KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

The Kitsap Peninsula is home of sovereign Indian nations, namely the Suquamish and Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribes

MEETING AGENDA

May 7, 2024
10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Chambers Room, Bremerton Government Center
345 6th Street, Bremerton WA 98337
(Health Board members may participate remotely via Zoom)

10:30 a.m. 1. Call to Order
Commissioner Rolfes, Vice Chair

10:31 a.m. 2. Approval of April 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Rolfes, Vice Chair Page 4

10:32 a.m. 3. Approval of Consent Items and Contract Updates
Commissioner Rolfes, Vice Chair External Document

10:34 a.m. 4. Public Comment – Please See Notes at End of Agenda
Commissioner Rolfes, Vice Chair

10:44 a.m. 5. Health Officer and Administrator Reports
Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer & Yolanda Fong, Administrator Page 9

ACTION ITEMS

10:50 a.m. 6. Health Board Letter Concerning Military Health Strategy
Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer Page 16

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10:55 a.m. 7. Healthcare Access Update
Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer

11:00 a.m. 8. Proposed Food Service Establishment Food Safety Rating System
John Kiess, Environmental Health Director Page 21
Dayna Katula, Food and Living Environment Program Manager

11:25 a.m. 9. Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Ordinance Revision
John Kiess, Environmental Health Director Page 42

11:45 a.m. 10. Adjourn

All times are approximate. Board meeting materials are available online at
www.kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php

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Attending/viewing Health Board meetings

Members of the public can attend Kitsap Public Health Board meetings in person at the time and location listed at the top of the agenda.

Health Board meetings will broadcast live on Comcast channel 12, WAVE channel 3, and on the BKAT website at https://www.bremertonwa.gov/402. A video recording of the meeting will be made available at https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php, typically within 48 hours of meeting adjournment.

Providing public comment

Verbal public comment: Members of the public can provide spoken public comment to the Health Board by attending the meeting in person at the time and location listed at the top of the agenda.* Members of the public who attend in person can make verbal comments during the Public Comment agenda item or as specified by the Health Board Chair.

As this meeting is a regular business meeting of the Health Board, the Chair will establish a time limit for public comment to ensure enough time is allowed for all agenda items to occur prior to adjournment. Each public commenter will receive a specific amount of time to address the board as determined by the Chair.

Written comments may be submitted by mail or email to:

Mail:
Kitsap Public Health Board
Attention: Executive Secretary
345 6th Street, Suite 300
Bremerton, WA 98337

Email:
healthboard@kitsappublichealth.org

All written comments received will be forwarded to board members and posted on the Health Board’s meeting materials webpage at https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php.

*If you are unable to attend a meeting in person and need to request an accommodation to provide verbal public comment, please email healthboard@kitsappublichealth.org or call 360-728-2235.
Health Board meeting notifications and materials

To sign up to receive Kitsap Public Health Board meeting notifications by email or text message, go to kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe, email pio@kitsappublicheath.org, or call 360-728-2330. Notifications are typically sent on the Thursday prior to each regular Tuesday meeting.

A schedule of regular Health Board meetings is posted at https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/files/board-meeting-schedule.pdf

Materials for each meeting, including an agenda, minutes from the prior Health Board meeting, and informational meeting packet, are posted prior to each scheduled meeting at https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php. Printed materials are available for meeting attendees. A video recording and copies of presentations are posted to the board meetings website after each meeting.
The meeting was called to order by Chair Tara Sell at 10:30 a.m.

