

KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
May 2, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Commissioner Robert Gelder at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Gelder acknowledged that the Kitsap Peninsula is home of sovereign Indian nations, namely the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes.

Chair Gelder noted that this will be his last meeting as a member of the Kitsap Public Health Board.

Chair Gelder asked members of the Board to introduce themselves. Mayor Becky Erickson with the City of Poulsbo, Chair Gelder of the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners, Mayor Robert Putaansuu with the City of Port Orchard, Mayor Greg Wheeler with the City of Bremerton, Member Jolene Sullivan of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Member Drayton Jackson, and Dr. Tara Kirk Sell each introduced themselves. Additionally, Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) staff Administrator Keith Grellner, Health Officer Dr. Gib Morrow, Administrative Assistant Margo Chang, and Management Analyst Angie Berger introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Putaansuu moved and Mayor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the April 4, 2023, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The May consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2197 Amendment 1 (2332), *Washington State Department of Ecology, Solid Waste Management Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Agreement*

Mayor Erickson moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam Keeley of Poulsbo began by noting that two years ago, the Health District adopted a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. She said over the weekend, North Kitsap School District was made aware of a school shooting threat. Ms. Keeley said the school district sent differing information regarding the threat to some parents, but not all parents. She said, as a result, she and Carolyn Zimmers went to the Poulsbo Police Department to meet with Police Chief Ron Harding to discuss the ongoing issues with school threats, police response, communication with families, and the need for more interaction with local officials. Ms. Keeley went on to say Chief Harding shared an incident in which a young person posted a photo of himself in Nazi regalia and a gun, then made specific threats using racial slurs. Consequently, this person was charged and arrested, but the county prosecutor dropped the charges, and the person was released. She said this situation is domestic terrorism and the passive response by

authorities and officials frightened her. She noted that Hispanic community leaders were not contacted about the threat to students and that people need answers from authorities and officials. Ms. Keeley said Chief Harding is willing to host a townhall meeting and that he suggested Dr. Evans participate, though Dr. Evans has not responded to this request. She said the county sheriff, Mayor Becky Erickson, and an MKEA representative should also be involved with the townhall meeting. Ms. Keeley asked what the role of the Kitsap Public Health Board should be before something cataclysmic happens.

There was no further comment.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Update:

Mr. Grellner, Administrator, began his report by explaining the Washington State Legislature has completed its business on time and *sine die* was on April 23, 2023. Mr. Grellner said the legislature this year has been supportive of public health in several ways. The operating budget contains an additional \$100M for the biennium for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS), bringing the total investment in FPHS to \$324M per biennium. That funding is shared between the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), the Washington State Board of Health, Washington tribes, and local health jurisdictions throughout the state. The Health District currently receives about \$2.4M of this funding per year, which has helped the agency rebuild its programs, most notably the Communicable Disease Program. Mr. Grellner noted that the new additional funding from the Legislature has a "downside" as \$28M of the allocation is tied to vapor tax revenues. The Health District was attempting to work with the Legislature to prevent the funding of FPHS with sin taxes, or taxes that are raised through the selling of materials the District is working to prevent people from using. Mr. Grellner thanked the Legislature for their continued support of public health.

Mr. Grellner said, additionally, \$5M was allocated to DOH to provide continuing support for the Health District's tobacco prevention and control work. DOH also received \$20M for ongoing COVID-19 services through DOH, local health jurisdictions, and local tribes. This funding was allocated to support sustainable COVID-19 services as the funding from the federal government comes to an end. The Department of Ecology received \$115M in funding to continue funding the Model Toxics Control Act, which allows for the clean-up of contaminated sites by providing support to local efforts. The Health District receives grants from the Department of Ecology's funding and the grant was a line item on this month's consent agenda. This year, the grant was increased from \$315,000 to \$495,000.

Mr. Grellner ended his report by thanking and congratulating Chair Gelder, on behalf of the Health District, for his many years of service on the Board. He said Chair Gelder has been on the Board as a Kitsap County Commissioner representative for 12 years. Mr. Grellner wished the Chair good luck and good health going forward.

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer at the Kitsap Public Health District, began his report by noting that the month of May is Hepatitis Awareness Month. He said that there are many people living with chronic hepatitis that are unaware they have it, so screening and testing for the disease is widely recommended for all adults. He urged the Board and the public to get tested if they haven't already.

