergency Management Coordinator, Darren Higashiyama, was successful in bringing the Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) to Kittitas County.

The week-long course provided training to numerous emergency responders, emergency operation center personnel, and stakeholders and

policy makers from various municipalities.

Candi Blackford and Kasey Knutson attended the course. Ms. Blackford continued her training in logistical support for the Emergency Operation Center and Ms. Knutson worked with public information officers from partner agencies.

"Training with people from

your community is always an advantage," says Ms. Knutson, Health Promotion Supervisor. "Responding with the folks who will be there in an emergency will improve our response for a real incident."

## Annual Drive Thru Flu Clinic Sees Increase

The 2018 Annual Drive Thru Flu Clinic was a success! This year’s clinic saw an increase in both children and adults accessing influenza vaccinations. KCPHD staff, along with 55 volunteers, vaccinated 305 children and adults against the seasonal flu. That is an increase from 188 vaccines provided during the drive-thru flu clinic in 2017.

“The event is a significant undertaking,” states Administrator Tristen Lamb. “We use this as an emergency exercise for all staff, but because it is also an annual service to the community - staff plan for months prior in order to make the event go as

smoothly as possible.”

The 55 volunteers were from the Central Washington University Para Medicine program, Kittitas Valley Healthcare, Kittitas Medical Reserve Corps, along with Search and Rescue members. KCPHD also received monetary donations from insurance companies, which were used to purchase adult vaccine. “305 people received flu vaccine at no cost, and we want to increase that in the future,” states Community Health Supervisor Liz Whitaker. “There was certainly an increase in adults who accessed the clinic.”

This year, the planning team

also increased their use of social media to get the word out, which was the number one way people reported hearing about the clinic.

The drive thru flu clinic uses a “point of distribution” or POD strategy to quickly and safely provide medicine (in this case a flu vaccine) to the public. The point of distribution model also decreases the risk of exposure, because people stay in their vehicles and do not congregate while they are waiting.

Don’t forget to watch for the 2019 clinic!

## School Inspections and Staff Cross Training

Did you know that public health also inspects schools? Environmental Health is not just about inspecting food establishments, but also schools and the living environment, which includes the school building along with the school grounds and playgrounds.

Holly Erdman, Environmental Health Specialist II, oversees school inspections. However, in 2018, EH staff were cross trained in order to have more inspectors available, if needed.

School Health and Safety determines compliance with regard to the building, heating/cooling, sound and lighting control, plumbing, sewage, ventilation, and so on. The inspections can take 3.25 hours to 7 hours to complete,

depending on the student body size of the school.

In 2018, staff completed 15 inspections. Melissa Schumaier and Tristen Lamb also got a chance to train and learn from Ms. Erdman.

Holly Erdman has been working for the Kittitas County Public Health Department since 1988. She is well versed with public health and Washington Administrative Code, 246-366, which requires minimum standards around environmental health and safety within primary and secondary schools.

School drinking water, cleaning and disinfection, and air

quality have all been areas of focus recently. According to Ms. Erdman, she consistently sees chemicals within reach of children as a continued problem. “Anything that says to keep out of reach of children, should not be within a child’s grasp in K through 5 schools,” states Ms. Erdman. “The chemicals within reach of kids is an issue that I see in almost every elementary school I inspect.”



<b>Environmental Health (EH)</b>	
EH Complaints	15
<b>Living Environment</b>	
School Inspections	15
Pool Facility Permits Issued	10
Pool Facility Inspections	15
Camp & Park Inspections	0
<b>Solid Waste</b>	
Permits Issued	0
Inspections	9
<b>On-Site Septic</b>	
Installation Permits Issued	62
Finalized Permits	67
Site Evaluations	42
Inspections	83
<b>Food Safety</b>	
Permanent Food Establishment Applications	234
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	3
Food Handler’s Permits	518
Establishment Inspections	173
Temporary Event Inspections	6
<b>Drinking Water</b>	
Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	0
Group B Water System Inspections	0
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	19
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	45
Well Delegation Inspections	7
Well Site Inspections	2

? **Did you know?** ?

- With the holiday season, public health always likes to remind people how important food safety is to prevent Foodborne illness:

- ⇒ Wash your hands!
- ⇒ Use a food thermometer to ensure meat is cooked to proper temperatures.
- ⇒ Do not let foods sit at room temperature or “the danger zone.”
- ⇒ The “danger zone” refers to temperatures between 40 and 140 Fahrenheit.
- ⇒ Raw egg recipe? Use pasteurized eggs!
- ⇒ Thaw that turkey in the fridge or in a sink with cold water (changing the water every 30 minutes).
- ⇒ Keep meat, seafood, and eggs stored separately in the refrigerator.
- ⇒ And, “when in doubt - throw it out!”



## Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Kittitas County

On November 20, Dr John Asriel, Kittitas County Board of Health presented information to the Board regarding buprenorphine treatment for opioid addiction.

Dr. Asriel provided information on how the human brain reacts to opioids and how, according to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention, buprenorphine treatment is considered a best practice.

Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) is one of three strategies considered best practice to treat opioid addiction. KCPHD implements the other strategies

including providing naloxone and syringe exchange services.

Community Health of Central Washington is currently providing buprenorphine treatment in Kittitas County.

## BOHAC Hears CHIP

On October 8, the Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee received an update regarding the implementation of the most recent Community Health Improvement Plan, which is now underway with the Kittitas County Health Network taking the lead on implementation.

Task forces have been assigned to address identified issues such as care coordination, social determinants of health, and network infrastructure.

## Health Network CHIP Update

The Kittitas County Health Network has been moving forward on several of its community wide health improvement plan goals. The majority of the CHIP’s progress has been in the area of healthcare access, social determinants of health and substance abuse prevention. Two separate grants were received by KCHN in 2018. Kittitas Valley Hospital applied for and won an opiate prevention grant on behalf of

the Network for \$200,000. In addition, another group within the Network received a technology grant to build an electronic community health referral system that would help to integrate health services for individuals in crisis who are being seen by multiple providers. Another exciting development is the potential funding from the Greater Columbia Accountable Communities of Health to address one or more social

determinant of health issues including but not limited to behavioral health and housing. KCHN recently hired a new director, Robin Read, and she will be working closely with the health department to monitor the outcomes of the CHIP and develop a dashboard to report out on its progress towards the overall health improvement goals for the community.