Board members each provided a brief introduction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Becky Erickson moved and Commissioner Christine Rolfes seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the March 5, 2024, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The April consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2203, Amendment 17, Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Tom Slyter, Alliance for Equitable Healthcare, commended the Board for the efforts and resources being used to address homelessness, substance use disorder, and mental health. He asked the Board if there is one office coordinating the efforts of various agencies. Chair Sell noted that an answer will be provided at a later time.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Update:

Yolanda Fong, Administrator, shared three updates:

- The request for proposals for classification system design and salary schedule research has been completed. The Health District selected Compensation Connections, a Washington-based firm who has worked with other public agencies throughout the state. The contract is being developed and the work will begin soon.
- This month’s meeting materials contain three submissions for written public comment and are available for the Board’s reference.
- The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) will be holding another annual conference this year in Nashville, Tennessee. Member Drayton Jackson attended the conference in 2023 and discussed the valuable information he gleaned from the experience.

There was no further comment.
Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, provided the Board with several updates:

- It is National Public Health Week and the 2024 theme is, “Protecting, Connecting, and Thriving. We are all public health.” Dr. Morrow noted that public health is not a specific agency or program but all of society working collectively to keep communities healthy.
- The Health District is beginning the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process, a community-driven planning process which aims to address the three priority areas identified through the Community Health Assessment (CHA): healthcare, mental and behavioral health, and housing and homelessness.
- Dr. Morrow emphasized the importance of collaboration between partners to reach the mutual objective of a healthy public. He acknowledged the work that is being done throughout the community to advance that goal.
- The Health District is launching a healthcare action collaborative to improve funding, map assets, identify gaps, implement key strategies, and track progress on the recommendations brought forth by the Johns Hopkins healthcare assessment. The Board will receive regular reports on the collaborative’s progress.
- The number of emergency department (ED) visits by Medicaid beneficiaries is still higher in Kitsap than across Washington State. EDs are the most expensive place to receive care, but they are where people go when they do not have other options. This data highlights the importance of community paramedic programs, as well as expanding and funding primary care, mental health services, and substance treatment services.
- There is increasing national recognition that communities need better integration and funding of primary care, public health, and community-based organizations. Policy-related work is ongoing to strengthen each of those components, which has positively impacted the work of Peninsula Community Health Services, Kitsap Mental Health Services, and other primary care and preventative clinics.

Board members discussed Dr. Morrow’s update and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN KITSAP REPORT

Board members were given the opportunity to discuss the Johns Hopkins presentation regarding the Healthcare System Challenges and Opportunities in Kitsap report.

Several Board members agreed that the report is a tool that will be used to develop and implement strategies to address the report’s findings. The response will need to be community-driven and collaboration among partners will be crucial.
There was no further comment.

KITSAP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PRESENTATION

Monica Bernhard, Chief Executive Officer of Kitsap Mental Health Services (KMHS), shared a presentation that outlined the services provided by KMHS and highlighted areas of improvement:

- Comprehensive recovery-oriented services, including mental health services for youth and adults, wrap-around services, school-based programs, housing and employment support, 24/7 programs, and designated crisis responder (DCR) services.
- KMHS served 4,005 non-duplicated clients from across Kitsap County in 2023 and there has been a steady increase in average annual occupancy rate for 24/7 programs.
- Clinical staff are compassionate, committed, and highly trained. KMHS has seen a steady improvement in staff retention.
- A 29% increase in overall employee growth since 2021.
- Diverse clients and staff which accurately represent the county’s demographics.
- General and specialized evidence-based practices and training.
- KMHS faces several challenges, including staff recruitment, high acuity cases, high caseloads, the voluntary nature of mental health services, a historically underfunded system, significant administrative burdens due to legal and insurance requirements, and the lack of licensing to provide care to medically acute individuals.

Ms. Bernhard outlined the future of KMHS, including expansion plans, the launch of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Services, the launch of a community education series, the offer of free or low-cost community training in mental health topics, the transition to a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center, and facility accreditation efforts that will allow 24/7 programs to serve Medicare and commercial insurance clients.

After discussing Ms. Bernhard’s presentation and asking clarifying questions, the Board thanked her for the work KMHS does in Kitsap.

There was no further comment.

CONNECTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CARE REPORT

Bonnie Obremski, Communications Specialist with Olympic Community of Health (OCH), provided the Board with a presentation outlining OCH’s Connecting Community Members to Care report. Ms. Obremski explained that OCH aims to improve individual and population health and advance equity by addressing the determinants of health. During her presentation, Ms. Obremski noted:

- Strategies employed by OCH include convening, funding, coordinating, advocacy, engagement, data sharing, transparency, communication, and place-based approaches.
- The report demonstrates the value and impact of local programs, elevates creative ideas, advocates for sustainable solutions, provides a tool for partners and decision-makers, and
supports regional efforts to meet the needs of individuals. Local programs include community paramedicine, co-response, and mobile-integrated health care.

- The role of first responders has moved from acute intervention for emergent needs to a high volume of non-emergent calls. This is resulting in increased costs and taxation on limited emergency resources. Additionally, ED utilization is high due to limited resources in primary care, specialty care, behavioral health, and resources for aging adults.
- Community paramedicine programs are gaining popularity and, as of 2023, there were more than 400 programs across 40 states. Similar programs in Kitsap were able to reduce stress on emergency services, increase collaboration across disciplines and programs, and tailor services to fit the skills of the available workforce. Program challenges included an increased administrative burden; high caseloads; limited and insecure funding; and inconsistent standards, training, and measures of success across programs.
- OCH suggests that programs invite elected officials to see the work first-hand, track quantitative and qualitative data, collaborate with partners, coordinate with similar programs to standardize data collection and analysis, conduct community assessments, use a broad spectrum of data to inform program planning, plan for program expansions over time to meet increasing referrals, and consider incorporating telehealth.

Ms. Obremski concluded her presentation by calling to action community partners, elected officials, and the state Department of Health and she shared the specific strategies recommended by OCH to help connect community members to care.

Mayor Wheeler thanked Ms. Obremski and OCH for focusing on the efforts of first responders, noting that the strain on first responders is the biggest challenge experienced by elected officials.

There was no further comment.

**ST. MICHAEL MEDICAL CENTER SERVICES PRESENTATION**

Chad Melton, President of St. Michael Medical Center (SMMC), provided the Board with information on SMMC services:

- SMMC is a 336-bed medical center that has a level two trauma center, cancer center, and medical pavilion. They are expanding access to primary care with new programs and clinics, as well as 24/7 hybrid care through their ED and urgent care facilities.
- The hospital is expanding the medical tower, providing 74 additional acute care beds to support more acute services in Kitsap and decompress emergency room boarding.
- Operational improvements are evidenced by the “A” Leapfrog safety grade, 4-star rating by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, improved patient experience, addition of 100 new registered nurses in 2023, and decreased staff turnover.
- SMMC has invested in Kitsap by providing $2.5 million in charity care and $37.5 million in uncompensated care, as well as partnering with community-based organizations to provide or donate services to the community.
- Olympic College and Kitsap County have partnered with SMMC to help increase the healthcare workforce. SMMC is also working to advance health equity.
In discussing the challenges faced by SMMC, Mr. Melton noted that staffing, workforce development, post-acute care, increasing costs of care, inadequate reimbursements, and physician recruitment all pose significant challenges. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing his appreciation of the Board.

The Board then discussed aspects of Mr. Melton’s presentation and thanked him for his time.

There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Christine Rolfes
Kitsap Public Health Board

Yolanda Fong
Administrator

Board Members Present: Mayor Becky Erickson; Member Drayton Jackson; Member Stephen Kutz; Councilperson Ashley Mathews; Mayor Rob Putaansuu; Commissioner Christine Rolfes; Member Dr. Tara Sell; Member Jolene Sullivan; Member Dr. Michael Watson; Mayor Greg Wheeler.

Board Members Absent: None.

Community Members Present: Monica Bernhard, Kitsap Mental Health Services; Stephanie Christensen, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health; Casey Jinks, Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office; Chad Melton, SMMC; Bonnie Obremski, Olympic Community of Health; Tom Slyter, Alliance for Equitable Healthcare.

