

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
February 5, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Commissioner Robert Gelder at 12:30 p.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

Commissioner Gelder informed the Board of an additional agenda item: the Board would break for executive session after public comment.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido moved, and Mayor Robert Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the January 8, 2019, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The February consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 1648 Amendment 1 (1895), *Peoples Harm Reduction Alliance, Syringe Exchange*
- 1861, *Jefferson County Public Health, Syringe Exchange Referral Program*
- 1901, *Jefferson County Public Health, Burse Family Partnership Supervisor*

Mayor Putaansuu moved and Commissioner Ed Wolfe seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, including the Contracts Update and Warrant and Electronic Funds Transfer Registers. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Monte Levine, a resident of Bremerton and formerly with Peoples Harm Reduction Alliance, spoke in support of the syringe exchange program. His comments were a follow-up to recent discussion at the January meeting about the program. Mr. Levine informed the board of the health issues, in addition to overdose, that can be caused by illicit injection drug use. Some of these health issues are abscesses, cellulitis, endocarditis and fungal infections. He said the use of a clean syringe for each injection greatly reduces the risk of these infections.

He said some of these health issues can lead to serious complications, and due to the stigmatization users feel from medical professionals, they often put off seeking medical treatment until they end up in the emergency room, which is the most expensive option in the system. He said because of the stigma, people who inject drugs will likely not access syringe exchange services from a clinic. He said the current modality of syringe exchange is humane and fiscally responsible. He said he supports syringe access in a clinic setting if there are also other access settings available.

He said he has advocated for a wound care clinic in our county for years and feels that it would be great for a clinic to also offer syringe access.

There was no further comment.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION; PERSUANT TO RCW 42.30.110 (1)(I), DISCUSSION RELATED TO POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

At 12:35, Commissioner Gelder said the Board would break for executive session for approximately 10 minutes.

At 12:46, Commissioner Gelder returned and closed the executive session. No action was taken.

There was no further comment.

### **HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

#### Health Officer Update:

Dr. Susan Turner, Health Officer, provided the Board with an update on influenza. She said flu season has arrived in Kitsap County. She said there is more testing occurring and there are more positive tests. She said there are also more positive respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) tests, but fewer positive tests than reported at the last Board meeting. She said emergency department visits also increased. She said flu season is beginning later than usual and it is hard to predict the severity of the season this year. She advised that there is still plenty of time to get the flu shot.

Next, Dr. Turner provided the Board with a measles update. She said Washington State is experiencing a measles outbreak with 43 cases; 42 cases are in Clark County and one case is in King County. Most of the contacts are in Clark County, though there has been some cross-jurisdictional sharing of contacts. She said neighboring jurisdictions are monitoring contacts to the cases of measles or symptoms. She said the case in King County has been epidemiologically linked to the outbreak in Clark County. She noted that the cases are mostly in children and there has been one adult case. She said the commonality between most of the cases is a lack of vaccination. Washington Department of Health (DOH) is coordinating the outbreak response.

Dr. Turner said the Health District is on high alert to the measles outbreak and county-to-county travel. She said King County has not has any new cases which would put Kitsap County at high risk. Over the past two weeks, Health District communicable disease and emergency preparedness staff have spent several hours on preparedness activities. She said there is a weekly Health Officer meeting in addition to DOH phone updates three times per week. She said there is a prediction the outbreak will spread in coming weeks. She said the Health District website has been updated with lots of measles preparedness information and resources for parents. The Health District has also reached out to schools and childcare centers and sent two health advisories to providers with preparedness resources. The Health District is also asking schools and healthcare facilities to be proactive and create a list of under-vaccinated staff and volunteers so that should there be exposure, staff would know who to take cautionary measures with.

Lastly, Dr. Turner shared a map that DOH created evaluating vaccination levels across the state. According to the map, Kitsap County has low vaccination rates with 800-3,000 children 0-18 years old with vaccine exemptions for MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella.) She said Kitsap County is highly susceptible with a 60-70% risk within the urban core of the county, which is Central Kitsap, Poulsbo, sub base Bangor, Silverdale, Bremerton, Bainbridge Island and Port Orchard.

Mayor Kol Medina said he has heard about outbreaks in other states and asked if the outbreaks are related to each other. Dr. Turner said there are outbreaks in other states, with the largest being in New York and said state outbreaks are caused by travel from other areas with measles outbreaks. Mayor Medina also asked where the measles cases came from. Dr. Turner explained that measles is not common in the states, though there have been some outbreaks here for a while. She said measles is more common in other countries, which are just a plane ride away. She said at least one of the introductions of measles came from eastern Europe.

Commissioner Ed Wolfe asked if Washington State requires mandatory vaccination of children or leaves the choice to the parents. Dr. Turner explained that Washington State requires vaccination for school entry, but it is not required for children who do not attend public schools. Additionally, she said parents can request exemptions for personal or religious reasons. She said there have been several different bills introduced over the last few years removing the language about personal exemptions and only allowing religious exemptions. She said the personal exemption choice is still legal in Washington State at this time, however individuals must speak with a physician before filing an exemption. She said children who are exempt or not fully immunized are asked to stay home for 21 days during an outbreak for their own protection and that of others.