Next, Dr. Morrow provided the Board with an update on COVID-19. He noted that the CDC has decided to retire their metrics on community and transmission levels of COVID-19 on May 11. The CDC has plans to develop a replacement metric for disease rates at the community level. The WA Notify program, which pings the phones of people who may have been exposed to COVID-19, will also be retiring on May 11. Dr. Morrow also said Kitsap COVID-19 immunization rates continue to lag behind the state average. Additionally, communities are learning more about long COVID. The University of Washington operates Washington State's only treatment evaluation center for this condition. Dr. Morrow touched on the emerging COVID-19 variant, XBB 1.16, also known as Arcturus, in that a common symptom is conjunctivitis or "pinkeye".

Dr. Morrow then provided the Board with an update on the Kitsap healthcare access study. He thanked Mayor Erickson and Member Kirk Sell for their participation on the advisory panel. The Johns Hopkins consultants have been meeting monthly with the Kitsap advisory panel to focus their efforts on this complex, wide-ranging topic and to share data and other resources. The advisory panel and consultants are working to integrate themselves into ongoing meeting in Kitsap, including healthcare coalition meetings, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council, Long Term Care Alliance, Kitsap Health Equity Collaborative, Alliance for Equitable Healthcare Access, and the Kitsap Healthcare Continuum Stakeholders meetings. Dr. Morrow anticipates that the Johns Hopkins researchers will present their progress at the July 11 Board meeting, prior to beginning the key informant interviews and focus group sessions later that month.

Next, Dr. Morrow explained that on April 26, 2023, the Health District issued a cyanobacteria warning for Kitsap Lake advising the public to avoid contact with the lake due to health risks for people and animals. He noted that drowning is another summer safety issue and the Health District's Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention team is distributing life jackets and providing water safety education throughout the county. Dr. Morrow said that the summer beach monitoring program for the bacterial E. coli will begin later this month and will continue through the summer. He reminded the Board and the public that the health risk from eating raw oysters and other shellfish is the highest in the summer months, from May through September. During this part of the year, raw shellfish is more likely to cause severe gastrointestinal illness due to the presence of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*.

Dr. Morrow then provided updates on immunizations in Kitsap County. He explained that vaccines provided by the Navy and other military entities in Kitsap and across the state are now

being entered into the Washington Immunization Information System (WAIS). He said Washington is the first state in the country to achieve this level of interoperability when it comes to vaccines. Vaccine rates, for standard vaccines such as measles, are still lagging at the local, state, and national levels. Dr. Morrow noted that measles is a serious disease with a highly effective vaccine developed in 1963. Measles is beginning to reemerge around the world, most notably in India, Indonesia, Africa, the state of Ohio, and American Samoa. In Ohio earlier this year, 73 cases of measles resulted in 26 pediatric hospitalizations. In American Samoa, measles is currently a public health emergency and schools are closed until all children in grades one and above are fully vaccinated. Dr. Morrow said between 2000 and 2023, the vaccine has prevented an estimated 60 million measles deaths. The Health District's Immunization Program is planning a broad media campaign for later this year to promote vaccination across all ages. He added that the Immunization Program has also been working with local schools to integrate their immunization registries into WAIS. This integration will provide more accurate data on vaccination rates and efforts.

Next, Dr. Morrow displayed data for the opioid crisis in Kitsap. He explained that the opioid crisis is continuing to worsen in Kitsap, as it is throughout the state and country. The Health District is currently tracking and reporting EMS opioid responses, which are on a sharp upward trajectory. In the last week, the Health District was informed anecdotally of six overdose events, including one fatality, in a 24-hour period in downtown Bremerton. District staff responded by communicating with law enforcement and EMS, distributing Narcan to those in the vicinity of the overdose events, and by notifying the public about the possible presence of higher potency opioids. The Health District's Epidemiology Program is working to refine local surveillance systems for the opioid crisis. Staff are also notifying the local healthcare provider community of federal policy changes that allow for unrestricted prescribing of medications like buprenorphine for those with substance abuse disorders. Additionally, the Health District is distributing naloxone and providing training on the administration of the drug.