Scribe: Margo Chang, Management Analyst, Kitsap Public Health District.

Staff Present: Angie Berger, Management Analyst, Administration; Yolanda Fong, Administrator, Administration; Adrienne Hampton, Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration; Siri Kushner, Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Gabreiel Outlaw-Spencer, Public Health Educator, Parent Child
Topics

- May is National Hepatitis Awareness Month
- Communicable Disease Update
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- Military Health Agency Strategic Plan
- Healthcare Access and KCHP

Millions of Americans are living with viral hepatitis. Many don’t know it.
Communicable Disease Update

- Measles
- Pertussis
- Mpox

**WHOOPING COUGH CAN BE DANGEROUS**
Especially for newborns and babies

Whooping cough can lead to...

- PNEUMONIA (A SERIOUS LUNG INFECTION)
- CONVULSIONS
- BRAIN DAMAGE
- APNEA
- DEATH

About half of babies younger than 1 year old who get whooping cough are hospitalized.

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State Summary

**741 TOTAL CASES**

**21 TOTAL HOSPITALIZATIONS**

**0 TOTAL DEATHS**

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**TOTAL WEEKLY CASE COUNTS**

Peak in July/August 2022

"Blip" of cases in Fall of 2023

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Many US states are experiencing this “blip”
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza- “Bird Flu” -H5N1

- Backyard Poultry Flocks in Kitsap in summer ’22
- >90 million cases in poultry
- Spillover into multiple mammal species – seal in Jefferson Co., sea lions, cats, polar bears, etc.
- 36 dairy herds in 9 states
- 13 humans globally, including 2 US cases
Military Health System Stabilization: Rebuilding Health Care Access Is Critical to Patient's Well-Being

Jan. 22, 2024 | By Robyn Mincher, MHS Communications

Fiscal Years 2024-2029
Healthcare Access – A Brief Update

Programmatic Operations
- Kitsap Public Health
- Kitsap Community Health Improvement Priorities
- Participating Community Partners

Community Investments

Coordinated Care

Community Partnerships

Policy Development

Traditional Clinical Prevention
1. Increase the use of evidence-based services

Innovative Clinical Prevention
2. Provide services outside the clinical setting

Total Population or Community-Wide Prevention
3. Implement interventions that reach whole populations

To read more: http://journal.lww.com/jphmp/toc/publishahead
Resources

- Military Health System Stabilization: Rebuilding Health Care Access Is Critical to Patient's Well-Being
- Military Health System Strategy
- After downsizing health care for years, Pentagon says medical readiness was a casualty
- Mass Mortality of Sea Lions Caused by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Virus
- Bridging the gap: Doula services as a solution to WA maternal health crisis
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Virus Infection in a Dairy Farm Worker
- Health Advisory: H5 Avian Influenza Updates
- Weekly Pertussis Update for Washington State
MEMO

To: Kitsap Public Health Board
From: Gib Morrow, MD, MPH, Health Officer
Date: May 7, 2024
Re: Health Board Letter Concerning Military Health Strategy

Background and Introduction
In July 2023, Kitsap Public Health Board unanimously passed Resolution 2023-04 declaring high costs and insufficient healthcare access are public health crises in Kitsap, specifically committing to:

- Use the results of the KPHD Local Healthcare System Needs Assessment to formulate and implement initiatives that address and reduce deficiencies in healthcare services in Kitsap; and
- Support and champion public-private partnerships and multi-sector models for innovative work for maternity, mental health, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted infections; and
- Promote strategic partnerships between federal, state, and local governmental public health agencies, federally qualified health centers, healthcare systems, mental health and addiction treatment services, and academia; and
- Support opportunities to strengthen the healthcare workforce, including, but not limited to, support for loan repayment and career advancement programs, increased educational opportunities especially for local students from underrepresented communities and with diverse lived experiences, and recruitment and retention incentives; and
- Champion policy and system level change that increases funding for public health, additional important services, and preventive services.

