

## KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

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

### MEETING AGENDA

September 3, 2024

10:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

Chambers Room, Bremerton Government Center

345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Bremerton WA 98337

(Health Board members may participate remotely via Zoom)

- 10:30 a.m. 1. Call to Order  
*Dr. Tara Sell, Chair*
- 10:31 a.m. 2. Approval of July 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes  
*Dr. Tara Sell, Chair* *Page 4*
- 10:32 a.m. 3. Approval of Consent Items and Contract Updates  
*Dr. Tara Sell, Chair* [External Document](#)
- 10:34 a.m. 4. Public Comment – **Please See Notes at End of Agenda for Remote Attendees**  
*Dr. Tara Sell, Chair*
- 10:44 a.m. 5. Health Officer and Administrator Reports *Page 7*  
*Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer & Yolanda Fong, Administrator*

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 10:55 a.m. 6. Executive Session to Review the Performance of a Public Employee per  
RCW 42.30.110(g)  
*Dr. Tara Sell, Chair*  
**\*\*Please note that the Board will adjourn the meeting immediately following the  
executive session.\*\***
- 11:20 a.m. 8. Adjourn

*All times are approximate. Board meeting materials are available online at  
[www.kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Email:

[healthboard@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto: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](mailto:healthboard@kitsappublichealth.org) or call 360-728-2235.*

## **Health Board meeting notifications and materials**

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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.

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
July 2, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Tara Sell at 10:30 a.m.

Each Board member present provided a brief introduction.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Drayton Jackson moved and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the June 4, 2024, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The June consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2203, Amendment 19, *Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2262, Amendment 3, *Jefferson County Public Health, Youth Cannabis & Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program (YCCTPP)*
- 2263, Amendment 2, *Kitsap County, YCCTPP*
- 2397, *Washington State Department of Health, Interlocal Agreement*
- 2421, *Catalyst Workplace Activation, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Office Space*

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Update:

Yolanda Fong, Administrator, shared three updates:

- The 2023 fiscal audit entrance conference with the State Auditor's Office (SAO) was held in June. The audit is expected to be completed in September, followed by an exit conference with the SAO. Board members will receive an invitation upon the scheduling of the conference and those interested in participating should notify Ms. Fong.
- As part of the reaccreditation process, the Health District is working with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) to schedule a virtual site visit for October. PHAB has requested to meet with one to three Board members for 30 minutes. More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) coordinates a local board of health training each year. For 2024, the training will focus on public health law and governance and will take place October 1 through October 3, 2024, in

Leavenworth, Washington. Ms. Fong will send the agenda to the Board and asked Board members who are interested to contact her.

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Update:

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

- The United States Navy hosted a radiation response exercise, attended by the Health District. Dr. Morrow, the Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness (PHEPR) team, and Communications team each presented at the event.
- The Health District participated in an avian influenza response logistics training hosted by the Department of Health and their federal partners. To date, avian influenza has not posed a significant risk to humans. It has been found in poultry, wild birds, and dairy.
- A tuberculosis (TB) educational symposium for healthcare professionals was hosted by the Health District on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The event aimed to highlight the ongoing risk from TB, as well as the healthcare best practices for TB testing, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Upcoming Health District events include the convening of a healthcare access workgroup in July and a symposium on loneliness and isolation in September.
- There has been a marginal increase in COVID-19 case rates. Vaccines are expected to be released this fall and will be available to those ages six months and older. Dr. Morrow recommended that the public stay current on their vaccinations, stay home when sick, and use face masks. These actions can help protect high-risk populations. Researchers are still learning about long COVID, a chronic condition that can occur after a COVID-19 infection.
- Hospital capacity across the state remains high. Dr. Morrow urged the public to stay safe during the summer months.
- The Surgeon General issued an advisory last week declaring firearm violence a public health crisis and recommended investments in research, education prevention strategies, and mental health access and support. The Health District's Child Death Review (CDR) panel aims to address gun violence and other serious issues.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently released the Heat and Health Tracker, a tool that tracks heat-related illnesses across the nation. The Heat and Health Tracker indicated heat-related community impacts on hospital and emergency department volumes.

There was no further comment.