Dr. Morrow then explained that the CDC and Washington DOH have identified data modernization as a pressing public health need. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the diseases spread faster than the data, highlighting the need to create interoperable systems across federal, state, local, and healthcare systems. Dr. Morrow said it is important to strengthen real-time communications of data by improving disease surveillance systems and improving modeling, data visualization, and predictive analytics. He noted that the Immunization Program's efforts to integrate vaccine data systems with the Navy and local schools is an example of this type of work. The work will require coordination across internal teams such as Epidemiology, IT, and Communications, as well as coordination with external partners.

Lastly, Dr. Morrow introduced Adrienne Hampton, the Health District's first Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst. Ms. Hampton has a master's degree in public health administration from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. Dr. Morrow said she brings a valuable background of perspective, knowledge, and experience from her work in environmental justice. Additionally, Ms. Hampton has a certificate in Climate Change and Health from the Yale School of Public Health and has broad policy experience centering health equity in nonprofit, academic, and public service sectors. Dr. Morrow displayed a list of policy

opportunities and potential targets for improvement, including health equity and racism, the opioid crisis, climate change and public health, and the healthcare systems assessment. He added that Ms. Hampton will ride her bike to work each day.

Dr. Morrow explained there is a new opportunity for him to receive call coverage from the Northwest Regional DOH Medical director, though it would require approval from the Board as a consent agenda item. He went on to say that his role of health officer requires he be available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, all year long, so this opportunity for call coverage would provide some relief.

When Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions, Member Jackson asked if the data demonstrating a lag in measles vaccine rates is provided from healthcare clinics. Dr. Morrow responded to say vaccine data from most of the major healthcare systems is directly uploaded to the state's immunization registry, but that does not provide a microscopic view into the small pockets of unvaccinated populations, which would allow for more focused vaccine promotion efforts. Dr. Morrow explained that once 90-95% of the population has received the measles vaccine, true herd immunity is acquired, and disease transmission stops. Measles provides a great risk to the community because it is an efficient viral spreader, more so than COVID-19, so the District's Immunization Program is working to increase measles vaccine rates.

Mayor Wheeler welcomed Ms. Hampton to Bremerton and noted that he looks forward to seeing her on their non-motorized commutes each day.

Chair Gelder asked Dr. Morrow about the efficacy of the COVID-19 home test kits in detecting the new variants that are emerging. Dr. Morrow said most of the home test kits received from state or federal programs have expired, but that as long as the control line displays on the test, the kit should still be effective. Chair Gelder asked Dr. Morrow to confirm that the current test kits should be sensitive enough to detect new COVID-19 variances, to which Dr. Morrow said yes.

There was no further comment.

BACK-UP HEALTH OFFICER PROVISIONS FOR KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

Chair Gelder then moved on to discuss the back-up health officer provisions offered to the Health District. He summarized Dr. Morrow's previous mention of the opportunity, adding that this resource is being offered to all local health jurisdictions in Washington.

Dr. Morrow noted that he does not see a downside to this opportunity for call coverage.

Mayor Erickson said that having a back-up for the health officer is very important as emerging health crises can be serious. She agreed that this is a good resource to utilize.

Member Kirk Sell asked for clarification regarding the line of back-ups that are available to the health officer. She said this resource provides a back-up, but the agency's organizational chart shows additional back-ups. Dr. Morrow explained that the internal back-ups listed on the organizational chart are for the administrator position. Local health jurisdictions each have their own health officer available, and that person must have a medical degree and master's degree in public health. Historically, when Dr. Morrow is on leave, he will notify the Jefferson-Clallam Health Officer so they can provide call coverage. Mr. Grellner said while there are other health officers who can provide coverage, their capacity is very limited. Mason County's Health Officer works part-time while one health officer, Dr. Allison Berry, covers both Jefferson County and Clallam County. Mr. Grellner said he anticipates that this item will be added to the consent agenda for either the June or July Board meeting.

There was no further comment.

RESOLUTION 2023-02, APPROVING A LINE OF SUCCESSION FOR THE HEALTH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Grellner explained that the Health District's Continuity of Operations Plan, developed in 2011, has a line of succession approved by the Board for Administrator back up. A line of succession will allow the Health District the ability to sign contracts or address urgent issues while the Administrator is unavailable. The Health District has done cross-training with the Health Officer and directors. The division directors are the main Administrator back-ups, followed by the Health Officer, but this is not ideal as the Health Officer should be available to focus on the medical aspects of the agency's work. Mr. Grellner noted that the proposed line of succession for the Administrator includes the director of the agency's new division, Public Health Infrastructure. He listed the order of succession as the Environmental Health Director, the Community Health Director, the Public Health Infrastructure Director, and lastly the Environmental Health Assistant Director.