In February of 2024, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security published their healthcare systems assessment, “Healthcare System Challenges and Opportunities in Kitsap County, Washington,” with specific recommendations to:

- Kitsap County should prioritize recruiting new healthcare providers working in mental and behavioral health, primary care, and reproductive health; and
- State and county elected officials should continue to lobby the Defense Health Agency to reopen labor and delivery services at Naval Hospital Bremerton.

In January of 2024, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs published the new strategic plan for 2024-2029 entitled Military Health System Strategy, committing to, “pursuing a change agenda that supports and strengthens the (healthcare) workforce, stabilizes our integrated system of readiness and health, and strengthens a culture of innovation ready to meet Service and Combatant Commander requirements anywhere, anytime.”
To strengthen availability of health services for military personnel, their families, and beneficiaries in Kitsap County, we have drafted the attached letter requesting that the Military Health System prioritize rebuilding and reinvesting in Kitsap’s military health infrastructure, including eight specific requests which align KPHB priorities listed above with those specified in the Military Health Strategy.

**Recommendation**
Discuss, approve, amend (if necessary), sign, and send the attached letter and continue efforts to include federal and state elected officials in advocating for prioritizing the strengthening of Kitsap’s health services through all available channels.

Please contact me at gib.morrow@kitsappublichealth.org with any questions or comments.

Attachment (1)
May 7, 2024

Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dr. Lester Martinez-López, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
1000 Defense Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland, Director, Defense Health Agency
7700 Arlington Blvd
Falls Church, VA 22042

Rear Admiral Guido F. Valdes, Director, Defense Health Network Pacific Rim
Attn: US Navy, 1200 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Austin and Assistant Secretary Dr. Martinez- López:

The Kitsap Public Health Board commends the deputy secretary of defense signed memo directing the stabilization of the Military Health System and the release of the MHS Strategic Plan. The Board requests urgent prioritization of rebuilding and strengthening the healthcare workforce and services available in Washington State, specifically at Naval Hospital Bremerton and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Bremerton.¹

As outlined in the background information below, our community, including those employed by and affiliated with the Department of Defense, faces an ongoing health crisis.² Our Health Board urges immediate restoration and expansion of these critical medical services at Naval Hospital Bremerton. Specifically, we request that the Military Health System and Defense Health Agency prioritize the following actions:

1. Reinvest in Naval Hospital Bremerton to revive needed services as a center of excellence to facilitate these efforts. (MHS Strategic Goals 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 4.4)
2. Invest in the workforce by increasing numbers of primary care, obstetrical, behavioral health, and specialty providers at Kitsap military health facilities. (MHS Strategic Goals 1.1, 1.3)
3. Pursue efforts to attract and reattract beneficiaries to military treatment facilities through increased service availability and internal and public communication about available services. (MHS Strategic Goal 2.3)

² Resolution 2023-04 (https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/files/board/KPHB_Resolution_2023_04.pdf)
4. Modernize military health data systems to allow interoperability and secure data sharing with Kitsap Public Health and civilian health systems, granting local and state public health agencies access to vaccination, laboratory, and surveillance data and allowing interoperability of clinical data with community health information exchanges. (MHS Strategic Goal 3.1)

5. Integrate military health capabilities with Kitsap Public Health and civilian health systems through work agreements and formalized partnerships with civilian health organizations. (MHS Strategic Goal 4.2)

6. Commit to maintaining Tricare reimbursements at cost recovery levels to prevent adverse financial impact on Kitsap providers caring for military beneficiaries. (MHS Strategic goal 4.3)

7. Review partnerships and provide financial subsidies to Kitsap organizations caring for significant numbers of military beneficiaries. (MHS Strategic goal 4.3)