**HEAT AND SMOKE PREPAREDNESS**

Brian Nielson, PHEPR Program Manager, and Nathan Anderson, PHEPR Public Health Educator, provided the Board with a presentation around heat and smoke preparedness. The presentation outlined:

- Medical conditions that can result from heat and wildfire smoke exposure.
- Summer climate and wildfire outlooks for Washington and the United States.
- Health District efforts to educate the public on heat and smoke exposure risks.
- Recommended public health actions for each type of heat and air quality condition.
- Partner efforts with the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management.
- Resources the PHEPR team can provide to reduce risks associated with heat and wildfire smoke.

The Board discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

## **ADJOURN**

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Chair Sell noted that the Board would be moving into a closed session to discuss collective bargaining, pursuant to RCW 42.30.140.

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**Dr. Tara Sell**  
**Kitsap Public Health Board**

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**Yolanda Fong**  
**Administrator**

**Board Members Present:** *Mayor Becky Erickson; Member Drayton Jackson; Deputy Mayor Ashley Mathews; Mayor Rob Putaansuu; Commissioner Christine Rolfes; Member Dr. Tara Sell; Member Dr. Michael Watson; Mayor Greg Wheeler.*

**Board Members Absent:** *Member Stephen Kutz; Member Jolene Sullivan.*

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

**Staff Present:** *Amy Anderson, Community Liaison, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Nathan Anderson, Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Angie Berger, Management Analyst, Equity & Performance Management; Rebekah Crail, Social Worker, HIV Case Management; Jessica Guidry, Assistant Director, Community Health Division; Adrienne Hampton, Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration; Joaquin Hubert, Social Worker, HIV Case Management; Sarah Kinnear, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Siri Kushner, Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division; Naomi Levine, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Mirta Maravilla, Intern, Public Health Infrastructure Division; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Brian Nielson, Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Lynn Pittsinger, Director, Community Health Division; Quynh Sample, Community Liaison, Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness; Erica Whares, Program Coordinator, Equity & Performance Management.*

# Kitsap Public Health Board Health Officer Update

Gib Morrow, MD, MPH  
Health Officer  
September 3, 2024



KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

# Agenda –

- September is Recovery (and Preparedness...) Month
- Infectious Disease Update
- One Health at KPHD – Publication in CDC MMWR
- Product Recall – Diamond Shruumz
- Healthcare Access and Costs
- Healthcare Assessment Progress Report (in packet)





# September is National Recovery Month



- Substance use is common.
- EMS overdose responses tripled from 2019 to 2023 in Kitsap.
- Overdose deaths nearly tripled from 2017 to 2023 (80) in Kitsap.
- Recovery is real and possible.
- Treatment works and is available.
- If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988
- Opioid fatality reviews are legal and possible

[https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/kitsap.public.health.district.assessment.and.epi.team/viz/DrugOverdosesinKitsapCounty\\_17204537888180/DrugOverdosesinKitsapCounty?publish=yes](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/kitsap.public.health.district.assessment.and.epi.team/viz/DrugOverdosesinKitsapCounty_17204537888180/DrugOverdosesinKitsapCounty?publish=yes)

# Infectious Disease Update

- Mpox -surging in Africa and deemed a global public health emergency by WHO (current US risk is low); vaccination is 80% effective
- Summer COVID rise is tapering (but school starting)
- New COVID vaccines are approved for everyone 6 months and older (prior versions no longer used)
- RSV, COVID, and flu vaccines can be given together
- Advise against raw milk consumption (STEC)

# Notes from the Field: Tularemia Associated with Harbor Seal Necropsy – Kitsap County, Washington, October 2023

Weekly / August 22, 2024 / 73(33);731–732

[Print](#)

Wendy Inouye, MS<sup>1</sup>; Hanna N. Oltean, PhD<sup>2</sup>; Michelle McMillan, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Hanna Schnitzler, DVM<sup>2</sup>; Beth Lipton, DVM<sup>2</sup>; JohnAric MoonDance Peterson<sup>3</sup>; Sylvia DuVernois<sup>3</sup>; Kevin Snekvik, DVM, PhD<sup>4,5</sup>; Rebecca M. Wolking<sup>4</sup>; Jeannine Petersen, PhD<sup>6</sup>; Elizabeth A. Dietrich, PhD<sup>6</sup>; Laurel Respicio-Kingry, MS<sup>6</sup>; Gib Morrow, MD<sup>1</sup> ([VIEW AUTHOR](#))