Mayor Putaansuu moved to approve Resolution 2023-02 for the line of succession for the Health District Administrator, as outlined in the Board packet, in the event the Administrator is unable to fulfill their role and conduct essential agency functions during an emergency or disaster. Mayor Wheeler seconded the motion. Resolution 2023-02 was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

RESOLUTION 2023-03, APPROVING AMENDED HEALTH DISTRICT MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, AND OVERARCHING STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES FOR 2024 – 2030

Siri Kushner, Public Health Infrastructure Division Director, provided the Board with a resolution to approve the Health District's updated vision, mission, guiding principles, and strategic initiatives.

Ms. Kushner displayed for the Board the proposed mission and vision statements, with the current statements displayed for comparison. The proposed vision statement is, “Our vision is a safe and healthy Kitsap County for all,” while the current vision statement is, “Striving to make Kitsap County a safe and health place to live, learn, work and play.” Ms. Kushner said the proposed vision statement is simplified and demonstrates where the Health District wishes to see Kitsap in the future.

The proposed mission statement is, “The Kitsap Public Health District prevents disease and protects and promotes the health of all people in Kitsap County,” while the current mission statement is, “The Kitsap Public Health District prevents disease and protects and promotes the health of all persons in Kitsap County.” Ms. Kushner noted that the action-oriented mission statement had one word revised, in which “persons” has been changed to “people.”

Next, Ms. Kushner displayed the Health District’s proposed guiding principles next to the agency’s current guiding principles. She noted that this work was developed by the District’s strategic planning work group in January and February. Ms. Kushner read through each of the proposed guiding principles:

- Prevention: We protect our community by reducing the risks of disease, injury, and early death.
- Collaboration: We engage with community, convene diverse partners, and work to ensure our efforts are community oriented and create meaningful impact.
- Quality: We are dedicated to continuous quality improvement and our work is guided by evidence from scientific data, best and promising practices, and incorporates community input to produce the best possible outcomes.
- Equity: We are committed to all people in Kitsap County having a fair and just opportunity to live safe and healthy lives.
- Innovation: We proactively and flexibly deploy creative and novel strategies to address current, evolving, and future public health needs.

Next, Ms. Kushner displayed an updated 2023 strategic planning timeline. She summarized the steps of planning that have already been completed and discussed the revision of the timeline, in which the creation of strategic implementation plans and work plans were shifted to later in the year to align with the Health District’s existing annual program work plan timeline. Today, the Health District is bringing the proposed mission and vision statements, guiding principles, and strategic planning initiatives to the Board for approval.

Ms. Kushner then displayed draft resolution 2023-03 and asked the Board to consider approving this resolution.

Member Jackson asked if the 7-year strategic initiatives were the Health District’s goals for Kitsap County. Ms. Kushner responded by saying yes, that these initiatives are very broad and high level, and that there will be more specific goals to go with each initiative. This will be accompanied by 2- or 3-year work plans, to break the initiatives down further to allow for process improvements and innovations over the 7-year period.

Member Kirk Sell commented that the strategic planning workgroup was a very collaborative process and involved several stakeholders from different areas of public health. She added that the process was very well done.

Chair Gelder shared his concern for the first initiative. He said the verb “stop” seems very absolute. Disease is going to happen, and the Health District is not necessarily able to stop it. He asked other Board members if they had similar concerns. Member Jackson explained his interpretation was that the only choice for the Health District was to stop disease, no matter what, because that is their job. Ms. Kushner added that the initiative refers to the transmission of disease. She said the Health District recognizes the transmission and will implement strategies to stop that transmission. Chair Gelder said the clarification that the initiative is referring to disease transmission is helpful and that he appreciates the intention behind it.

Ms. Kushner continued her presentation by providing a process update. The Health District will synergize their standard timeline for annual program work plans with the creation of strategic implementation plans. In addition to the goals, objectives, and activities, the District will also develop metrics for evaluating and monitoring implementation. The plans will be informed by ongoing and new work, as well as the community and staff input that was collected in March. Ms. Kushner reiterated that the strategic implementation plans will be for 2- or 3-year plans, meaning this is planning for multiple years. She said the plans are meant to capture the coordination that happens across programs.