8. Contribute to workforce development and educational programs like Olympic College’s healthcare expansion to support career development of needed frontline healthcare professionals and the career transition of military corpsmen into advanced health professions. (MHS Strategic goals 1.1, 1.3, 2.1, 4.3)

Background

Kitsap County, Washington, is home to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Naval Base Kitsap. The Navy is integral to our county’s history, economy, and community. Active-duty service members, their families, and military retirees total about 70,000 people who live or work in Kitsap, and an additional 26,000 civilians are employed by the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Together, these residents comprise over one third of Kitsap’s total population of approximately 280,717 people and have significant public service needs, including general and medical specialty care. Crews of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers arriving for extensive overhauls at the west coast’s largest and only carrier-capable dry dock in Bremerton can cause rapid increases in our local population, which add considerable additional demand on available services.

Since the establishment of the Defense Health Agency in 2013 and the resulting downsizing and outsourcing of medical care, Naval Hospital Bremerton has experienced closure of emergency, critical care, labor and delivery, and other service lines, requiring Navy members and beneficiaries to receive care in the civilian medical sector. This shift has exacerbated longstanding and worsening capacity concerns within Kitsap County’s existing hospital, emergency, primary, and obstetrical care services at a time when the health system workforce capacity in Kitsap County is insufficient to meet the needs of the community.

In July of 2023, Kitsap Public Health Board passed Resolution 2023-04 declaring high costs and insufficient access of healthcare services in Kitsap County public health crises. The resolution details how the inadequacy and inaccessibility of these needed services have been compounded by the closure of Naval Hospital Bremerton birthing center in 2022. Recruitment and retention of a robust healthcare workforce has been further challenged by a high cost of living and low reimbursement rates for Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare beneficiaries.

Details of Kitsap’s strained healthcare system and the impact of this strain on the people who live here are described at length in Kitsap Public Health District’s 2023 Community Health

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4 KPHD Improving Healthcare access (https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/data.php)
Assessment and in a report commissioned by the Health Board and published in February of 2024 by the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health entitled “Healthcare System Challenges in Kitsap County, Washington.” Our community, including individuals employed by or otherwise affiliated with the Department of Defense, has experienced frequent bottlenecks in emergency department admissions and frequent lengthy wait times for emergency medical services. According to data abstracted from birth certificates, nearly 50% of Kitsap residents who gave birth in 2021 did not receive adequate prenatal care; this was 1.6 times higher than the overall state average.

Based on the urgent healthcare crisis, we urge efforts on the 8 actions outlined above. We believe that these requests are aligned with our mutual goals of healthcare service readiness and appreciate your attention and effort to improve the continuum of care for military members and all who live in Kitsap.

Sincerely,

____________________
Commissioner Christine Rolfes
Kitsap Public Health Board, Vice Chair

On behalf of the Kitsap Public Health Board:
Becky Erickson, Mayor of Poulsbo; Drayton Jackson, Member; Stephen Kutz, Suquamish Tribe; Ashley Mathews, Councilperson of the City of Bainbridge Island; Rob Putaansuu, Mayor of Port Orchard; Dr. Tara Sell, Member; Jolene Sullivan, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe; Dr. Michael Watson, Member; Greg Wheeler, Mayor of Bremerton.

Cc: Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and Representative Kilmer, and Kitsap Legislative Delegation

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5 2023 Kitsap Community Health Assessment (kitsappublichealth.org/information/cha.php)
7 2023 Kitsap Community Health Assessment Healthcare Chapter (https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/cha2023healthcareaccess.pdf)
8 2023 Kitsap Community Health Assessment Pregnancy and Birth Chapter (https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/cha2023pregnancybirth.pdf)
MEMO

To: Kitsap Public Health Board
From: John Kiess, Environmental Health Director
       Dayna Katula, Food and Living Environment (FLE) Program Manager
Date: May 7, 2024
Re: Proposed Food Service Establishment Food Safety Rating System

Background and Introduction
During the regular Board meeting on May 7th, a detailed presentation will be provided to update the Board on the Health District’s proposed food service establishment (FSE) safety rating system. The Board’s policy committee was provided this presentation during their February 20, 2024, meeting and provided their support and recommendations during that meeting.