- First detection of *F. tularensis* in a marine mammal
- Highly infectious (just 10-50 bacteria) via contact, aerosol, insects
- Potential use as a bioweapon (one of six top ones listed by CDC)
- Occupational risk for farmers, foresters, veterinarians
- Typically occurs in rabbits and rodents
- 200 cases nationwide yearly
- One Health in action at KPHD



## Tularemia identified in biologist, dead seal that she dissected

Jim Stippes, August 22, 2024  
Topic: Tularemia



Brigitte Samuels / Flickr

# Thanks to CD/EH/PHI teams



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Gummies

Mega Dose

Micro Dose



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## RECALL NOTICE



Environmental Health Studies

EXPLORE TOPICS ▾

SEARCH

AUGUST 21, 2024

Severe Illness Potentially Associated with Consuming Diamond Shruumz™ Brand Chocolate Bars, Cones, and Gummies



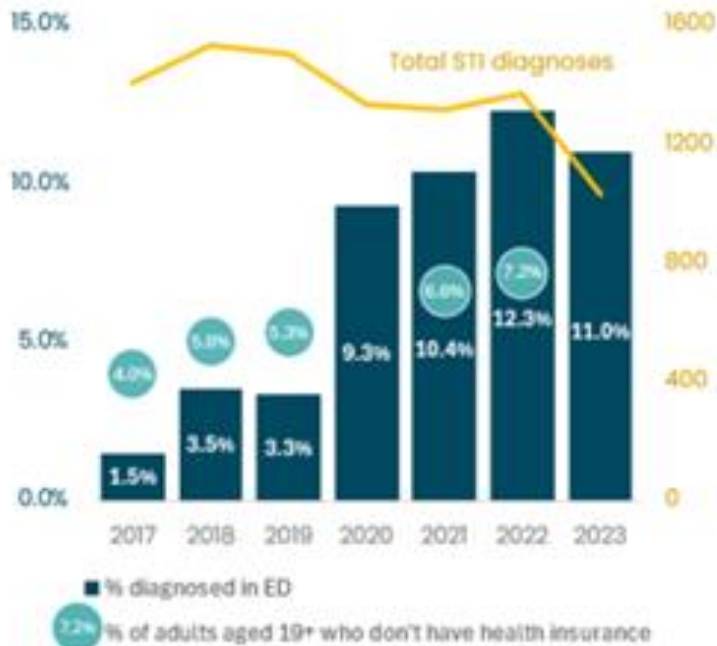
### DIAMOND SHRUUMZ STARTER PACK

Chocolate Bars, Cones, Gummies



# STI Diagnoses in Emergency Departments

Proportion of Kitsap County chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis cases that were diagnosed by hospital emergency departments, 2017 – 2023 .



In 2023:

- 81 (10%) chlamydia cases
- 23 (12%) gonorrhea cases
- 9 (17%) syphilis cases

were diagnosed in an emergency room

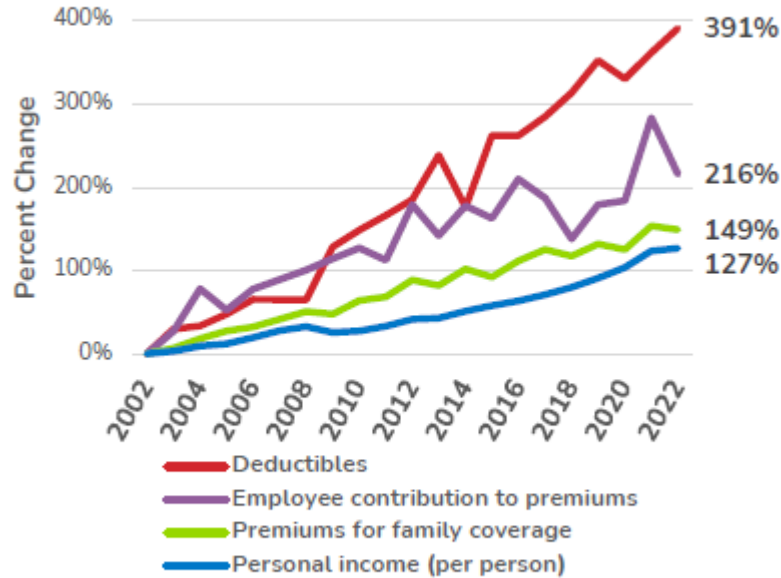
## More STIs are being diagnosed in EDs

- From 2017 to 2023, the number of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis cases diagnosed in emergency departments (EDs) has increased by over 5-fold.
- This increase started in 2020, when the COVID pandemic began.
- This may indicate shortages in sexual health services, or insurance limitations.