Commissioner Gelder asked if DOH has an interactive map online. Dr. Turner said she has seen some interactive tools such as school immunization rate listings but said DOH put their risk map together based on a risk index that was compiled from several factors.

There was no further comment.

#### Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, reminded the Board that the Health District sends public health alerts and advisories out through an email database. According to Health District records, the Board members are not on the distribution list. He said he and Dr. Turner send the Board health alerts and advisories that may be pertinent to them, but if they'd like to be added to the regular distribution list and receive all the alerts, they can let him know.

Next, Mr. Grellner informed the Board that Katie Eilers, Director of Community Health has been selected for a new position as Director of the Office of Family and Community Health Improvement at DOH. He said Ms. Eilers has been the Community Health Director for the District since January of 2017 and started working for the District in 2013. Her last day at the Health District will be February 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Grellner wished Ms. Eilers luck and said the Health

District will miss her dearly. Commissioner Gelder thanked Ms. Eilers for her work and wished her the best of luck.

Mr. Grellner said the Health District is currently recruiting to fill the Community Health Director position through an internal promotional opportunity. He said he will report back to the Board next month who has been selected to fill the position.

There was no further comment.

**RESOLUTION 2019-01: CALLING ON THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE THAT PUBLIC HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL AND TO PROVIDE INCREASED STATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

Commissioner Gelder explained to the Board that the purpose of this resolution is to renew the Board's support of the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS). The resolution, once signed, would be shared with local and state legislature to advocate for funding for essential public health services. Commissioner Gelder said that while the measles outbreak in the state is unfortunate, it showcases the need for FPHS and is dominating public health conversation.

Mr. Grellner said these resolutions become effective tools for staff advocating for funding during legislation. He said he already sent the Board approved 2019 legislative priorities to our county's nine legislators. He informed the Board that March 6 is Public Health Day and FPHS will be the focus of conversation. He also said he was on a public health panel that testified on behalf of FPHS during a Senate Ways and Means Committee work session orchestrated by Senator Rolfes. On February 8, there is FPHS policy bill hearing, though Mr. Grellner said he is not testifying at this hearing.

Mr. Grellner said if the Board approves this resolution, he will share it with the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) and bring it with him on March 6 to Public Health Day.

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2019-01: Calling on the Washington State Legislature to Recognize that Public Health is Essential and to Provide Increased State Funding to Support Foundational Public Health Services. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

**KITSAP COUNTY CORE PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS REPORT 2018**

Dr. Turner provided the Board with a brief overview of the Kitsap County Core Public Health Indicators Report to introduce the PowerPoint presentation by herself and the Health District's epidemiological team: Siri Kushner, Program Manager; and epidemiologists Kari Hunter, Maya

McKenzie and Phil Ramunno. She explained that the Indicators Report is an unfunded foundational public health service (FPHS).

Each year, the Kitsap Public Health District releases an updated Kitsap County Core Public Health Indicators Report. The Indicators Report is a high-level synthesis of demographic and public health data designed to provide an overview of the health of Kitsap County. Most indicators are derived from standard public health data systems from national, state, county, and program sources. Data for each indicator are presented for a series of years in a large trend line graph; overall statistical trend in Kitsap County from the oldest year to the most recent year; and most recent year statistical comparison between Kitsap County and Washington State. Statistically significant differences over time and between Kitsap and WA are noted by color, black signifies no difference.

Dr. Turner explained that the Indicators Report is not a reflection of only the Health District's work, and it is not intended to be. It is an assessment of the community's overall health, and it reflects both successes --- and areas that need improvement --- that are the results of the work and the decisions that are made by individuals, public agencies, healthcare providers, and private businesses. The Health District believes that there is something in this report for everyone with a stake in the health of our Kitsap community.

The Indicators have many implications for public health practice and policy, and are presented to provide sound, reliable data that can be used to help focus resources, encourage new and existing partnerships, and support the work necessary to make Kitsap County a healthy and safe place to live, learn, work, and play. The Health District staff use the Indicators Report to inform their work within the strategic plan. The report provides opportunities for individuals, public agencies, healthcare providers, and private businesses to identify, make and support decisions to improve health.

Dr. Turner reviewed a matrix handout with the Board which highlights the indicators associated with work the KPHD is doing, versus the work of other parties.

Mr. Ramunno said he has been creating an interactive Indicators tool online which is not yet available to the public. He will share the link with the Board after the meeting.

The presentation provided highlights of the report by social and economic determinants of health, by Health District strategic plan initiatives, and other notable findings:

- Demographic and social/economic determinants indicator highlights:
  - Kitsap population is growing, aging and becoming more diverse.
  - Kitsap education and economic indicators are mostly better than WA, but many long-term trends are unchanged or worsening.
- The following Strategic Plan Initiatives are highlighted:
  - Initiative 1: We will decrease communicable diseases and their impacts in our community.

Initiative 2: We will decrease chronic diseases and their impacts in our community.