Currently, the Health District provides permitted FSE inspection scores to the public through a mapping tool on our website. These inspection scores are provided to educate the public about food safety when considering patronage at an FSE. However, due to their technical nature, the scoring system, and an overall lack of public awareness of this system, we believe the public is largely unaware and lack understanding of FSE inspection findings.

In order to increase awareness about food safety and inspection scores, the Health District’s Food and Living Environment Program is planning to implement a food safety rating system that will require permitted establishments to publicly post their rating, which will be based on an average of their inspection scores. This new rating system will be similar to the programs found in neighboring King and Pierce Counties, which use an easily understood grading system to communicate food safety scoring to the public.

We have been working closely with our existing local Food Advisory Council to prepare this system and plan to initiate its implementation by educating permit holders over the next permit year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) about the new system. In the 2025-2026 permit year, the safety ratings will be required to be publicly posted.

Recommendation
None at this time – for information and discussion only.

Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding this new food safety rating program. I can be reached at (360) 728-2290, or john.kiess@kitsappublichealth.org with any questions or comments.
Food & Living Environment staff includes nine full time employees.

- Paul Giuntoli, 17 years
- Jodie Holdcroft, 24 years
- Susan Van Ort, 11 years
- Layken Winchester, 5 years
Melissa O'Brien
4 years

Albert Lawver
10 months

Jacob Wimpenny
10 months

Heather Fucini
7 months
What do we spend our time doing?
FOODBORNE ILLNESS STATS

About 100 foodborne illness reports in Kitsap in 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Washington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48 million illnesses</td>
<td>960,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128,000 hospitalizations</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 deaths</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food safety rating signs

Food Safety Inspection

Based on last 4 routine inspections.

See full inspection results at:

Food Grade Rating

GREAT

Needs Significant Improvement

GREAT

OKAY

NEEDS TO IMPROVE

EXCELLENT

GOOD

OKAY

NEEDS TO IMPROVE

Food safety rating signs
ABOUT 6 YEARS AGO...

- Policy Committee discussed it
- Decided to hold off
- Posted entire inspection reports
  + report interpretation guidance
FOOD INSPECTION REPORTS

All inspection reports for food establishments are on our website.
SINCE THEN...

- Watching and waiting
- Lessons learned
- More data
DATA SHOWS...

- Consumers want inspection information posted.
- Fewer outbreaks.
- Fewer complaints.
- Fewer reinspections.
GOING FORWARD

Food Safety Rating System
Why?

Positive reinforcement
Communicate risk to the consumer
Incentivize operators to improve sanitary conditions
Reduce number of outbreaks, reinspections, & complaints
Food Safety Inspection
Inspección de Seguridad Alimentaria

No violations observed over the last 2 years.

See full inspection results at:
KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

kitsappublichealth.org/scores

Report food safety concerns and illnesses.
Contact us at (360) 728-2235, food@kitsappublichealth.org or kitsappublichealth.org/report.

HOW IT WILL WORK
SIGN PLACEMENT
NEW ESTABLISHMENTS

- “We are still new” signs
- Includes recent changes of ownership
- Receives regular sign:
  - After 1st routine inspection- Low risk food establishments
  - After 2nd routine inspection- Med and high risk food establishments

See full inspection results at:
kitsappublichealth.org/scores

Report food safety concerns and illnesses.
Contact us at (360) 728-2235, food@kitsappublichealth.org
or kitsappublichealth.org/report.
No violations observed over the last 2 years