[kitsappublichealth.org](https://kitsappublichealth.org)

# From the Health Care Authority

**Figure 1. Health care premiums and deductibles outpacing income in Washington**



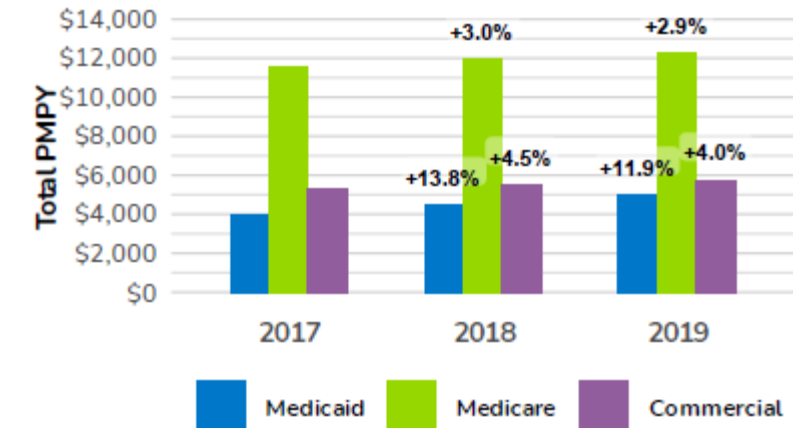
Source: The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

**Figure 2. In 2022, 62% of WA respondents reported experiencing health care affordability burdens in the past 12 months**



Source: Altarum's Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey (CHESS)

**Figure 3. Health care spending increasing across all markets, 2017 - 2019**



Source: WA Benchmark Report: 2017-2019



# Resources

- [National Recovery Month 2024](#)
- [WHO Director-General declares mpox outbreak a public health emergency of international concern](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [2024 E. Coli Outbreak Linked to Raw Milk Consumption](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Tularemia Associated with Harbor Seal Necropsy — Kitsap County, Washington, October 2023](#)
- [Tularemia identified in biologist, dead seal that she dissected](#)
- [An increase in sexually transmitted infections seen in US emergency departments](#)
- [Health care cost affordability; Why does health care cost so much?](#)
- [The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System 2024: Trends, Risks, and Recommendations](#)

# MEMO

**To:** Kitsap Public Health Board  
**From:** Adrienne Hampton, KPHD Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst  
**Date:** September 3, 2024  
**Re:** **Improving Healthcare Access in Kitsap County**

The Kitsap Public Health Board discussed and unanimously approved the Resolution 2023-04 on July 11, 2023, citing the many barriers Kitsap residents can face when seeking healthcare services in Kitsap County.<sup>1</sup> In response to data and community experiences, the Resolution commits the Health Board and Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) to advance a public health approach to address healthcare costs and barriers accessing care.

This memo provides a progress update regarding the implementation of initiatives recommended in the John's Hopkins Center for Health Security, 2024, Healthcare Systems Challenges and Opportunities in Kitsap County assessment (Assessment). Of the 13 Study Team recommendations included in the Assessment, 10 are considered within KPHD's sphere of influence, 8 of which have been addressed in the past 6 months since the Assessment was published in February 2024.