Lastly, Ms. Kushner explained how the strategic plan fits into the Health District’s performance management system. In the future, the District will be designing an internal performance management system, integrating strategic implementation and program work plans, reconvening the Quality Improvement Council, and conducting annual assessments of progress and performance.

Member Kirk Sell moved to approve Resolution 2023-03, approving amended Health District mission and vision statements, guiding principles, and overarching strategic plan initiatives for 2024-2030. Member Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Erickson noted that the proposed initiatives and goals were terrific, but that she did not see any measurement of effectiveness within this resolution. Member Jackson asked if the measurement aspect would be covered under the annual assessment in progress and performance. Ms. Kushner said yes and that the Health District will be designing metrics and developing an annual assessment. Mayor Erickson said prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health District would sit with Board members to discuss the current picture of the community using metrics. She said she found that very useful and valuable. Additionally, Mayor Erickson believes the healthcare shortage in Kitsap is partially due to the lack of focus on successful systems in the county, so she does not want the Health District to make the same error. Chair Gelder agreed with Mayor Erickson on the importance of defining metrics and collecting the appropriate data.

Resolution 2023-03 was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Gelder explained that historically, when there is a vacancy for Board Chair, the Vice Chair moves in to assume that position. If the Board approves Mayor Erickson's move from Vice Chair to Chair, a new Vice Chair will need to be elected. There will also be a vacancy on the Policy Committee, which creates an opportunity for interested Board members to join the committee in the future.

Mayor Putaansuu moved and Member Jackson seconded the motion to elect Mayor Erickson as Board Chair for the rest of 2023.

Mayor Putaansuu asked Commissioner Gelder who the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners was going to appoint for the Kitsap Public Health Board. Commissioner Gelder responded by saying the decision has not been made yet.

The motion to elect Mayor Erickson as Board Chair was approved unanimously.

Next, Commissioner Gelder asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Member Jackson moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to elect Dr. Tara Kirk Sell as Vice Chair. Mayor Putaansuu noted Dr. Kirk Sell is a great nomination. Dr. Kirk Sell said non-elected Board members are not allowed to vote on budget materials and asked if she should still become Vice Chair. Commissioner Gelder said it would be ok as there will be five elected members who will vote on budget materials. Mr. Grellner clarified that Health District fee schedules that the non-elected members are precluded by statute to vote for, but non-elected members can vote on budget matters.

The motion to elect Dr. Kirk Sell as Vice Chair was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.



Becky Erickson
Kitsap Public Health Board



Keith Grellner
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Robert Gelder; *Member* Drayton Jackson; *Member* Dr. Tara Kirk Sell; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Member* Jolene Sullivan; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler.

Board Members Absent: *Councilperson* Kirsten Hytopoulos; *Member* Stephen Kutz; *Member* Dr. Michael Watson.

Community Members Present: Susan Brooks Young.

Staff Present: Angie Berger, *Management Analyst, Administrative Services*; Brenda Calderon, *Secretary Clerk 2, Administrative Services*; Margo Chang, *Administrative Assistant, Administrative Services*; Yolanda Fong, *Director, Community Health Division*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration*; Adrienne Hampton, *Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration*; Cristian Inga Dominguez, *Secretary Clerk 2, Administrative Services*; Siri Kushner, *Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division*; Dr. Gib Morrow, *Health Officer, Administration*; Tad Sooter, *Communications Coordinator and Public Information Officer, Communications*.

Zoom Attendees: *See attached.*

Kitsap Public Health Board Meeting (Virtual Attendance)

Webinar ID	Actual Start Time	Attendee Count
861 8605 2497	5/2/2023 10:30	28

NAME	NAME	JOINED BY PHONE
Amy Anderson	Chris & Suzanne Plemmons	None
Leslie Banigan	Steve Powell	
Jessica Guidry	Ally Power	
Gabby Hadley	Anne Presson	
Melissa Hartman	Maura Shirey	
Grant Holdcroft	Amanda Tjemsland	
Dayna Katula	Dr. Tener Veenema	
Pam Keeley	Erica Whares	
Sarah Kinnear	Tiffany Whitford	
Melissa Laird	April	
Michelle McMillan	Echo	
Anne Moen	KIRO Radio	
Kevin Nguyen	Monte	
Kayla Petersen		