A few violations observed over the last 2 years

A number of violations observed over the last 2 years

Establishments on probation

25% 52% 4% 4%
BIGGEST CHALLENGES

- Keep current on routine inspections.
- Inspector pressure to not write violations.
COMMUNICATION PLAN

@ Inspections
- Face-to-face discussions
- Handouts

Long implementation phase
- One year
- At least one routine visit
- Familiarity with process

Messaging
- Social media posts
- Email messaging to operators
- Dedicated informational webpage
- Health Board meeting
- Inspection reports
- Explainer video
WHAT WE WANT TO SEE

- Number of complaints go down
- Number of reinspections go down
- Overall better category % shift

Improved food safety!
THANK YOU
MEMO

To: Kitsap Public Health Board
From: John Kiess, Environmental Health Director
Date: May 7, 2024
Re: Kitsap Public Health Board Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Ordinance Revision

Background and Introduction
The Kitsap Public Health District has had local OSS regulations since 1961 and the Health Board has a current OSS Regulation - Ordinance 2008A-01, Onsite Sewage System and General Sewage Sanitation Regulations. The current ordinance now requires revision due to the recently adopted changes to Chapter 246-272A Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Onsite Sewage Systems.

The State rule was adopted by the Washington State Board of Health in January 2024, with an effective date for the majority of the changes, of April 1, 2025. Our local ordinance must be revised to be consistent with, and at least as stringent as, the newly revised WAC.

During the regular Board meeting on May 7th, a brief presentation will be provided to update the Board on the Kitsap Public Health District’s OSS regulatory framework and provide an overview of the ordinance revision process and general areas of revision.

We will be working with our existing local OSS technical advisory committee to prepare a new draft ordinance and solicit public comment over the next few months. We will plan on bringing our final draft to the Board in October for review. Local OSS regulations must be approved by the Washington State Department of Health prior to their effective date, so after Board review we will submit our draft rule to the State, with the hope they will be ready to be set for a public hearing for adoption by the Health Board in early 2025.

Recommendation
None at this time – for information and discussion only.

Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding this ordinance revision process. I can be reached at (360) 728-2290, or john.kiess@kitsappublichealth.org with any questions or comments.
Onsite Sewage System Ordinance Revision

John Kiess, RS
Environmental Health Director
May 7, 2024
What is an onsite sewage system?

Onsite sewage systems, also known as septic systems, treat wastewater from private residences, restaurants, or other situations where flows are less than 3,500 gallons per day.
Kitsap Public Health OSS Program

- Currently, there are more than 57,000 onsite sewage systems in Kitsap.

- 1961 - First local OSS ordinance, 15 years before a State rule

- 2011 – Last amendment to the current Kitsap Public Health Board Ordinance 2008A-01
Washington State Department of Health Rule Revision

- 2018 - WA DOH initiated the WAC 246-272A rule revision process
- January 2024 – New rule adopted by the State Board of Health with an effective date of April 1, 2025
- Local health jurisdictions can use this interim period to update their local regulations to be submitted and approved by DOH to become effective after DOH approval
Washington State Department of Health Rule Revision Key Changes

- Requires OSS property transfer inspections at time of sale
- Establishes a “Minor Repair” definition and exemption to permitting
- For OSS repairs (replacements) establishes requirements and enforcement and reporting of OSS failures
- Provides support for a local OSS remediation policy
- Increases minimum lot size and useable land area requirements for the creation of new lots that will utilize OSS
- Adds new definitions and updates technical design standards
- Requires DOH review of local OSS management plans to determine if updates are needed
Proposed Kitsap Public Health Ordinance Revision Process 2024-2025

• **January** – Started ordinance revision with existing OSS Technical Advisory Committee
• **May** - Kitsap Public Health Board update
• **August** – Draft ordinance completed
• Public comment period
• **October** – Kitsap Public Health Board update
• **November** – Draft rule sent to DOH for approval
• **January/February** - Kitsap Public Health Board public hearing for adoption of new ordinance