Initiative 3: We will protect the public from contaminated water, food, land, and air, and insanitary environments.

Initiative 4: We will promote healthy child development and health equity by ensuring all children have healthy starts.

- Other notable indicator findings:
  - Substance use behaviors continue to hurt Kitsap residents although many trends are improving.
  - Mixed results for emotional well-being and suicide indicators.
  - High rates of health insurance, mixed results for dental access.

During the presentation, the Board members made the following comments:

Commissioner Gelder asked if there is any indication in the data if the increase in pregnancies is correlated to the military population. Ms. Hunter said she could investigate that data to compare the pregnancy rate between military and civilian women. She noted the pregnancy rate includes all forms of pregnancies regardless of outcome.

Mayor Greg Wheeler commented on the indicator of gestational diabetes. He asked what gestational diabetes is an indication of, and what resources would be needed to address the issue. Dr. Turner explained that screening has improved which may have increased this curve. Additionally, she said a body mass index (BMI) that is too high can contribute to the development of gestational diabetes. Those individuals that are diagnosed with gestational diabetes may get diabetes after their pregnancy. She said resources need to be developed to provide prevention education for those at higher risk for gestational diabetes. Mayor Wheeler gave an example of a family member that experienced gestational diabetes but does not have a high BMI, and he said there are other factors that contribute to it.

Mr. Grellner provided two examples of public health initiatives that address gestational diabetes: Fresh Bucks allow SNAP recipients to purchase fresh produce at the farmers markets; and Seattle recently implemented a sugary beverages tax to encourage people to stop relying on sugary beverages in their diet.

Commissioner Gelder noted that Kitsap is worse than WA in the indicator of youth suicide ideation and has almost doubled in 10 years. He asked if the data also doubled in WA during the same time period. Ms. McKenzie said she can look into the data and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Gelder asked if the Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP) has begun yet this year. Dr. Turner said the (KCHP) 2019 process is occurring this year which provides a chance for the community to take deeper look at this data and prioritize issues. She said a

meeting is scheduled with the KCHP sponsor group and more community members will be invited as the process moves forward.

Commissioner Gelder asked if the interactive indicators tool will be on the website? Mr. Ramunno said yes, it will most likely be on website in the next month. He said staff has a link that is public and can be accessed when sent by health district staff. He said he will email the link to Board members. He also noted that the online tool will be used in conjunction with the printed Indicators Report and will not replace it.

Mayor Erickson commented on the indicator about the high number households with firearms that are loaded and unlocked. She said is not necessarily a gun advocate, but this indicator does not match her anecdotal experience. Ms. Kushner clarified that the data referred to one in five households with a firearm— not all households. Mayor Erickson said this made more sense.

Commissioner Gelder thanked the epidemiology team for the Indicators Report and presentation. He said the board appreciates the annual snapshot to inform decisions and future discussions.

Mr. Grellner said staff are tracking the Board's questions and will follow-up with responses for the Board.

There was no further comment.

## ADJOURN

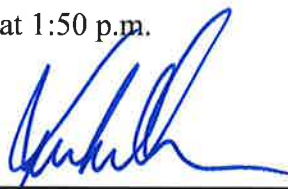
Commissioner Wolfe asked the Board to confirm that discussion will continue regarding the syringe exchange program. Mr. Grellner confirmed that the Policy Committee is scheduled to meet February 19<sup>th</sup>. He said a second meeting will occur, if needed, and then the discussion will come back to the full board. Dr. Turner added that Health District staff is continuing to research and compile information between policy committee meetings.

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.



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**Robert Gelder**  
Kitsap Public Health Board



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**Keith Grellner**  
Administrator

**Board Members Present:** *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Charlotte Garrido; *Commissioner* Robert Gelder; *Mayor* Kol Medina; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler; *Commissioner* Ed Wolfe.

**Board Members Absent:** *None.*

**Community Members Present:** Pam Hamon, *League of Women Voters-Kitsap*; Monty Levine, *People's Harm Reduction Alliance*; Yelena Watson, *RN Student at University of Washington.*

**Staff Present:** Amy Anderson, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Kristina Bonsell, *Environmental Health Specialist 1, Water Pollution Identification and Correction*; Katie Eilers, *Assistant Director, Community Health*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator*; Jessica Guidry, *Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Karen Holt, *Program Manager, Human Resources*; Kari Hunter, *Epidemiologist 2, Assessment and Epidemiology*; Melissa Laird, *Program Manager, Accounting and Finance*; Maya McKenzie, *Epidemiologist 1, Assessment and Epidemiology*; Anne Moen, *Environmental Health Technician 2, Water Pollution Identification and Correction*; Megan Moore, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Carin Onarheim, *Disease Intervention Specialist, Communicable Disease*; Beth Phipps, *Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Communicable Disease*; Philip Ramunno, *Epidemiologist 1, Assessment and Epidemiology*; Lacey Rhoades, *Management Analyst, Human Resources*; Dr. Susan Turner, *Health Officer, Administration*; Jim Zimny, *Assistant Director, Environmental Health Division*.