The following activities describe notable advancements made in the last 6 months:

*Recommendation 1: In partnership, formulate a robust healthcare workforce recruitment strategy and promote a package of incentives to attract new providers to Kitsap County.*

**Update: The Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP) process includes formation and convening of the Healthcare Systems Workgroup, which brings together healthcare**

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<sup>1</sup> Kitsap Public Health Board. (2023, July). *Resolution Declaring High Costs and Insufficient Access of Healthcare Services in Kitsap County are Public Health Crises.*  
[https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/files/board/KPHB\\_Resolution\\_2023\\_04.pdf](https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/files/board/KPHB_Resolution_2023_04.pdf)  
[https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/files/board/KPHB\\_Resolution\\_2023\\_04.pdf](https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/files/board/KPHB_Resolution_2023_04.pdf)



**administrators and social services providers to draft an implementation plan for workforce-related objectives. This effort also aligns with Study Team recommendations 2 and 3.**

Recently, KPHD launched the KCHP Healthcare System Workgroup (Workgroup) in July 2024. Recommendation 1 of the Assessment identifies workforce recruitment and retention of new healthcare providers across sectors as an essential focus. In addition, recommendation 2 encourages KPHD to convene a community action collaborative to increase funding for healthcare services in Kitsap.

KPHD has committed to facilitating the Workgroup, an important next step in the KCHP process which aligns with recommendation 1 and 2. Because healthcare access and workforce remain a priority goal of the KCHP, the KCHP is well suited to bring together a workgroup comprised of direct healthcare and social service providers to collectively implement a strategic plan to support opportunities to strengthen the healthcare workforce. The Workgroup seeks to implement a county-wide strategy to accomplish this goal. Recommendations 1 and 2 also align with Resolution commitment (second to last bullet point) to “*support opportunities to strengthen the healthcare workforce.*”

While healthcare workforce recruitment and retention will be a starting point for the Workgroup, the group remains aware of challenges related to access to care and navigation of services. Overtime, the goal will be to increase healthcare workforce capacity to respond to growing healthcare needs, including approaches identified in Study Team recommendation 3 regarding transformational primary care models that also ingrate behavioral health services.

*Recommendation 4: Within the next year, launch a formal commission to explore the feasibility of forming a public hospital district (PHD) in Kitsap County.*

**Update: Alliance for Equitable Healthcare presented progress on forming a PHD to the Kitsap Public Health Board, June 2024.**

While this recommendation is ultimately under the scope of the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners, the Alliance for Equitable Healthcare joined the June 2024 Health Board meeting to present on the viability of a Public Hospital District in Kitsap. The Alliance for Equitable Healthcare is a grassroots non-profit organization with the mission to work collaboratively to increase access to affordable, comprehensive, and equitable healthcare throughout Kitsap County. This action served to inform the Health Board on the Alliance’s activities regarding the feasibility of forming a PHD in Kitsap County. Recommendation 4 of the Assessment suggests that within a year, a formal commission be established to explore the feasibility of forming a PHD. At this time, the Alliance is leading the feasibility evaluation of the PHD, including outreach and education on ways a PHD could benefit the community.

*Recommendation 7: State and county elected officials should continue to lobby the Defense Health Agency to reopen labor and delivery serves at Naval Hospital Bremerton.*

**Update: KPHB sent a letter to the Defense Health Agency, Defense Health Network Pacific Rim, and the Department of Defense requesting the 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.**

The Health Board moved to approve the signing and sending of the Health Board letter concerning the Military Health Strategy in May 2024.<sup>2</sup> The letter 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. The letter advances recommendation 7 encouraging state and county officials continue to lobby the Defense Health Agency to reopen labor and delivery services at Naval Hospital Bremerton. The Defense Health Agency responded to the Health Board letter on July 31, 2024, in writing, stating a continued commitment to evaluating care of military beneficiaries in Kitsap to ensure the Agency is meeting access standards.

*Recommendation 8: Increase the number of public transit routes and vehicles that connect residents to healthcare facilities.*

**Update: KPHD looks forward to scheduling a meeting with Kitsap Transit leadership before December 2024 to learn more about Kitsap Transits 2024-2029 Transit Development Plan.**

Kitsap Transit is a vital community partner dedicated to continuously improving the quality and efficiency of Kitsap’s transportation system. KPHD plans to engage with Kitsap Transit leadership to learn more about existing plans and ways transportation justice, including strengthening access to care facilities, intersects with Transit’s strategic direction.

*Recommendation 9: Convene community leadership and key stakeholders to evaluate the integrity of the 2020 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.*

**Update: Updates to the 2020 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) that address risk and other factors which heighten vulnerability to protentional events are currently on-going in partnership with Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management (KCDEM).**

The CEMP is currently under review and being edited, as a step in this process, Kitsap County KCDEM has convened multiple stakeholder meetings to include Department of Health Emergency Management Division and KPHD in the process.

*Recommendation 10. Kitsap Public Health should work with state agencies to develop behavioral healthcare access policy and convene with state representatives to advocate for improved behavioral healthcare access in Kitsap County.*

**Update: KPHD plans to monitor and participate in the 2025 Washington State Legislative Session, working closely with the Washington State Association of Local Public Health**

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<sup>2</sup> Kitsap Public Health Board. (2024, May). *Letter regarding the Military Health Startgey*. Comment Letter. <https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/kphblettermilitaryhealthstrategysigned.pdf>

## **Organizations (WSALPHO), the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA), and community partners.**

In 2024, behavioral health was included as a KPHD 2024 state legislative priority, approved by the KPHB. KPHD will continue to inform and educate legislators on the importance and critical need for increased funding to sustain and strengthen our behavioral health system and supportive services for youth through activities such as WSPHA Public Health Legislative Education Day in Olympia, WA. In addition, we remain open to uplifting potential policy recommendations that arise through the Kitsap Community Health Priorities process.

*Recommendation 11. KPHD should resume providing infectious disease testing services and make other harm reduction services more easily accessible.*

### **Update: KPHD is working with DOH to advance testing availability for contacts of patients with sexually transmitted infections (STI).**

The KPHD Communicable Disease team is obtaining rapid antigen tests for syphilis and will be doing ring-testing and expedited treatment around identified cases. KPHD is also working with the Department of Health to obtain STI rapid tests for outreach and events. In addition, our teams are actively assisting with the expansion of FOCUS testing through the Northwest Family Medical Residency into BARTT Programs and other harm reduction venues.

*Recommendation 12. Develop a long-term strategy for petitioning Washington lawmakers to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates and continue exploring opportunities for innovation.*

### **Update: Through various community forums and qualitative input, it is well understood that an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates would improve access and affordability of care in Kitsap County.<sup>3</sup>**

While KPHD does not have plans to form a coalition to petition state lawmakers to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates in Kitsap, KPHD continues to seek opportunities and evidence to educate legislators regarding the benefits of improved Medicaid reimbursement. For example, KPHD hosted a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Legal Fellow to understand how Medicaid rates differ across and within different states from January 2024 - June 2024. The Fellow worked to establish epidemiologic link between low reimbursement and decreased provider rates. This report was communicated to the Health Board at its June 2024 meeting.

## **Upcoming Activities to Improve Healthcare Access in Kitsap County**

In addition to fulfilling commitments outlined in Resolution 2023-04 and to providing core population-based public health services, KPHD is working to improve healthcare access by contributing leadership and supporting roles in the following important areas of focus:

- **Convening and facilitation:** Improve community-driven solutions by coordinating community forums and meeting events.

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<sup>3</sup> Kitsap Community Health Priorities: Healthcare. (2024, July). *KCHP Healthcare Information Sheet*. <https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/kchphealthcareinfo.pdf>

- **Coordinated partnerships and care:** Strengthen linkages to care by fostering meaningful relationships with and among healthcare providers.
- **Assessments and public education:** Communicate and identify health priorities stemming from assessments, including analysis of health disparities and the social determinants of health.
- **Policy development:** Continue to educate and deliver recommendations to decision-makers on ways to increase health equity in policy.

As previously mentioned, the KCHP process provides a pathway for assessing our community, identifying health priorities, mobilizing inclusive county wide action, and leveraging community partners strengths and assets to coordinate, implement, and track progress as it relates to community health priorities. KPHD has committed resources to support facilitating, monitoring, and evaluating the KCHP as the community comes together to advance health equity over the next 5 years.

Our community health priorities are aligned, interconnected, and intersectional to the many priorities in our community. We are a strong, vibrant web of partners addressing many things in many ways. Through KCHP, we will bolster community action and work to advance health equity over the next 5 years and beyond.

We look forward to supporting and participating in a collective effort to improve healthcare access and advance health equity.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns about this matter at [adrienne.hampton@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:adrienne.hampton@kitsappublichealth.org).